◦ *Resilience* ◦ *Determination* ◦ *Consideration* ◦ *Community Mindedness* ◦ *Responsibility* ◦ *Honesty* ◦

Growing minds for learning, crafting skills for life

Spring Term Bulletin

Issue 26: Friday, 01st April 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have all had a great week and have enjoyed the unpredictable weather! We've been busy at Ash Hill, as always! Our extra-curricular clubs finally returned this week, and I know the children have loved getting involved. We are so lucky at Ash Hill to be able to offer these clubs free of charge, thanks to the goodwill and commitment of our wonderful teachers and support staff. All staff who run our clubs do so on a voluntary basis in their own time, and I want to say a great big THANK YOU to them all for this :) I really enjoyed my first chess club today. I know some of the younger children are keen to get involved in chess too—I promise to run a year 3/4 club later in the year!

Parents and Carers Evenings

We finally held our first face to face parents meetings since the start of the pandemic! We were so pleased to see you face to face and to allow you to see the children's wonderful learning in the classrooms. I hope you found the evenings useful. If you were not able to attend, please do ensure you book in an alternative time to see your child's teacher.

Easter Bonnet Parade

We are looking forward to the return of the Easter Bonnet Parade next Friday! Please do join us for this. The children who have a bonnet will take part in the parade at 8:45am on the school playground. Every child will receive a small chocolate treat. The children who enter the parade will also receive a raffle ticket, and we will draw the raffle later in the day. Children will have a chance to win an Easter treat! All efforts for the parade are appreciated—you do not have to spend hours agonising over expensive creations! If you need any advice or support for making bonnets at home, please let us know.

Learning Champions

On Friday we will also be holding our termly Learning Champions assembly. This assembly is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate those pupils who have shown outstanding learning behaviours throughout the term. At Ash Hill we are ALL about learning, and we think these nominations are well deserved! If your child has been nominated you will have received an invitation to join us via Zoom. Please be aware that we have moved the assembly start time to 9:15am to allow parents to get home following the Easter Bonnet Parade.

Let's Get Smart

We will also be holding our termly Let's Get Smart assembly on Thursday next week. This is where we celebrate all the children's learning as we will be looking at the number of blue tokens they have earned this term. The children may be awarded certificates if they have earned lots of tokens, and they will be added to our Let's Get Smart display for the summer term. At Ash Hill we focus on positive reinforcement, and our token system allows us to celebrate those children who are consistently engaging well with their learning. At some schools the efforts of these children may go 'under the radar', and we are pleased that we have found a way to ensure this does not happen for our pupils.

Bikes and Scooters

Recently staff and parents have made me aware of pupils riding from the top to the bottom of the hill outside the school on their bikes or scooters. I am sure you'll agree this is incredibly dangerous, and we have seen some accidents recently. Please speak to your child about this if they do use a bike/scooter. If they cannot ride it safely please do not allow them to ride one.

On another safety note, I am very proud of how much the Reception and Year 1 pupils have improved at the end of the day. They are now mostly walking safely with their adult. Thank you for your helpo with this!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Manning
Headteacher

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Attendance W/c 24.03.22

Class	Attendance %	Lates
Reception	96.2	1
Year 1	90.5	2
Year 2	94.0	1
Year 3	94.0	6
Year 4	95.0	1
Year 5	93.8	5
Year 6	93.8	1

Hero—Here Everyday, Ready On time!

100%	Excellent
96 – 99.9%	Good
90 – 95.9%	Needs to improve
89.9% or less	Really needs to improve

Community Mindedness Tokens

Year 1	22
Year 2	48
Year 3	21
Year 4	61
Year 5	111
Year 6	27

Coming Up...

Date	Event
01/04/22	Hills Café Visit to Nursery
08/04/22	8:45am Easter Bonnet Parade on the playground
08/04/22	Learning Champions Assembly, 9:15am
08/04/22	School Closes at **2.00pm** for Easter Holidays
11/04/22– 22/04/22	**Easter Holidays**
19/04/22	National Primary Allocation Day—Parents will be sent an email from Bucks CC.
25/04/22	**Inset Day**
26/04/22	School Re-Opens (Breakfast Club open at 8.00am)
30/05/22-03/06/22	**School Closed for Half Term**
05/07/22 & 06/07/22	Transition Days
20/07/22	School closes for Summer break **2.00pm finish**
21/07/22	Extra Leave Day

Letters This Week

Letters are sent via Parent Mail and available on the school website

- Nursery sharing books
- Fasting for Ramadan
- Reception/Nursery farm
- Summer term school lunch orders
- Year 3 trip to Ashmolean
- Year 3 swimming and PE

This Week in School...

- It has been another very busy week in **Nursery**! The children have enjoyed watching our caterpillars grow and linking this experience to 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' story. Together, we created a story map and learnt Makaton signs to accompany the words. We even got to teach the Nursery parents the Makaton signs when they joined us for Stay and Play! Thank you to those parents who came for a play, it was lovely to have you back! The snow took Nursery by surprise this week and everybody enjoyed playing outside in it. When it got too cold, the children enjoyed warming up by having a hot chocolate and listening to a story. Focus book this week: The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Key words: cocoon, caterpillar, sun, moon, leaf, butterfly (ask the children to teach you the Makaton signs!) Key song learnt this week: Tiny Caterpillar on a Leaf
- **Reception** have deepened their understanding of the traditional story The Three Little Pigs this week. They have a good knowledge of the story and are able to retell and perform actions to tell it. They have been looking at feelings and have been writing how each of the three pigs feel when the wolf tries to blow down their houses and have also been thinking and describing how the wolf feels. They have been answering questions about the story which has shown how well they have remembered what happens to the characters in the story. The children have enjoyed using the character stick puppets and have made straw, stick and brick house for each of the pigs during small world play. The children have continued experimenting with colour mixing - this time to paint their own picture of the wolf. In maths, the children have been looking at patterns and have been able to continue a repeated pattern using shapes and colour. They have also been practising threading beads onto string to make repeated patterns. They have worked on comparing numbers within 10 by looking at groups of objects and certain before working out the sets of objects or numbers that are fewer (less) or more. Click here to watch this week's phonics video.
- **Year 1** have had another great week. We were certainly surprised to see snow yesterday, after the beautiful weather we had last week! In English, the children have been super writers and have written their own journey tales. In Maths, we have been learning about measuring length and height and we learnt how to use a ruler. In Science, we have been looking at animal diets and have learnt all about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. In RE, we learnt all about the Easter story. Here are some links to help the children with their phonics learning at home. These videos focuses on the /ay/ sound:

https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Z749rFLD/NXZIUrv2
https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DT8DrZZv/QJFw0gmq

- It's been a wonderful week of learning and fun in **Year 2**. In Science we have continued our learning about the life cycle of plants and it's been great to see how our lovely potatoes are growing and spreading their roots. The children have enjoyed sharing and recording their observations. In Maths, we have learned to recognise and find a 1/3 of an amount, object and quantity. We have also learned to recognise unit and non-unit fractions. In Writing, we have moved on to an exciting piece of creating our own riddles. The children had a great time with our scavenger hunt following the clues full of some great riddles to decode. Maybe you would like to have a go at our class riddle:

What am I?
I come out at night.
You may need a bright light.
Fierce foxes and bold bats need me.
The sparkling stars and the full moon are my friends.

- **Year 3** are having a great penultimate week of the spring term. We have moved on to our poetry unit in English and we are writing rhyming poems! We are being successful in this by using onomatopoeia, similes and noun phrases. In Maths, we have been using our hands a lot to really get to grips with fractions. Next week, we will be moving on from using blocks to more pictures numerical representations. We also had our first ever swimming session! It was so exciting!! All the adults that went with us were really proud of our Ash Hill behaviour when we were at the leisure centre and they were also really impressed with our determination to master the water!
- It has been another exciting week in **Year 4.** We have started our new English unit all about synonym and antonym diamond poems, which is lots of fun. Here we will explore exciting vocabulary and understand the importance of word choice. Following on from our Science experiment last week about sugary drinks, we are now looking at the digestive system. In maths we are spending some time recapping skills and concepts that need to be revisited. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.
- It's been a great week in **Year 5**! In writing, we've independently written non-chronological reports about our very own creatures. Have you ever heard of a cat with 4 tails or a penguin mixed with a unicorn? In maths, we've practised multiplying integers by unit fractions, non-unit fractions and even mixed numbers. We explored different methods and discussed which ones were most efficient and why. We've had some interesting progress in our scientific experiment - our clippings have grown roots! We've added to our observations and are excited to continue watch them grow! From Year 5 - have a great weekend!
- **Year 6** have had another busy yet very exciting week. This week they were given the opportunity to carry out a STEM project at the local secondary school, Highcrest. Then children were extremely excited and participated in creating a structure to protect an egg from a 5m fall. The children worked in teams of 6 and were so mature in their ideas, collaboration and construction. They did a fantastic job in representing Ash Hill at its best and were complimented many times by the members who were working with them. It was a pleasure taking them there and as their class teacher I could not be more proud of them. They were all FABULOUS! At school, they have been working hard on revising key concepts about fractions and have been practising adding and subtracting fractions with mixed numbers. In Writing they have been writing a poem about their mythical creature. In topic and computing the children have been working hard to prepare a documentary to inform others about the human body, especially the circulatory system. Phew, that is a lot of work! I hope you all have a restful weekend and we all look forward to seeing you on Monday.

FREE STREET CRICKET

Age 9-13

Where:
Highcrest Academy (Sports Hall)
Hatter's Lane, High Wycombe,
HP13 7NQ

When: Every Tuesday
Time: 5:30pm-7pm

Contact:
Samina
Mehrab
07825 338087

- Open to boys & girls
- Explosive action
- No equipment needed
- Wear sports clothes (tracksuit, t-shirt and trainers)

CHANCE TO SHINE
STREET