



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter Friday 8th May 2026



'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

Well this week has flown by... We seemed to have packed a 5 day week into 4 days! There has been some great history lessons taking place this week.

Reminder - 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>

Lunchtime Activities...

The launch of the new playground zones has gone live this week. The children can enjoy different sports each day including Hockey, Tag Rugby, Cricket, Football (non contact), Running Races, Den Building, the Book Nook, Scooters, Skipping and lots of other activities during lunchtimes. Take a look below:



Learning highlights this week...

Acorns

We have had fun exploring shape in Acorns this week. We have been rotating shapes, using shapes to create pictures and identifying 2D and 3D shapes using their features. It was so impressive to listen to our children recall their prior learning on shapes and use it in their partner talk and in their provision practice.



We have also been learning about the days of the week! We have a new song that we have learned to help us to recall the order of the days. We then used the days of the week and matched them to events that happened to Sunny in our story Meerkat Mail. We looked at Tinga Tinga art and stories from Africa this week and began preparing our own creations and patterns inspired by them.



In Forest school we have been keeping an eye on some insect eggs we've noticed on leaves and this week we were excited to find that some of the leaves definitely had signs that they've been eaten! We used magnifying glasses to take a close look, however we've had no luck in spotting any caterpillars yet.

Acorn Reminders

- Oracy home learning: The children will be bringing home their lines for our class assembly. Please practice them at home so your child feels confident and ready.

Year One and Two



Our KS1 children recently stepped into the shoes of the pioneering Wright Brothers as they made and flew their very own aeroplanes! Before taking to the skies, the children explored the emotional journey the Wright Brothers might have experienced before their first historic flight. There was thoughtful discussion about the mixture of feelings involved in trying something new and uncertain. The classroom buzzed with honest reflections: *"I'm nervous—what if my plane crashes?"* and *"I'm feeling brave!"*. Through this activity, the children not only developed their understanding of flight and design but also gained insight into why the Wright Brothers' achievement was such a **significant** moment in history.

The History learning linked beautifully with our English lessons as we produced a Non Chronological Report about the Wright brothers. The children organised their knowledge into Subheadings and added technical vocabulary to ensure they wrote like an expert!



Key Stage 1 Gardening Club had fun watering their potatoes and planting some new herbs in our sensory garden.

Year Three and Four

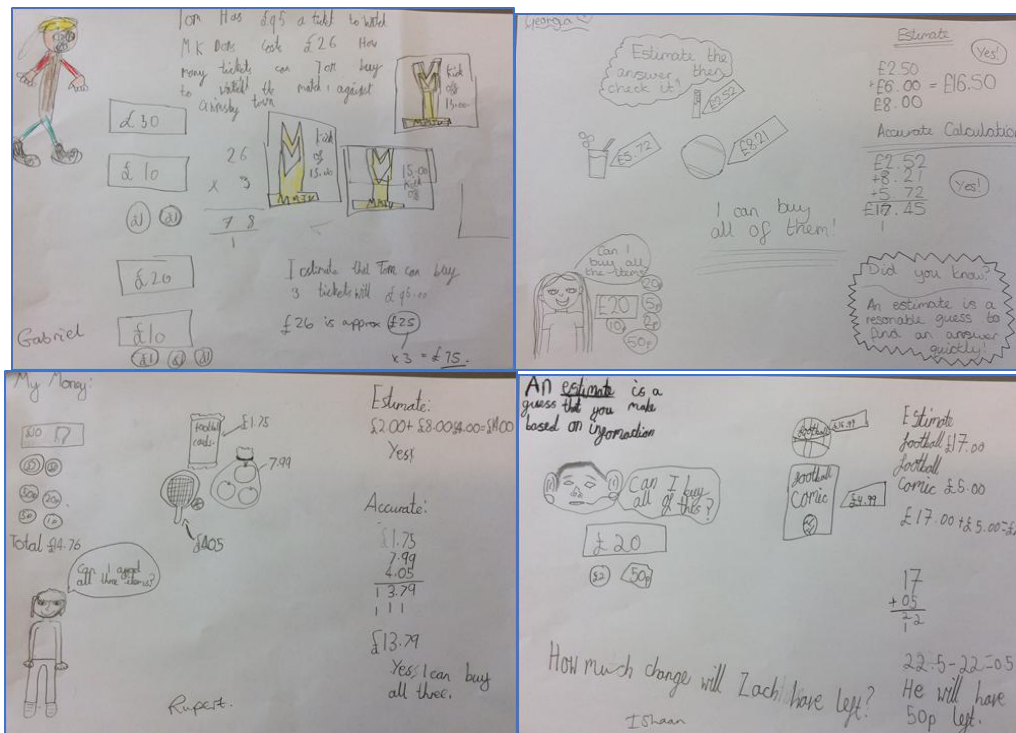
During our History lesson this week we were learning about how the Christian religion came to Anglo Saxon England and who brought it over. To help us understand more, we answered some pre-made questions using fact files about three different Saints - Saint Augustine, Saint Columba and Saint Aiden. Once we had answered the questions, we turned them into a podcast using different people as the hosts and guests to ask and answer the questions.



During our science lessons this week, we have been learning about the life cycle of a plant including pollination, seed formation and dispersal. We learnt about where each part comes in the life cycle and what happens during each stage. To consolidate our knowledge, we created the life cycle of a plant in our books using pictures and captions. Last week, we set up plants for a Science experiment and have been monitoring the impact of various differences in the things they were given and not given to grow.



In Maths this week, Year 4 have been continuing to develop their knowledge and understanding of money - counting notes and coins and then solving real-life word problems to see whether items could be afforded with the money counted. They then used knowledge of rounding to the nearest £1 or 50p before estimating answers before calculating them accurately.



Year Five and Six

This week, children learned about the Blitz through using photographs to understand the past. They discussed different types of historical sources and shared their ideas about which are most reliable.

Children then explored photographs from the Blitz, learning how to spot details and make inferences. During the carousel activity, they worked in groups to look closely at images, think about how people may have felt, and consider the impact on daily life.

The children asked many brilliant questions, examined the photographs carefully, and enjoyed an excellent discussion throughout the lesson.

Overall, a thoughtful and engaging session with great historical thinking.



We have been thoroughly enjoying our music lessons! This unit is based on the traditional South African song called 'Shosholozza' which is a call and response song that we've all learned to sing. To bring the song to life further, we've been learning a form of African dance. We started off learning to place our feet correctly by imagining a clock face on the ground and rhythmically stepping from the centre of the 'clock' to various different numbers to the beat. Then we improved our performance by adding shimmies and hip movements. The next lesson was to learn how to play the African Djembe drum. We learned that there are two different sounds that can be made and we learned different rhythms. Eventually, we are going to be bringing the song, glockenspiels, dance and drums altogether to have a glorious Shosholozza performance!



Year 5/6 Reminders

- Please bring in shoe boxes - one per child at least
- Tuesday 12th May, 6pm - Year 5 parents Secondary Transfer Test Information Evening
- Wednesday 20th May - Year 5/6 Lifepath Newton day trip - Please click here to consent: <https://forms.gle/SZ8evMnN6BFreXF5A>

Star Writers...

Congratulations to this week's Star Writers who were able to recall and use so many of their Clever Writing skills in their final piece of work. Mrs Barrasford loved reading all of the work and was very happy to hand out some well deserved Star Write Certificates. Congratulations to Marcus, Dominique, Nicky, Ananya, Piper, Avni, Alba and Theo.



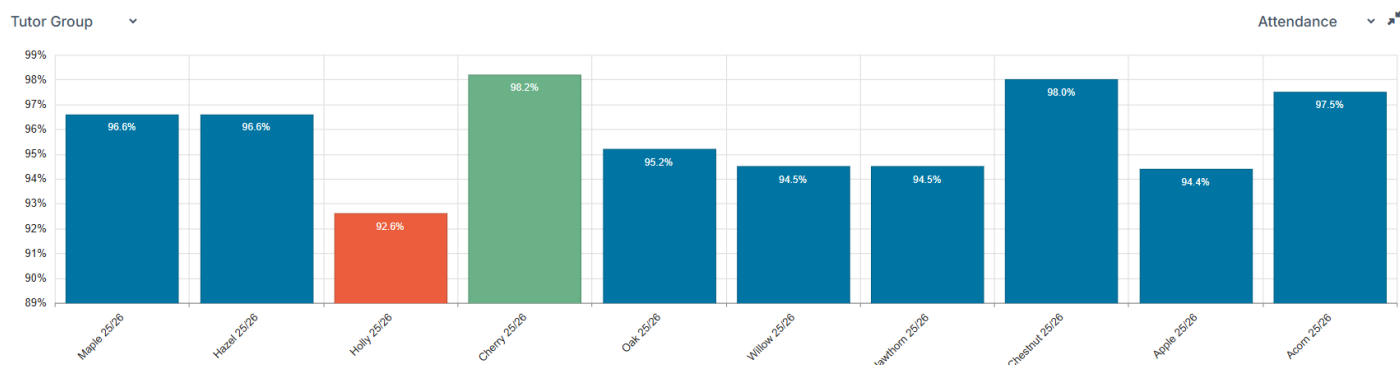
Reflections...

This week we have been looking out how to find peace within ourselves. We watched the story of when Jesus calmed the storm and thought about how Jesus didn't just talk about peace; he showed it. When a huge storm threatened to sink his friends' boat, they were terrified. But Jesus was asleep on a cushion! When they woke him, he simply said, 'Peace, be still.' Immediately, the wind stopped, and the lake became perfectly calm. WE then talked about how peace is having an inner strength that stays with us *while* the storm is still happening. The bible quote we looked at was from John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.*

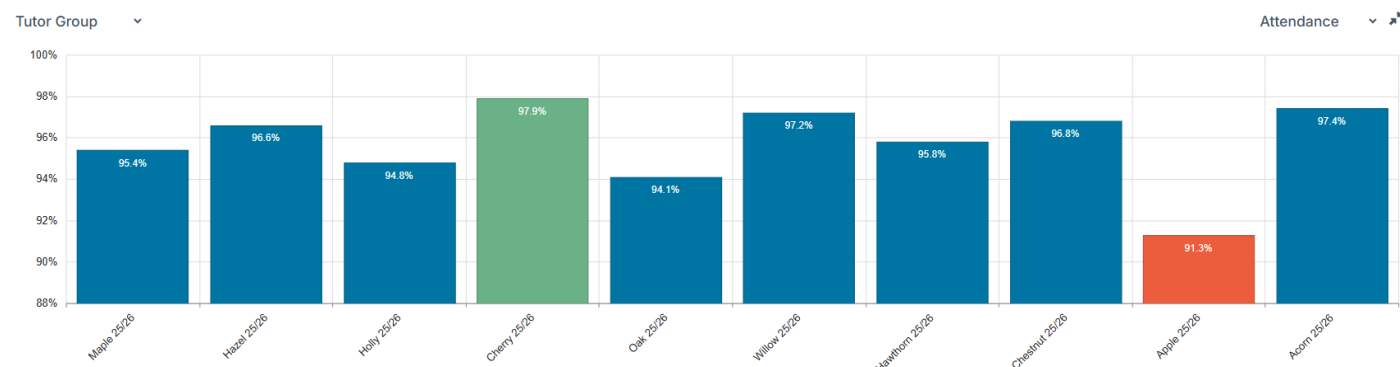
Attendance...

This week's attendance percentage is 96.1% – an excellent improvement. We thank all families for supporting both the school and your child by ensuring regular daily attendance, which has a positive impact on education and progress. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Please see below class attendance graph for April:



Please see below class attendance graph for Spring Term:



Please remember to email absence@highashschool.co.uk to report your child absent from school daily. Thank you.

Naming jumpers and cardigans

Our pile of lost property is growing. Please remember to name jumpers and cardigans. If items are not named, it is unlikely they will ever be returned to the rightful owner, but end up unclaimed in lost property.

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...

Don't forget to register for The High Ash School Lottery, launched by HASA this term...

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!

Diary dates for next week commencing w-c 11th May...

Monday 11th May - Year 6 SATs week

Tuesday 12th May, 6pm - Year 5 parents Secondary Transfer Test information evening, Year 4 parents also invited

Friday 15th May, 2.55pm - KS2 Star Assembly, invitation only. Doors open at 2.45pm

Have a great weekend.

Mrs. Kate Goodger
Headteacher

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