



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 24th April 2026

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

Today we said a sad farewell to Rev. Waller with a beautiful service at St Mary. The children sang wonderfully and spoke with such kindness, making us all incredibly proud. It was the perfect send-off—he will be missed by staff and children alike.

Baby news...

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Derham gave birth to a little boy last Friday, Rory. Both Mum and Rory are doing great!

Also

Mrs Weatherall had her baby girl, Elsie, on Wednesday this week! Both Mum and Elsie are doing well!

Clubs...

We are looking forward to Netball Club starting next week, Monday 27th April for Years 3-6 from 3.30-4.30pm. It's not too late if you want to book your place for your child within this club. It will be run by a professional Netball coach and parent volunteers, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Fariello. The club will run for 11 weeks with the last session taking place on the 13th July. Please book via your MCAS app.

Years 3-6, Author, 'Ash Bond' visit...

Next week, on **Tuesday 28th April** will be welcoming author Ash Bond who is delivering an interactive workshop all about the world on 'Peregrine Quinn' to **Years 3-6 children**. This is going to be a brilliant experience -

You can pre order the book to be signed by Ash using the link below:

<https://www.ourbookshoptring.co.uk/product/peregrine-quinn-and-the-battle-for-olympus/>

The signed books will be given to your child on the day. This will be very exciting for all the children.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM BEN AT OUR BOOKSHOP - Please include your child's name and class so the books can be labelled up for the event. Postage is not required; we will deliver all the books on the day.

Parent information session for Secondary Transition for current Year 5 and Year 4 parents...

I would like to invite you to the **Headteacher's Transfer to Secondary School Presentation on Tuesday 12th May at 6:00 pm**. This session is essential for all Year 5 parents to help navigate the transition process, and Year 4 parents are also very welcome to attend for an early insight into what lies ahead.

Please note that this is a **new date** (moved from 11th June) due to updated Local Authority deadlines. The presentation and Q&A will last approximately one hour. To help us manage numbers, please submit a google form to confirm your attendance by clicking on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/K9mC53gQnZwJdZR19>

Learning highlights this week....

Acorns

This week we have begun exploring Meerkat Mail! We had a suitcase arrive with clues such as sunglasses, sunscreen, envelopes, photos and a letter describing someone that had left home and gone on an adventure. We then found Sunny the meerkat hiding in our classroom! He had his story with him. We read the story and it was about Sunny trying to find the 'perfect' place to live. We talked about the problems Sunny was having living in the Kalahari desert, that his family were too close and that it was too hot. It was so hot that Sunny's ice cream melted and he was covered in ants.

The children had their first balance bike lesson with Mrs Benson this week, they were super safe using their helmets and showed good listening skills when completing the challenges.



In Forest school we talked about foraging in our area and finding natural materials. We also spoke about the importance of not eating the things that we find in wild areas as they could make us sick. We then used our foraging skills to create natural bookmarks. We also spotted the butterfly eggs on the leaves! We talked about the life cycle of butterflies using what we have learned.



Acorn Reminders

- No reminders this week

Year One and Two

This week we have continued to think about Special Days and the importance of Shabbat to the Jewish people. We revisited our knowledge of the Creation Story by creating loose part collages of each day of the Creation and noticing how God kept the 7th day as a special day of rest and reflection.



The sunny weather has meant that we are able to make full use of our gorgeous outdoor classroom. Mr Priestly has built us a stage/small world area which is perfect to practice our developing oracy skills. Year 2 practised using their loud, clear presentation voices whilst performing the riddles they had written last week. We had lots of fun being detectives and using the clues to guess the answers!

In History we embarked on a journey of discovery to find out 'How we learned to fly' and the children learnt about the Wright Brothers and the story of the first engine powered flight. We used our understanding of chronological

order to create a Comic Strip to tell the story. We were so impressed by the care and attention the children put into their illustrations and we hope that they will be able to share their knowledge with you this weekend!



The lovely weather meant that the Gardening Club could get outside and finally sow the wild flower seeds that they prepared the ground for last week. The children have weeded in preparation and loved tucking the seed in and layering compost on top - we are hoping for flowerbeds that will attract butterflies and bees throughout the Summer. Potato planting is on the agenda for next week!



Year 1/2 Reminders

- [Oracy at Home and School - Ask your children who the Wright Brothers were!](#)

Year Three and Four

This week in PE, we started our new unit. With Mr Neary, we are learning about Athletics and with our teachers, we are learning about Tennis. Our first lesson was about accuracy and aim. We started off by learning how to hold the racket properly and then moved onto balancing a tennis ball on it. To develop our skills further, we bounced the ball and tried to catch the ball on the flat side of the racket. Combining all those skills together, we threw the ball to each other and then hit it back after it had bounced twice with the tennis racket. We had some great aim and accuracy!



In our History lesson, we learnt all about Anglo Saxon houses. Following on from our fascinating session at Bradwell Abbey, we understood more about why they used Wattle and Daub to create the perfect house. We recreated this with clay, water and hay (much less smelly). To start, we had to weave pipe cleaners through our sticks. Then we smothered them in daub (the clay mixture). We had tons of fun learning and it got very messy!

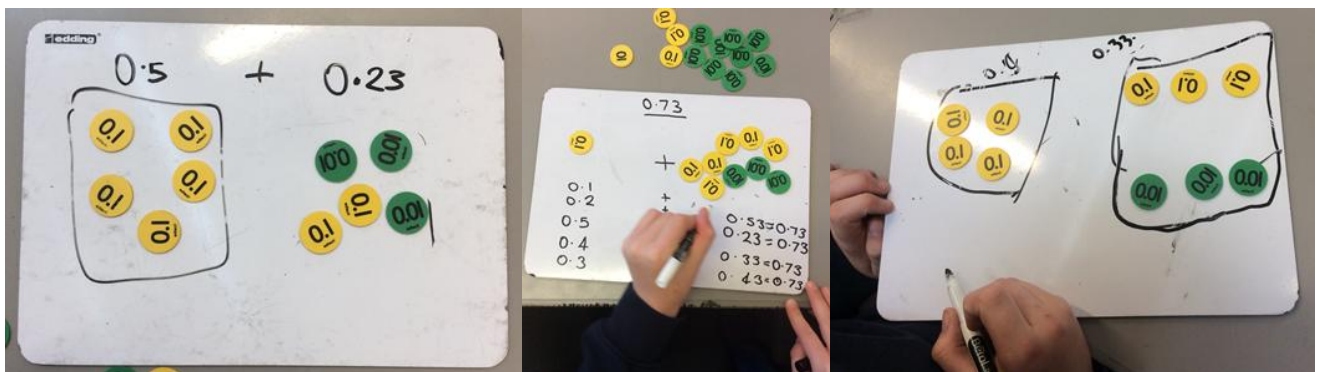


During our science lesson this week, we delved deeper into plants. Last week, we learnt about the parts of a flower and what each plant might look like. This week, we were looking at what plants need to grow and flourish! To do this, we conducted an experiment to show what would happen if a plant didn't have a specific factor that it needed to grow.



In Year 4 Maths, we have been developing our understanding of decimals, partitioning them in different ways. For example, $0.7 + 0.03 = 0.73$.

Here are some alternative ways to partition, shown using the place value counters.



Year 3/4 Reminders

- NO reminders this week

Year Five and Six

Year 5 and 6 have had a very busy and exciting week!

In PE, we began our new athletics and tennis units and have been making the most of the sunny weather by learning outside. One of our favourite activities this week was practising relay races. We worked in teams, jogging together in a large circle while one teammate sprinted from behind to catch up at the back. This activity really helped us to develop our teamwork skills, as we had to communicate well and encourage one another throughout.

In History, we have been exploring the Battle of Britain. We listened to first-hand recounts from pilots, bombers and engineers, which we found fascinating. These were primary sources, as they were real people sharing their own personal experiences through video. We discussed the bravery of those involved and how they were all focused on protecting and supporting Great Britain during such a challenging time.

“Paul Farnes was a wing commander. He had to fly a plane and defend the sky. He said he joined the RAF as he wanted to fly. He had to fly up to six sorties a day.” Calum W



“Geoffrey Wellum was a fighter pilot who said life was very different and you had to rely on your colleagues. He said you had to keep moving and never stay still for more than 20 secs. He said when people died they had to try and not think about it as they still had a job to do.” William J



It has been another fantastic week of learning in Year 5 and 6!

Year 5/6 Reminders

- On Tuesday we will be having an author visit from Ash Bond.
- SATs week - Monday 11th May

Football...

Match report!

On Wednesday 22nd April, the Year 6 mixed team played against Newton Longville. The people playing were: Darragh, Sebastian.B, Azalea, Ruan, Riley, Harry, Calum, Noah and Cali.C.

Before we talk about the game, we would like to say thanks to Miss Maylor and Miss Joliffe for being amazing coaches and supporting us throughout the whole game.

Before we kicked off, we were given a small reminder that if we drew or won, we would win the league. We kicked off and started strong, pressing every ball, until they had a chance ... saved by our goalkeeper, Darragh! It knocked our confidence slightly, however we stayed positive and carried on. Shortly after, Newton Longville had a corner. It went over our heads and straight to one of their players who volleyed it into our net. We were losing, but that didn't stop us from fighting back. Keeping composure, High Ash had many opportunities but unluckily they were saved by their keeper. We were close to half time, but just before the whistle blew, they scored another lucky goal. When the whistle blew, we came to our coaches for a motivational team talk. As the second half approached, we came out very strong and with confidence. Calum to Noah, then Noah to Riley and Riley into the net. GOAL! We were all overjoyed which gave us an urge to go for another. As the second half went on, many shots were taken at each goal yet none went in, until Noah had the ball at his feet. He took a touch and yet again, GOAL FOR HIGH ASH! We were more than happy because if we kept this as a draw, we would become CHAMPIONS. After that, we went for more opportunities but also stayed defensive and tight. Finally, the moment came. The whistle blew and we finished the game with a draw which was all we needed to become champions of the mixed league. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended the match. And most importantly ...

WELL DONE HIGH ASH!

Thank you to Cali C and Azalea for writing a brilliant match report.

Reflections...

This week we considered the following quote from The Bible: **Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. John 3:18**

In our class reflections, we focussed on *the kindness lens* and produced a pair of glasses. Inside the lenses, we drew or wrote things we've noticed in school that we could help with e.g messy lockers, litter, someone sitting

alone or having no one to play with.



Attendance...

This week's attendance is 96.2%. This is really moving in the right direction. We hope this continues and thank you all for your support in making sure your children attend school every day. Please remember to email absence@highashschool.co.uk for every day your child may be absent from school.

HASA News...

HASA are super excited to announce that The High Ash School Lottery is here...

Tickets are just £1, with 40p going straight to the school to help fund new Chromebooks.

There's a weekly winner, monthly bonus prizes and a chance to win the £25,000 jackpot!

It's quick to join - just follow the link on the attached poster, pick your numbers, and you're in.

Please share with friends and family - the more who join, the bigger the prize and most importantly the more we can give back to our children.

Thank you for your support!

Food bank collection...

There is a box in reception 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.



Diary dates for next week commencing w-c 27th April...

Tuesday 28th April - Ash Bond, Author visit for Years 3-6 children

Friday 1st May - F/KS1 Star Assembly, doors open at 2.45pm, starting at 2.55pm

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs. Kate Goodger
Headteacher

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