



# High Ash C of E School Weekly Newsletter Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

*'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16*

To all our families,

It's been another busy week for school and the children have quickly settled into their new classes and routines. Hard to believe that this is only the first full week back! Our English and Maths groups have also got underway this week as we have the additional support and/or challenge sessions for the children overseen by Mrs Crawley as our KS2 Interventions Leader. Intervention groups also started in Key Stage One. Our focus still remains firmly on maximising the progress of all our children, building on the successful strategies we used last year as we strive to continually improve.

Mr Anderson is back as our PE coach and he has been impressed with how many of the children have all the right PE kit- many thanks to you as parents for supporting us with our high standards.

### Highlights this week...

Foundation- I am so proud of our new Foundation children and it feels like they have been with us for longer than just a few days as they are already embracing all of the routines and exploring their learning environment with wonderful curiosity and imagination. Esme has shared with me her super craft skills in helping make a rainbow for display and Max and Ethan had impressed Mrs Shepherd with their creativity in the construction area. Emma has already wanted to have a go at writing words she knew! Wow! The teaching team are also seeing each child on a 1:1 basis to complete their entry baselines so we get accurate starting points to then ensure we can maximise their progress. All of this information will be shared with you at Parents' Evening at the end of this half term.

***Please remember to register your attendance to the Foundation Parents Phonics and Reading Workshop to be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9.00am. You can register online by logging in to <https://highash.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>. If you require help, please contact the office.***

Year One and Two- The children have continued to learn more about Dinosaurs for their fact files and have enjoyed using the knowledge they have learnt on their Hook Day last week. They have been working out the difference between fact and fiction. Rayan has shown me his super work on place value in Maths. Well done to Sophie M in Cherry Class for recording her reading at home in her home/school planner and I know lots of other children are doing the same so keep up the hard work! In topic, they have been looking at fossils and have enjoyed doing fossil rubbings and learning about what fossils can tell them about the past.

Year Three and Four- Many will you have seen the teaching team dressed as characters for the Hook Day on Tuesday when 'Alice in Wonderland' came to High Ash and the children took part in the Mad Hatter's Tea Party! As you can see by the photographs below, it really engaged the children in their new topic on 'Potions'. They have been designing potion bottles and in Science learning about properties of liquids, compared to solids and gases. Tilly-Rose, Ollie H and Callum have produced some great Maths work and Jess S wowed us with her excellent place value learning, including a real transformation in her presentation.



As you will know, this year we have the additional benefit of having Mrs Crawley (KS2 Interventions Leader) as part of the team in Year Three and Four and she will be team teaching with the other teachers, so where possible we can have smaller groups within classes to really help more children learn and progress. She is also going to be leading some additional challenge work in writing and Maths. If your child is in one of her groups, please feel free to chat to her about the work she will be doing.

Year Five and Six- Year Six have coped admirably with the Transfer Tests this week and I am very proud of their attitude and maturity. Year Six parents will have also received a letter providing information on how to register and apply on line for secondary school places, so please let the office or their class teacher know if you have not received this.

All of the children have continued to extend their learning on place value and in English are reading about travelling through portals to fantasy lands as their link is 'Alchemy Island' topic. They have been describing features of maps and looking at contours and how to interpret contour lines on a map. Well done to Fleur and Daniel for their explanations of this in their Topic books. I was also very proud of Elliot in Year Five and Olivia in Year Six for their maths learning on comparing and ordering numbers. Well done!

#### **Accelerated Reader update....**

The children are in the process of completing their Star Reader tests so we can then ensure they know which books to choose from in the library. Please encourage your child to record their reading in their Home/School planner each day and they have been told they can record their quiz score in there too. Mrs Goodger is going to be overseeing all children's quiz scores to make sure they are scoring more than 85% and to support if needed. Accelerated Reader is to ensure the children are reading widely and often and we are looking forward to purchasing additional reading books for the library later this month to give the children even more choice!

#### **Assemblies...**

We started the week with our Big Question linked to our bible quote 'Let your light shine'. We asked the children what letting your light shine really means and the children have added their thoughts to the Soul Space in their classrooms. It has also been wonderful for the children to share the prayers they have written for the Prayer Basket. They really are quite moving and heartfelt which is what it should be all about.

On Thursday we also saw the start of the 'Open The Book' assemblies led by the Church and many thanks to Reverend Waller, Valerie and Stuart who came to share the 'In the Beginning' bible story of creation.

I was very proud of how respectful the children were in this assembly by listening and behaving brilliantly!

#### **Website update....**

We are very excited that our new website is still on track to go live next week. It will still have the same web address as it does now ([highhashschool.co.uk](http://highhashschool.co.uk)) yet you will see that it has been revamped, modernised and hopefully will be easier to navigate.

#### **Headlice reminder...**

In true back to school fashion, please can I remind parents to regularly check your child's hair for any lice and then treat quickly and accordingly- thank you!

#### **Clubs starting...**

The following clubs will commence next week and will run for 11 weeks unless otherwise stated below: -

##### Monday clubs - Last session Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Dodgeball Years 3-6 run by Clubs for Schools - 3.30-4.30pm

Netball Years 4-6 - 3.30-4.30pm

##### Tuesday clubs - Last session Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Multi-Sports Years 4-6 run by Mr Anderson - 3.30-4.30pm

Cookery Years 1-6 run by SmartRaspberry - 3.30-4.30pm (10 weeks finishing on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November)

Dance Years 1-2 - 3.20-4.00pm

##### Wednesday Clubs - Last session Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Computer Years 3-6 - 3.20-4.15pm

Art Years 1-2 - 3.20-4.00pm

##### Thursday Clubs - Last session Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Multi-Sports Years 1-3 - 3.30-4.30pm

Choir Years 3-6 - 3.20-4.15pm

Cookery Years 1-6 run by SmartRaspberry - 3.30-4.30pm (10 weeks finishing on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November)

##### Friday Clubs - Last session Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Badminton Years 3-6 run by Clubs for Schools - 3.30-4.30pm

Gardening Years 1-6 - Lunch time club

All parents will receive a text message reminder today confirming the clubs they have booked their children into.

#### **SIMS App issue...**

The office team are aware there is a problem with this app and will look into this at some point within the next

two weeks. Your patience while we resolve this issue with SIMS support would be very much appreciated. You will receive a text message as soon as we have been able to resolve the issue and all new parents will then be sent an invitation to install the app on their mobile device should you wish to. We will also send out re-invites to current parents that have not yet installed it. The purpose of this app is for each parent to primarily be able to view their contact information, address, home and mobile contacts, email address etc. that we hold within our pupil database and to be able to edit this information should you need to. Since we no longer send out paper copies of your child's Data Collection sheet for you to check, we ask that you check via the app provided you have access to it. This information will then automatically be updated within our SIMS pupil database. The app is secure, you will only be able to see and edit your individual data we hold on file. Within this app you can also view diary dates, term dates and attendance relating to your child.

*Diary dates coming up....*

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September - Willow Class Assembly @ 2.45pm (doors open at 2.30pm). All welcome followed by a chance to look at books in the classroom.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September - Y3/4 Harvest Festival at St. Mary's Church

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September - Foundation Parents Phonics and Reading Workshop @ 9.00am

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September - Star Assembly @ 2.45pm (doors open at 2.30pm)

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September - Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Ash Tree @ 900am

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

*Sara J Boyce*

Sara Boyce

Headteacher

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