



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter Friday 1st May 2026



'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

We have had a lovely week enjoying the sunshine outside at playtimes. There have been some creative dens and shelters being made on the field and children playing well with each other. The key stage 2 children really enjoyed the author visit from Ash Bond - who really gave them an insight into what an author is.

[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>

[SENCO Update](#)

I wanted to update all parents that sadly Mrs Edwards has decided not to stay at High Ash as our SENCO. Mrs Edwards felt that becoming a SENCO was not right for her own circumstances at this time and wanted to make the move immediately rather than becoming too involved in the role. She told me that this was no reflection on the school, staff or children, but very much based on her personal circumstances.

Miss Joliffe and I will again take on the SENCO responsibilities. I can assure parents SEN is still a priority at High Ash and Miss Joliffe and I will strive to give all our SEN children the support they need. We have a strong SEN and pastoral team at High Ash and we will always do what we can for children and families. If you have any concerns then please do get in touch.

[Learning highlights this week...](#)

[Acorns](#)

We have been continuing our learning using the book Meerkat Mail this week in Acorn class. We have had lots of fun exploring the story map of Meerkat Mail and seeing if we can recall the events in the story. We have been using this to start learning the order of the days of the week and saying them in sequence with more confidence.

We have also been following Sunny's adventures as he has been exploring the world and sending us postcards showing where he has visited and we have been able to compare different places around the world with his home, the Kalahari desert.

We have been enjoying our outdoor learning so much more as the weather has been improving! We have been collaborating and communicating when building in our Den Building area outside. We have also been fascinated by our solar powered fountain in the water area and have enjoyed seeing how it has been affected by how much sunlight has been on it at different times of the day.

In Forest School, we worked more on understanding foraging, we used double sided sticky tape on strips of card to stick our foraged materials to. We talked about how many more flowers have begun to open up and tried to identify them: daisies and forget-me-nots.



Acorn Reminders

Oracy and Home and School

Talk about animals and their habitats, where can we find different animals in the world? Why do they live there? What makes the habitat the perfect place for them to live?

Year One and Two

This week has been filled with stories of flight and the Wright brothers! In History we delved deeper into their story and considered why they are such important historical figures. It was lovely to be able to deepen this learning in our English lessons where we have used the text 'Taking Flight', a story about the Wright brothers and their incredible determination as inspiration for a story retell. Year 2 focussed on making ambitious language choices when adding commas to a list of adjectives whilst Year 1 introduced 'What' and 'Who' questions to their writing. We will use the same text next week to write a Non Fiction report.

In our Science learning, we have been exploring a variety of seeds by sorting and classifying them using a Venn diagram. The children compared the seeds based on their size, colour and whether they are edible or non-edible. The lesson developed core scientific skills such as observation, grouping and discussion of similarities and differences. It was lovely to see this learning developed in Thursday lunchtime's Gardening Club when the children planted potatoes and investigated sweetcorn seeds before transporting them into pots in our garden.



In Maths, Year 1 children have been learning about multiplication by making arrays. They used objects to arrange items into rows and columns, helping them to understand how numbers can be grouped and accounted in equal sets. Year 2 have started their unit of learning on telling the time and have loved using our new clocks, (thank you Mrs Goodger and Mrs Northen!) to revise o'clock and half past before moving on to use their previous knowledge of fractions to help with quarter to and quarter past.



In Art we started a new unit and investigated how we can represent texture. We used sponges, tinfoil, cotton buds and our fingers to experiment with different techniques and tools to create texture.

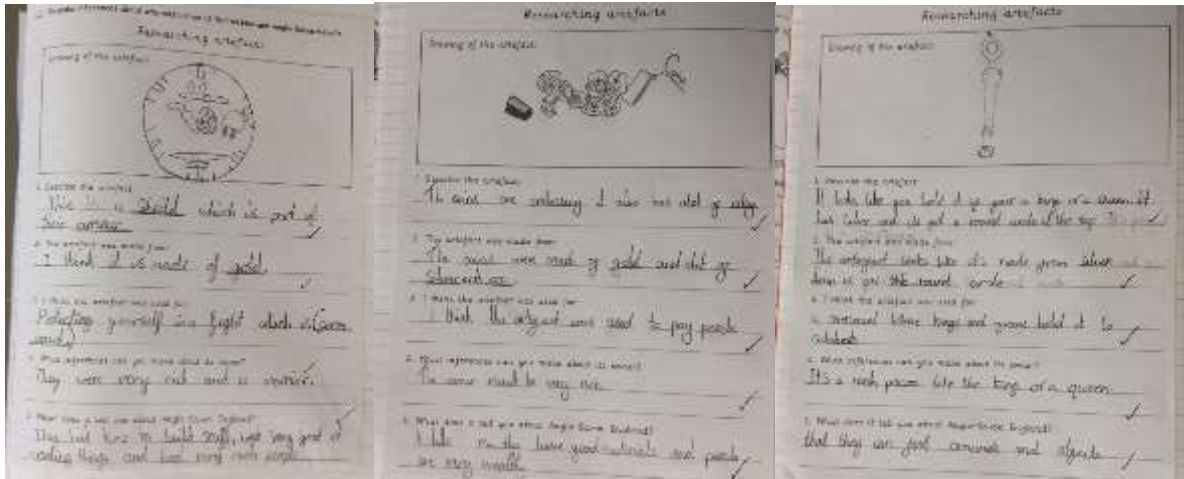
Year 1/2 Reminders
Oracy and Home and School

Year 2 - Practice telling the time at quarter to and quarter past the hour.

Year 1 - Ask your children to tell you what an array is - can they make one with lego blocks or sweets?

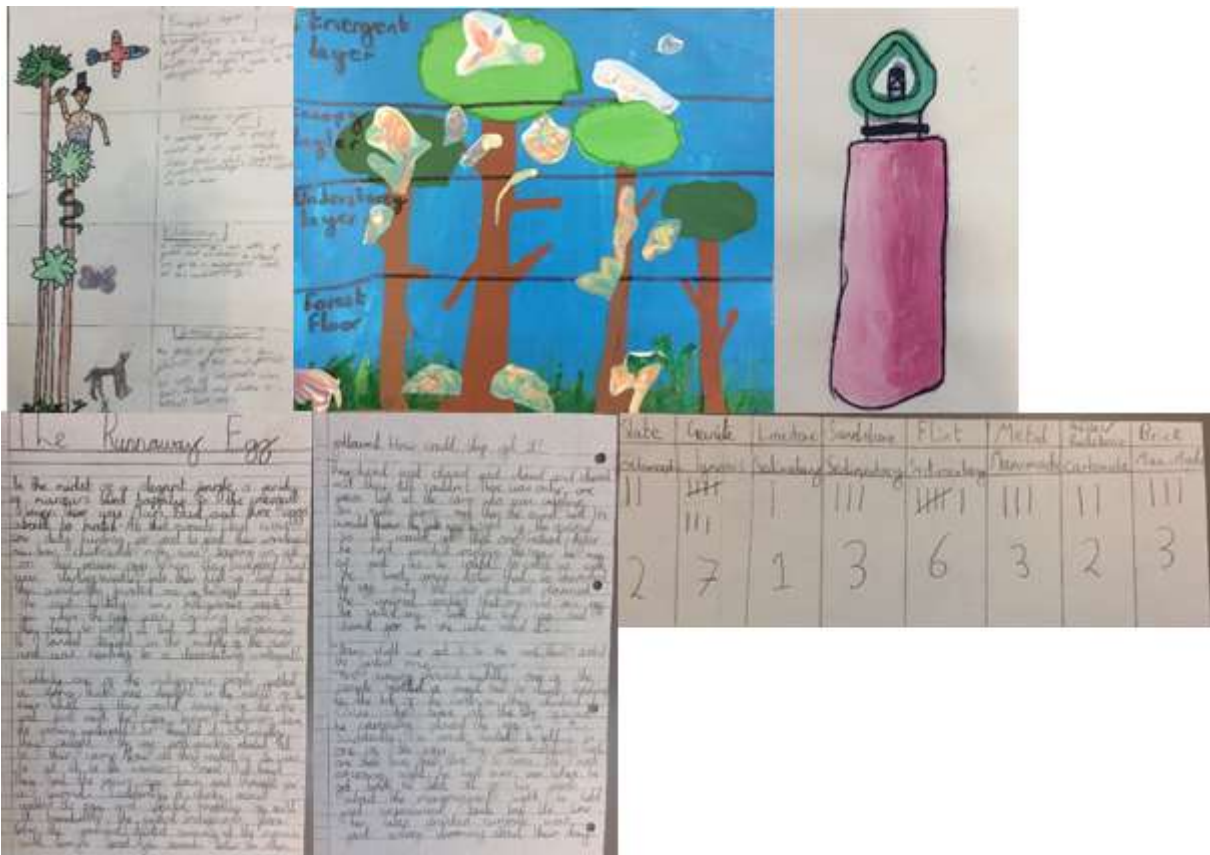
Year Three and Four

This week, we have continued our learning about what changed in Britain after the Anglo-Saxon invasion. We explored artefacts discovered at Sutton Hoo and used these to make thoughtful deductions about who might have been buried there. The children were fascinated by the level of detail and craftsmanship in the objects, particularly the intricate designs made from gold and precious materials. They showed great curiosity and engagement, asking insightful questions and discussing their ideas with confidence. Through careful observation and reasoning, the children were able to infer that the burial site likely belonged to a king or someone of very high status. It was wonderful to see them applying their historical enquiry skills so effectively, using evidence to support their conclusions.



This week in Year 3 Maths, we have moved on to a new topic: measurement and length. The children have been exploring different units of measure and have enjoyed measuring a range of objects around the school using practical resources. They have been developing their understanding of metres and centimetres, and thinking carefully about which unit is most appropriate depending on the size of the object. Today, we focused on choosing the correct equipment, discussing when it is best to use a ruler and when a metre stick would be more suitable. The children showed great enthusiasm during this hands-on learning and are beginning to measure with increasing accuracy and confidence.

We've had some really excellent homework brought in to share with the rest of the class in Holly. These are Venetia and Rupert's pieces of work: both produced great layer factsheets about rainforests. Venetia applied her Art skills to paint a water bottle and Rupert did some rock investigating (and produced a great tally chart) and wrote a fantastic story.





Year 3/4 Reminders

- A reminder for Year 3 children to continue practising their times tables using the Mathsframe Multiplication Check. The children should focus on the 2, 5, 3, 4, 8 and 10 times tables, as building a quick recall of these facts will really support their confidence and fluency in maths. Regular, short practice at home will make a big difference. Little and often is key!
- A reminder for Year 4 children to continue practising ALL of their times tables. We are coming up to our Multiplication Check and we want to be as prepared as possible. Keep up the hard work!

Year Five and Six

This week, Year 5/6 explored why Sanatanis believe that Brahman takes on many forms. After learning key vocabulary such as Brahman, deity and Tri-Murti, pupils reflected on their own identities, recognising how one person can have many different aspects. They then linked this idea to the belief that Brahman is one ultimate reality expressed through different deities, including Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.

In their independent work, children created symbolic, modern representations of these deities using colours, animals and shapes, explaining their choices using key vocabulary. We ended with a gallery walk, where pupils shared their thoughtful and creative work.



In this week's Art lesson, pupils explored sculptural techniques and learned key vocabulary such as assemblage, composition, and relief. Inspired by the work of Louise Nevelson, they began by thinking about happy memories and the shapes that could represent them—both literal and abstract.

Children shared ideas, sketched memory maps, and then brought them to life by cutting and layering shapes to create their own 3D-style assemblages in their sketchbooks.

The class loved being creative and expressing themselves through abstract art, producing unique and personal pieces. They also reflected on their work, thinking about what they might improve next time.



In Art we have been inspired by the work of Louise Nevelson, a sculptor known for her monumental, monochromatic, wooden wall pieces. Instead of wood, we have been using corrugated cardboard (please keep sending in your boxes - and also shoe boxes) to create works in relief that depict favourite memories. Many children have been portrayed holidays, playing out, sports and pastimes, some more literal and others more abstract. Here are some examples of our wonderful work:



Year 5/6 Reminders

- Please send in any corrugated cardboard for our art next week.
- Please send in shoe boxes - ideally one per child in 5/6
- The countdown to SATs week is officially on! Starting Monday 11th May, our Year 6 students will have the chance to showcase all the fantastic progress they've made this year. To help them feel calm, confident, and ready to shine, please continue to encourage a little daily practice in SPaG, Reading, and Maths. Whether it's a quick arithmetic challenge or a shared reading session, every bit of support makes a huge difference. Thank you

Star Writers...

Thank you to all our wonderful Star Writers this week; Milana, Ted, Jack, Riaan, Georgina, Rafe, Ewan and Neera. You all demonstrated a wonderful determination to improve and I was so impressed with the application of the skills you were learning. Well done everyone!



High Ash loves Reading...

On Tuesday we were lucky enough to welcome the author of the Peregrine Quinn adventure books, Ash Bond to High Ash. She introduced the Key Stage Two Children to her fast paced, fantasy novels that are filled with myths, magic and legend. The children were able to ask questions and the lovely Ash was available to sign copies of her latest novel 'Peregrine Quinn and the Battle for Olympus'. We are hoping to welcome another author to meet our younger children later on in the term.



This week also saw the launch of our lunchtime 'Reading Club' run by our wonderful Year 5 and 6 Reading Ambassadors. Every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime children will be able to join their Reading Ambassadors out on a picnic rug and snuggle down and listen to a favourite story or they might even like to read to them instead! We hope that this will provide yet another safe place of calm and connection on our playground. Huge thanks to Josephine, Daisy, Algernon, Phoebe, Divine, Mila and Emilia who have volunteered to spend their lunchtimes sharing their love of reading!



Reflections...

This week in Reflection we were thinking about how we can be the small sparks that grow into big things. We talked about the importance of advocacy - speaking up for others or the planet if we feel something is not right. With this in mind, we talked about Rosa Parks and how her small stand of not moving on the bus - created a great effect which inspired many to stand up and advocate for equal rights. This in turn really helped shape civil rights both in America and across the world. Our bible reading was taken from Matthew 5:14-16 A city on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 95.2%. Please remember to always email absence@highashschool.co.uk for every day your child is absent from school. Thank you.

Wish-list Bingo

We had great success last year with our Wish-list Bingo and received some great donations from our friends and families as we looked to improve our playtime resources. We'd like to do the same again this year. Each class has been asked to put together a wish-list for their Bingo card and we had a bit of friendly competition between classes to see who could fill their Bingo card first. Items do not have to be brand new, we're happy to have pre-loved items that are still in good working order. Look out for the Bingo cards being sent home next week!



Naming jumpers and cardigans

As the weather finally starts to warm up, please can you remember to put your child's name in the school jumpers and cardigans. We are already finding we have lots of jumpers and cardigans being left outside at break and lunchtime and it's hard to return them to their rightful owner without a name.

If you write on the clothes label with a pen make sure it is still legible and has not faded in the wash. Or you can buy printed labels to stick on to clothes and other items. We've linked up with Stikins who provide labels for school uniform. 30% of the value of all orders is donated back to HASA. Visit stikins.co.uk and enter the code **9524** at the checkout. Labels cost as little as 15p each so definitely much better than having to replace a lost jumper or cardigan.



HASA News...



HASA is 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 and tablets. 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...

Please remember to donate what you can to the Food Box collection in the lobby area. Items collected will be taken to the local food banks in St Mary's in Great Brickhill and St Luke's in Stoke Hammond. All items need to be ambient, within date and in their original, unopened packaging.

Both foodbanks are located on the porch in each church. Each church has asked us to remind our families that the Food Banks are open to any villager, and they hope especially that families are comfortable using them. St. Luke's Food Bank also provide cleaning and hygiene products and recently received an anonymous donation of a box full of packs of sanitary pads.



Diary dates for next week commencing w-c 4th May...

Monday 4th May - May Day Bank Holiday, School Closed

Tuesday 5th May - School Open

Friday 8th May - F/KS1 Star Assembly at 2.55pm, doors open at 2.45pm. Invitation only

Have a wonderful bank holiday weekend.

Mrs. Kate Goodger
Headteacher

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