

High Ash C of E School

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 12th October 2018

Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

To all our families,

Thank you so much to the parents (about forty) who attended the Parent Forums this week. I always really value parental input into our school and on decisions about how we continue to move the school forward, so thank you to those who came along. If you were unable to make this Parent Forum please remember that we run them every half term and dates are in the Parent Diary on our website.

Highlights this week...

Foundation- What an exciting time Foundation children had this week when we had real police officers and a police car come to the school as part of our 'People Who Help Us' topic. Many thanks to Detective and Sergeant O'Connor and their officers for giving up their time to do this. The children had a brilliant morning learning about what it is like to be a police officer and the children got to look at the walkie-talkies, handcuffs, ID badges and to try on policeman hats as well. The highlight though was exploring the police car on the playground and the children loved the flashing lights and counting how many different sounds the sirens made!

Year One and Two- I had a fantastic afternoon on Thursday at the 'Dinosaur Museum' which had been set up in the classrooms and the children were buzzing with knowledge about what they had learnt. The children had clearly retained so much information and could tell me lots of facts and also about how fossils help us learn about dinosaurs and how they became extinct. What wonderful tour guides they made and all had a deep understanding of this Jurassic time. Hamish had done lots of extra work at home to display and Theo had made a fantastic dinosaur model to share with his class- apparently it took him three days to complete.

In English, Eliza, Alfie F and Isabella had created fantastic dinosaur riddles and Samina and Faith had worked really hard to improve an already quite good piece of writing that Miss Little had done! They had thought about word choice to create the right mood and feeling for the text- awesome effort! In addition, Esme and Roseanna had worked hard on their descriptive writing. Alfie F had a great week as he also cracked his work on subtraction too- wow! We welcomed Thomas G to our school this week and he has already impressed Miss Akram with his super writing and worked really hard with Alice who had also come up with some fantastic adjectives.

Here are a couple of photos from the children's Dinosaur Museum....



Year Three and Four- Well done to Holly Class for a great sharing assembly and clearly our new topics are capturing their interest and engagement in their Topic learning. In Maths, Orla, Ollie M, Bella and Lorlei gained gold stars for some great reasoning linked to column subtraction and Anya had also done a fantastic job with this too in her Maths group. Jack B was super proud of the progress he had made in Maths this week and thoroughly deserved his gold star. The year groups have been making Potion Bottles from their own designs and I loved Holly's Potion bottle to make me invisible (if only!) and Jess's Love Potion also looked very tempting! Big shout out to Angelica who had impressed Mrs Brakefield with her work on playscripts.

Year Five and Six- Both year groups have been doing lots of editing and improving this week of their portal narratives and I am very proud of how the children are willing to evaluate their writing with a more critical eye. Well done to Bethany, Olivia H, Ollie B, Noah C, Alannam and Olivia B for doing just that and being able to justify their word choices. Millie T had a gold star for her RE work and Dylan for Maths. Keep up the hard work everyone. Emily, Jayden and Tristan had a gold star from Mrs Gray for their Learning Journey work on six figure grid references.

Year Six Football Team...

Mr Brooks took our Year Six team to their first cup match of the season against Newton Longville School and set things off with a 2-0 win! What a super team effort from Mason, Tristan, Cameron, Matthew, Aaron, George, Charlie, Caleb, Jason and Connor.

Reminder re toys from home...

Toys being brought into school are not allowed unless you are requested for an in class activity. Toys can get damaged. We have lots of equipment for the children to play with. This also includes the new toy 'moon balls'. Many thanks for this. If a child brings a toy in they will be asked to give it to their teacher and will get it back at the end of the day. I thank you all in advance for your co-operation with this.

Promoting our school to prospective parents...

If you know of new families moving to the area looking for a school place, please can you let parents know that we do have spaces in some year groups. Feedback from some prospective parents thought we were over-subscribed and whilst we are full in some year groups we are not in all, so please spread the word to anyone interested!

Assemblies this week...

We have looked at how we should treat everyone fairly and equally in our assemblies this month, regardless of gender, skin colour or disability and this theme then linked into our 'Open The Book' assembly about how Joseph was treated unfairly by his brothers. Next week we are focusing on 'What makes a good friend?.'

The children have also written prayers linked to this theme and I think this one by Holly Class sums up the main learning from the week...

Dear God,

Help us to always treat everyone fairly and make sure that everyone is accepted regardless of gender, race, beliefs or language.

We are lucky to live in a time when differences are celebrated.

Thank you for a lovely school where we are all different and special. Amen.

Social Media....

I know that social media has many benefits, yet could I please respectfully remind parents that if you have any questions or queries re school that you direct them to ourselves rather than via Facebook. This prevents unnecessary and/or false rumours building up and means that we can deal with any genuine issues sensitively, fairly and quickly.

Junior Leadership Team...

Our JLT met with me last week and have had their class meetings focusing on gaining children's feedback on our 'Open The Book' assemblies and on our school lunches. This term, our JLT members are going to be taking part in Learning Walks with me as part of our monitoring of teaching and learning as I am keen to get their input and I know they will be honest and tell me how it is!

We will then be holding new JLT elections in Spring Term 2019. More information will follow later in the year.

Piano Recital next week...

We are looking forward to our piano recital next week for those children who have Piano lessons to have the chance to perform to an audience. If your child is taking part, you will receive a text or email invite from school to come and watch and also our KS2 children will form part of the audience too. Many thanks to Mrs Maher, Piano Teacher, for preparing the children for this event. The recital will start at 2:30pm on Wednesday 17th October, with doors open at 2:15pm.

SIMS App...

We have this week sent out invites via email to those parents that are not yet registered. Whilst we do still have a small issue on the site, which we are in the process of resolving, on the whole it is now up and running as it should. We ask that you follow the instructions emailed to you within your invite and download the App to your mobile device. The information help is secure and only relates to the individual with parental responsibility to the child. This App will allow you to view the contact/medical data we have on file relating to your child and to edit/update any incorrect information we have on our pupil database. You can also view the calendar and see your child's attendance percentage. We no longer send out Data Collection Sheets to parents for checking as the App allows you to do this and make any necessary amendments which then automatically update our database confidentially and secure.

Diary dates coming up...

Tuesday 16th October - Parents Evening 3.30-6.00pm

Wednesday 17th October - Piano Recital 2.30-3.15pm

Thursday 18th October - Parents Evening 5.00-7.30pm

Friday 19th October - Star Assembly, all welcome. Doors open at 2.30pm.

HALF TERM

Have a great weekend!

Sara J Boyce

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