



High Ash CE School
Weekly Newsletter
Friday 20th March 2026



'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

We have had a lovely week - it is great to see the children really enjoying the better weather at playtimes and being creative with all the activities on offer. The children have also enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the variety of lunchtime clubs that the teachers are offering to our children. The sunshine has certainly put a spring in everyone's step!

Summer Term Clubs...

We have now released our summer clubs on offer. You will have all received our communication today. **Online bookings will go live tonight at 7pm. Please book by Friday 10th April.**

Easter Service at Church...

The whole school will be walking to St. Mary's Church on **Thursday 26th March for our Easter Service.**

As all children and staff will be attending, space in the church will be very limited. We are therefore looking for a small number of parent volunteers to help walk the children to and from the church. Only these volunteers will be able to remain and take a seat during the service. **We will be leaving school at 1.30pm, the service will start at 1.45pm. If you are available to help, we would greatly appreciate your support. Please contact the school office via email.**

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns

Acorn class had fun in the Spring sun this week! We have been blessed with the most beautiful weather which has been fitting for our 'Come Outside' topic. We have enjoyed monitoring our planting area experiments and have noticed that our seeds have sprouted and we now have seedlings growing. We talked about how having the sun and rain has been perfect conditions for our seeds to grow.

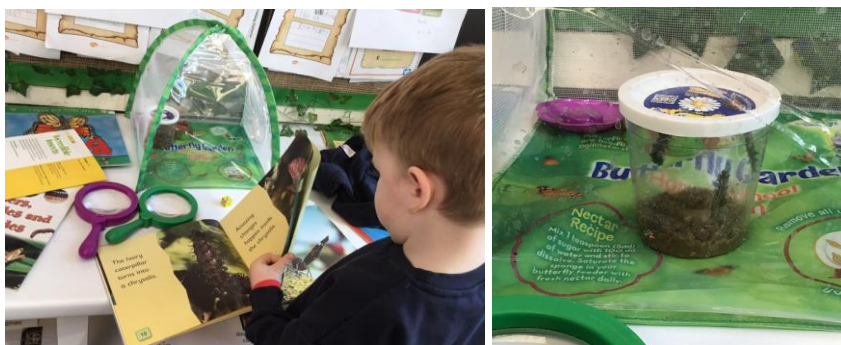
Acorns have also been exploring the story of 'The Little Red Hen'. We were impressed by how hard working the Hen was in the story but were not impressed with how lazy her friends the dog, cat and duck were when they refused to help with any of the work that the Hen was doing. We made links between the events in the story and what happened in 'Farmer Duck'.



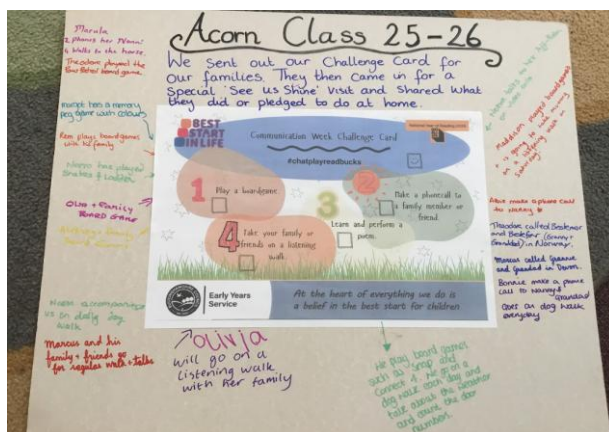
In provision, the children have been creating their Easter art work for display in the church. We had the challenge to imagine if we were a king or queen, what would we travel in or on. The children's responses were super creative!

We also compared our regal transport choices with how humble Jesus was when he simply travelled on a donkey which was not at all how you would expect a king to travel.

We are so excited by how big our caterpillars have now grown! We can see they have begun practising spinning their threads which they will eventually use to make their chrysalis.



Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our 'See Us Shine' morning and for joining in with the Buckinghamshire Communication Week Challenge sharing all the ways in which you are helping to develop your child's oracy! It really does make a difference.



Acorn Reminders

- Next week we will be exploring the story 'Oliver's Vegetables'. It explores how a boy called Oliver visits his Grandpa's amazing vegetable garden. Oliver says he only eats potatoes in the form of chips but, whilst trying to find them in the garden, Oliver ends up trying lots of different vegetables for the first time. You could talk as a family about what vegetables you eat and perhaps try some that you've not tried before.
- Using our book, we will also be making a vegetable soup! Could you try a soup together as a family next week too? You could write in the diary to tell us which one you have tried.

Year One and Two

This week has seen Year 1 developing their measuring skills. It was lovely seeing such a practical application of mathematical skills as the children measured different items using cubes to compare length and height. Year 2 have been impressing us with their determination and resilience as they tackle end of term assessments in Maths and English.



In Geography, the children have turned into little weather forecasters observing and measuring the changes in the weather over the week and then recording and presenting their findings. We recapped our knowledge of the Capital Cities of the United Kingdom and then added weather symbols to our maps of the UK. The beautiful weather made these lessons particularly fabulous!



In our Art lesson, we investigated abstract art and how composition affects the art we produce. The children took part in activities to demonstrate how with the same given elements we can all choose different compositions to produce different pieces of art. We then used a view finder to select a section of our imaginary maps and simplified the design before creating an abstract stained glass window.



The sun was kind to our lunchtime clubs with the Construction Club working in the warmth to create a variety of wonderful structures and our Gardening Club planting seeds in the sunny garden. We planted tomato and pepper seeds and we hope that we will be able to plant out the seedlings soon and hopefully grow our own healthy snacks!

Year 1/2 Reminders

- Cherry Class Assembly, Fri 27 Mar at 2.15pm. Parents are invited. Doors open at 2.05pm.

Year Three and Four

This week we have been enjoying the sun at break and lunchtime. The children have created their own obstacle course and started building dens again! We have also been loving having the speaker out and dancing/singing our way through break and lunch.



In PE we have been working on our dance skills!

We have been learning and choreographing a dance to 'Rather Be', using tutting, unison and cannon. Each week we have practised the section from the week before and added some more choreography on. Each group has been working hard to include everyone and create a unique dance!



In Science, we looked at fossils before creating a demonstration of how fossils are made. We used plasticine to represent the seabed. Then we placed a bone wrapped in candyfloss on the bottom. We dripped water in to represent the decomposition of the muscles and soft tissue. Then we poured 'sediment' over the top followed by tissues which represented the layers of sediment that compact over millions of years. After a few days we had a look and saw the cast left by the bone just like in the fossilisation process.



Holly class was honoured to have our first secret reader in class this week. Everyone enjoyed hearing a story from one of our parents to end the day.



During our computing lessons we have started to create a game! We started the lesson by looking at a premade game and the code that went with each sprite and background and discussed what we would have to do to change and what effect the changes would have on each sprite.



In Art, Year 3/4 have been using techniques for painting including stippling, pointillism and dabbing as well as incorporating textures into their work (sand, salt, lentils, rice, glitter...). They also continued thinking about the use of tints and shades to make the apples look 3D.

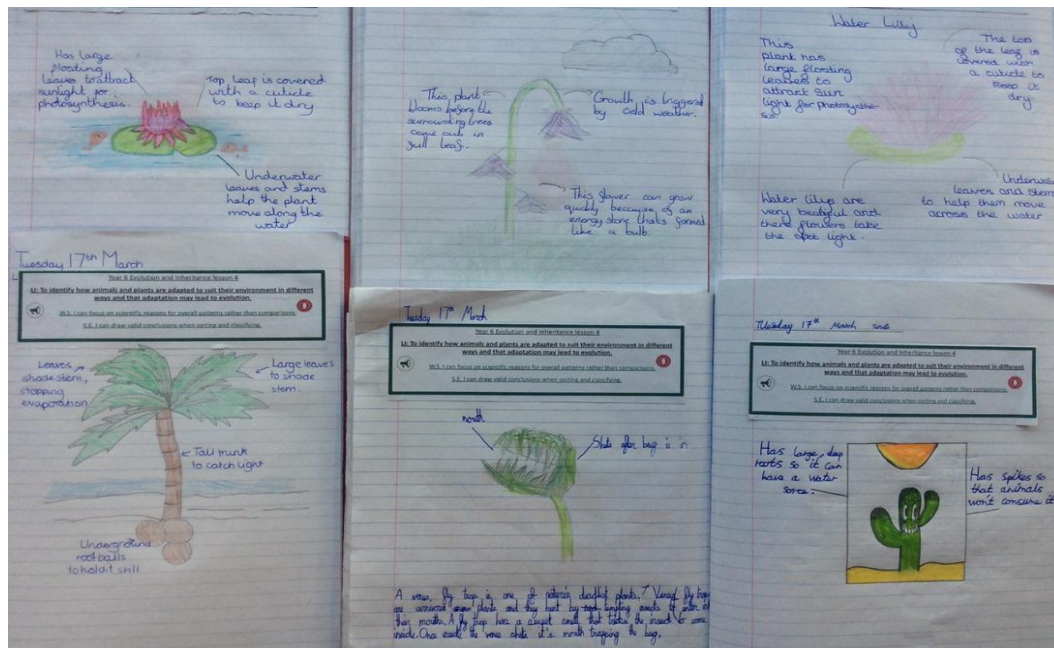


Year 3/4 Reminders

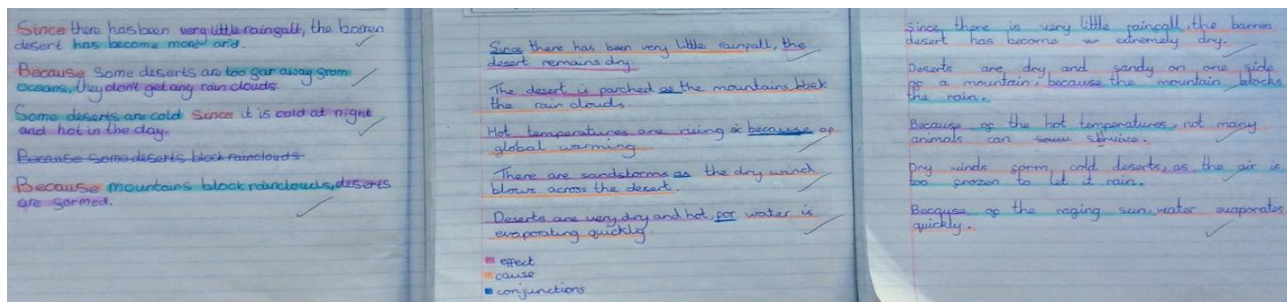
- Please continue to remind your children to leave all toys at home.
- Geography Trip to Rushmere Country Park on Friday 27th March. Ensure your child comes to school wearing jogging bottoms and trainers or wellies (depending on the weather). They should also bring: a backpack, water bottle, small snack, lightweight waterproof jacket and jumper.

Year Five and Six

In Science this week, we focussed on adaptations. We sorted plant cards and discussed their adaptations (size of leaves, length of stems/trunks, whether they had thorns/spikes, if they are carnivorous...). We then chose one of the plants to present in our books - water lily, bluebell, palm tree, cactus, venus flytrap. Here is work from Callie, Lara, Grace, Christopher, Christian and Anna...

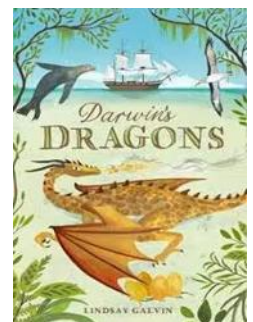


In English this week, we wrote cause and effect sentences using conjunctions (because, as, since, for) based on our text about the desert. Lara, Tilly and Bethany produced great sentences that were beautifully presented...



Guided Reading

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils have been thoroughly enjoying their guided reading sessions this term with the exciting and imaginative novel 'Darwin's Dragons' by Lindsay Galvin. The book has sparked curiosity, discussion, and plenty of excitement as the children journey alongside its unforgettable characters. The book follows Syms Covington, a cabin boy aboard HMS Beagle with Charles Darwin. During the voyage, Syms discovers hidden dragons on board and is drawn into a dangerous adventure as he tries to protect them. We have read up to Chapter 40 and so far the story is full of tension, mystery and exciting twists.



What the Children Are Saying:

"My favourite is the moment when the volcano erupts and Syms runs away. I liked the fact he had dragon eggs he needed to save." - Mia, Maple Class

"I really like the character 'Farthing' because she is brave and cool. She is a fascinating character even though she is an animal." - Seb S, Maple Class.

"I like Darwin's Dragon because it has helped me imagine what it would be like to live on a deserted island with mysterious creatures. I also like it because it tells us lots about how the characters are feeling." - Will, Maple Class.

The children are thoroughly engaged and are looking forward to reading more!

Secret Reader

Oak Class were thrilled when a wonderful visitor, a secret reader, came into class on Thursday! Harue kindly gave up her own time to read the book Adriana's Adrenal Insufficiency to the children which educated us in so many ways.



We found out where the adrenal glands are located, what hormone they secrete (cortisol) and what cortisol's role is in the body (heart and lung function - pretty important to be honest!). From there, we learned what the symptoms of this condition are, how it is contracted and the different treatments that are used, especially when a patient suffers adrenal crisis. We also considered that some conditions are invisible and now know that if people are wearing a sunflower lanyard, they may need help from others or special consideration.

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We would like to thank Harue - especially for the fun quiz and stickers too.

Hazard Alley Knife Crime Workshop

On the 18th March, Hazard Alley came to our school to talk to us about knife crime and safety. At the beginning of the workshop, we were given a quick quiz to see what we already knew about knife crime and other things linked towards it. We then proceeded to the answers as the woman from Hazard Alley talked us through them. We then moved on towards reading a short story about a boy named Charlie who was bullied by older kids at his secondary school. His friend Jayden said "Let's go after the older kids". Charlie then had a bad feeling about this but the peer pressure got to him. We learnt that if you have any concerns or worries about knife crime it's best that you report it to an adult, 101 or straight to the police. We also watched a short clip of someone who was involved in knife crime and got a prison sentence for seven years. The short story was that he was beaten by a gang and then his friend knocked on the gang's door and stabbed the person who opened it. For being a stand by and not doing anything the man who was beaten then faced a devastating 7 years of prison. So that is how our wonderful visit from Hazard Alley went.

Written by Ethan M and Calum W.

Year 5/6 Reminders

- Our class novel next half term is 'Goodnight Mister Tom'. It would be fantastic if you could support us by purchasing a copy for your child to read.
- For our Year 6 children, we will be sending home Easter Revision Packs next week. These are designed to be completed by Y6s during the Easter holidays in preparation for SATS.

Football Match Reports...

North Marston 0 - 2 High Ash Girls

Our girls football match against North Marston was wonderful. Cali and Azalea both scored amazing goals to set the score to 2-0. Emilia, our team captain and goalkeeper, saved so many incredible goals. Our player of the match, as voted by the opposition, was Cali who was very encouraging. Jojo and Divine were in defence working hard whilst Daisy and Jo assisted in the wings. Phoebe was our striker, giving everything she had every time. Overall it was a very successful match.

By Emilia and Jo

High Ash Girls 4 - 1 Newton Longville

On Wednesday the 18th of March, the girls football team successfully played Newton Longville and won 4:1. Cali was our amazing captain encouraging us to do our best. She also was the first person to score an amazing 2 goals. Tilly, who scored an incredible goal from the top of the box was a great team player. Unfortunately, the opposite team scored an unlucky goal but we all stayed positive and carried on. Then the whistle blew for half time and Cali gave some great, inspirational advice. Starting strong, Emilia was a great goalie saving all of the tricky shots she also was a great encourager, motivating the whole team throughout. In defence we had Jojo and Divine who didn't let anyone pass them.

From the corner, Tilly passed it to Azalea and booted it towards the goal making the score 4:1. Last but definitely not least Ava and Daisy were a great pair driving down the wings! Finally, Cali got awarded the girl of the game which she most deserved for being such a great captain. Overall, a great match with lots of memorable moments made. We are looking forward to a re-match after the Easter holidays on Wednesday 22nd April.

By Daisy and Azalea

Star Writers...

Well done to our star writers this week! Due to a roll-over week, we were lucky enough to read and listen to a number of fantastic pieces of writing from across the school. Year 3/4 were sharing their vivid jungle descriptions, in which they had included fantastic figurative language to support their description whilst others shared their retell of Ratty's Big Adventure! Year 2 were displaying their exceptional handwriting, so much so that the Year 6s were inspired! Well done to Noah, Jo and Ava who shared their retelling of the survival story of Mauro Prospero. We are so lucky to have such star writers in our school!



Reflections this week...

This week in assembly, we explored the journey of Easter: from "Friday-dark" to "Sunday-light." We reflected on how Jesus' friends felt their hope was buried, like a seed hidden deep in the mud. However, we learned that even in the dark, love is at work. The joy of Sunday morning showed us that the "end" was actually a brand-new beginning. Our key reflection was that hope is resilient—it may be hidden for a while, but it always breaks through. As we see daffodils blooming, we remember: life is stronger than death, and Sunday is always coming. Our bible reading was Matthew 28:6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

Attendance...

Attendance this week is 94.7. Please continue to email absence@highashschool.co.uk for every day your child is absent from school. Thank you.

Food bank collection...



We are now collecting donations for the local food banks. All items need to be ambient, within date and in their original, unopened packaging. Items will be donated to the local food bank in St Mary's church in Great Brickhill or at St Luke's in Stoke Hammond. These food banks are essential to families who are struggling. Please donate what you can.

Reminder - HASA upcoming events...

You should have received raffle tickets for HASA's Easter Raffle. Thank you to those who have already returned ticket stubs and money. **Please return sold raffle tickets to the office by Thu 26 March.**

The raffle will be drawn on Friday 27th and prizes will be available to pick up from school at the end of the day.

There are some great prizes to be won, including:

- Breakfast voucher for two from Celia's cafe
- Best Butchers' voucher for £50
- Easter hamper for adults
- Easter hamper for children
- RB Equestrian voucher
- Alders farm gun range voucher
- Voucher for a week at Martin White's holiday football camp
- Ross Neary voucher
- Gulliver's Land 1 Free Child's tickets

And don't forget tonight's HASA Quiz held at Great Brickhill Cricket Club starting at 7.30pm. There is still time to buy your tickets!

Please do try and support HASA as their work makes so much difference to the school. They are currently fundraising for a class set of Chromebooks for KS2 and a class set of tablets for KS1.

Diary dates for next week commencing 23th March...

Thursday 26th March, 1.30pm - Whole School Easter Service @ St. Mary's Church

Friday 27th March, 9.15am - Year 3/4 Geography Field Trip to Rushmere Country Park

Friday 27th March, 2.15pm - Cherry Class Assembly. Parents invited, doors open at 2.05pm

Friday 27th March, 2.55pm - F/KS1 Star Assembly. Invite only, doors open at 2.45pm.

END OF TERM

Have a great weekend,

Mrs. Kate Goodger
Headteacher

headteacher@highashschool.co.uk



THIS WEEK'S MENU

MONDAY

Spaghetti bolognese & a garlic slice
Macaroni cheese & a garlic slice
Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese or tuna mayo

**EAT THEM
TO DEFEAT THEM**

TUESDAY

Ash Tree chicken curry with rice & pitta
Sweet potato, kale & chickpea curry
Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese or tuna mayo

WEDNESDAY

Roast chicken or roast ham or with all the trimmings
Vegetable roast with all the trimmings
Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese or tuna mayo

THURSDAY

Fillet of fish with chipped potatoes & peas
Quorn nuggets served with chipped potatoes
Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese or tuna mayo



FRIDAY

Frankfurter hot dog with nachos & sweetcorn
Vegan Frankfurter hot dog with nachos & sweetcorn
Jacket Potato - with cheese, beans or tuna

