



# High Ash C of E School Weekly Newsletter Friday 28th September 2018



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

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

To all our families,

It was wonderful to celebrate Harvest Festival at Church this week and in our assemblies. The children have written some very touching prayers about being thankful for the things we have and also the importance of giving to others less fortunate than ourselves. This has been evident in the very kind donations of food given to us as part of our Harvest collection and will be much appreciated by the Food Bank- thank you.

The church was decorated with the Harvest artwork created by some of our children and that reinforced the message from Reverend Waller that the church is their church too. Our artwork will also be going on display in the churches in Stoke Hammond and Little Brickhill as part of the group of churches linked to our school and the community we serve.

As well as Harvest in assemblies this week, we have looked at being thankful and also the Church led the Thursday 'Open the Book' assembly with the bible story of 'Noah's Ark'.

### *Highlights this week...*

Foundation Stage- I am so impressed with how well this group of children are taking to school life and are now fully involved in all of our whole school assemblies. They have behaved brilliantly throughout. I observed Phonics this week in Foundation and the children are already making super progress with their new sounds and even starting to blend them too. Peter, Alayna and Ethan shared their phonics learning with me and were very proud of their new found skills! It was also great to see so many parents attend our Foundation Parents Phonics Workshop led by Mrs Wadeson and parental support is much appreciated.

Year One and Two- The children are clearly loving their 'Dinosaurs' topic and Miss Akram's class were moving and performing like Dinosaurs in their Dance lesson this week with great enthusiasm! Kaiya had impressed Mrs Burrows with her super Maths learning and Harrison H had worked really hard with his Maths counting forward and back. Thank you to Harvey for sharing his project on chalk hills and I learnt some new things too!

Year Three and Four- There were a lot of 'Gold Stars' for good work this week, with many of them in Maths! Well done to Autumn, Bethany, Isaac, Daisy and Callum for their reasoning work on rounding and to Herbert, Jack B and Archie F for their progress with column addition. Olivia S, Holly K and Jamie had also impressed their Maths teachers this week- wow! Harrison R, Bella, Tilly-Rose had all received a gold star for their English homework, showing a good understanding of prepositions in helping to add detail to descriptions.

Year Five and Six- The children have been finding out about the properties of gold as part of 'Alchemy Island' and Miss Beech sent Fleur, Elizabeth, Daniel, Alannam and Rohan to show me their fact files. Tommy had completed some fantastic English homework that showed how a misplaced comma can affect the sense of a sentence and Alicia, HariAnna and Erin were thrilled to let me read their final versions of their narratives about a portal. What a week!

### *The Walking Bus needs you!...*

The ever popular Walking Bus is looking for any additional volunteers to help with this service. If you can spare any time to help out with the walk to school, please can you let Mrs Pippa White in our school office know and she will let you know the next steps, if you pardon the pun! All volunteers will need to have a DBS check for safeguarding reasons. If you are a new parent, then it is a great way to meet other parents too.

More Walking Bus information can be found on our website under the 'Parents' tab and then click on 'Walking Bus'.

### *Staffing update...*

This week we welcomed Mrs Pippa White to our school office team and she will be working alongside Mrs Amber Lawrence-Kyriacou in the mornings.

### *Parent Forum... Please note a change of date....*

I am looking forward to our first Parent Forums of this academic year, which we hold every half term. They are an open invite to all parents to come and meet with me over coffee and biscuits to share current school priorities, involve parents in some key decision making and gain parental feedback on school life. I have some

exciting things to discuss, so I hope to see as many of you as possible. The forums usually last an hour.

Please note a date change for the forums this half term:

**They are now Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm and then repeated at 9am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October (note the date change)- the school calendar and diary has been amended to reflect this.**

All are welcome, yet it would be helpful if you could please book your attendance in advance via <https://highash.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>. If you have any difficulties booking your attendance to this event, please contact the school office form help.

#### ***HASA AGM...***

Following the Parent Forum on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October**, there will be the **HASA AGM** and they are keen to welcome new parents to come along and find out how to get involved in our PTA events. Any time you can offer, no matter how small, is always appreciated!

#### ***Allergies reminder...***

Just a reminder that we are a 'nut-free' school, so please do not send any snacks/food into school that contains any nuts in order to help us safeguard children with these allergies. Many thanks for your co-operation.

#### ***Parents' Evening Bookings...***

Parents' Evenings are on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October (3:30pm-6:00pm) and on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October (5:00pm- 7:30pm). The Autumn Term parents evening appointments will be meeting with your child's class teacher to see how they are settling in and let you know their current assessment stages and targets. In the Spring Term, you will then have the opportunity to have the meetings with your child's English and Maths teacher.

If following this term's Parents' meeting you feel you would like to meet either their English or Maths teacher, you are more than welcome to arrange a follow up with them. Mrs Goodger our SENCO will also be available as will myself should you wish to meet us.

Online bookings will be live by the end of the day Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Please do not hesitate to book your appointment by logging on to <https://highash.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>. Please contact the school office if you require help booking your appointment.

#### ***Making a Contribution...***

We are really keen this year to promote the children doing work for charity and/or volunteering, so please do let me know if your child gets involved with this outside of school.

We have had some wonderful donations to our Harvest Festival and thanks also to the parents who came to our Macmillan Coffee morning. We had a smaller turn out than last year, so we will aim for bigger and better next time!

#### ***Junior Leadership Team***

Our current Junior Leadership Team (School Council) are in their posts for another term and then we will be holding our democratic elections in Spring. We have our next meeting on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 12pm.

#### ***New library books...***

Mrs Goodger, Miss Hearne and Ms Reeves have been to Peters Bookstore in Birmingham this week and we have 705 new library books being delivered for Accelerated Reader! We will also be refreshing our library every term with new titles to keep the children loving reading. A huge thanks to HASA fundraising for allowing this to happen!

#### ***Orchestra practice....***

Orchestra will restart next week, **Wednesday 3rd October in the hall from 12:30-1:00pm**. All key stage 2 children who have been playing an instrument for a year or more are invited to join. **Any children that currently learn a musical instrument in school and have been for at least one year, will be expected to join orchestra practice every week**. Please ensure you send your child into school prepared on Wednesday's every week with their instrument and music. Thank you.

#### ***Census Day & The Ash Tree 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday...***

Remember, **Thursday 4th October is Census day**. We would really appreciate it if you could please book a school meal for your child on this day as this will increase our chance of maximum funding for school meals and greatly benefit the school. By booking a hot school meal for your child does not mean they cannot have a preferred packed lunch, you are still welcome to provide a packed lunch for your child, it would just be appreciated if you could please book a meal for funding purposes on Census day. We are doing a special themed menu to celebrate The Ash Trees 2nd Birthday and would like as many children as possible to join us to celebrate. Thank you.

*Diary dates coming up....*

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October (9:00am-12:00pm) - Open morning for new prospective parents

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October (2:45pm) - Star Assembly, All welcome! (doors open at 2:30pm)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October (6:00pm) - Parent Forum with Mrs Boyce - Please book online

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October (9:00am) - Parent Form with Mrs Boyce - Please book online

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October - Year 6 Transfer Test results published and sent home with child

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October - (2:45pm) - Holly Class Assembly, All welcome! followed by a chance to look at your child's books in the classroom afterwards (doors open at 2:30pm)

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

*Sara J Boyce*

Sara Boyce

Headteacher

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