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Wow, what a fabulous turnout on Wednesday for the parents open morning. Over 30 family members joined in some wonderful Christmas activities with the children and had the opportunity to sit down and chat with other parents over a coffee and a mince pie.



This term has seen the major addition of a new pool table to the Post 16 common room, kindly donated by the members of Newark Cue Club. They held a charity night with the intention of raising as much money towards the total as possible. In a fantastic night of hospitality centred around a pool tournament they managed to smash their original target of £300 and, due to the generous donations of Cue club members the magic total of £620 was raised, which a recondition 7 ft pool table to delivered to school. The pool table was handed over by Cue Club owners and England representatives Jules, Max and Lisa and is being enjoyed on a daily basis by all.



On Friday the 14th December the whole school celebrated Christmas at All Saints Church in Cotgrave; It was great to be back there after a 2 year absence. Along with the traditional Christmas carols there was the rock version of Little Donkey and who can forget the Christmas Baby Shark! James Morris' touching prayer at the end sealed the need for the tissues.

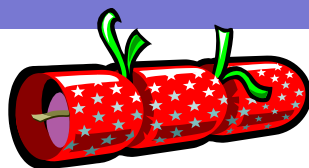






Class 1 have had a great time learning about 'Me and my Body'. We have done lots of activities with our bodies; dough disco, parachute sessions, dancing, playing with dolls and babies and moving in different ways. We have really focused on our communication and using our core words Stop, go, more, finished, like and want. We have also been thinking about what we like and how we feel. The whole class have been able to show us happy and sad through facial expressions or using signs and symbols. We really enjoyed our Christmas visit to Ed's Play Barn. We got really active and impressed everyone with our climbing skills and moves on the ice rink.

This term class 2 have been very busy with the topic 'Me and my body.' We have been learning and thinking about feelings this term. The story of 'The Colour Monster' has helped us to think about different emotions and what our bodies do when experiencing these feelings. We enjoyed trips to Notts County Football Club to watch The Remembrance games. Class 2 caught public transport into town and had great fun cheering the team on. We went to Ed's Play Barn for our Christmas trip and had so much fun exploring the soft play and looking at the Christmas decorations in the Garden Centre.



Class 3 have really been enjoying reading for different purposes this term. They have read letters from Mrs Wigley, recipes, 'task master' instructions, shopping lists and of course, just for pleasure. They have been fortunate enough to be some of the first children to use the brand new library in Cotgrave which opened on November 5th. The children have been enjoying 'getting lost' in a variety of books, and finding out information such as 'how to make a Christmas card.' Class 3 are looking forward to also using the new school library which will be open in January

Class 4 have enjoyed finding out about World War II this term. Not all class members liked the idea of being evacuated from home or the sound of Vera Lynn but they did their bit for the war effort just the same. They have dug for Britain, kept the chickens happy and fed, and exhausted the culinary uses for carrots and potatoes. Casablanca was a surprise hit and no-one could resist playing their instruments along to The Great Escape. Some pupils attended a football match at Meadow Lane and everyone enjoyed joining in with 'Rat-a-tat-tat' of the Carol Service.







### The Iron Man

This term Class 5 and 6 have been focused on the Iron Man story and have used this to create some amazing work. They have been retelling the story, exploring feelings of characters in the book, making Iron Man inspired art, digging Iron Man traps and creating music to soundtrack the action! This culminated in a final performance of the work when they were joined by parents in the hall to share what they had been doing. It was great to see so many parents attend and the pupils loved having the opportunity to show their hard work!

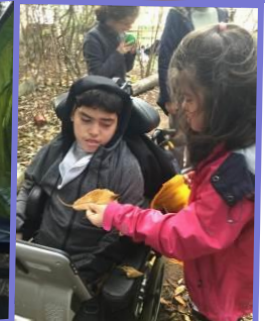


### Post 16

What a first term! We have made new friends, some of us have settled into a new school and all of us have made a new class. Some of our activities have included performing arts, horticulture, working in the community as well as thinking about life after school by visiting careers fairs. We have worked hard at our accredited courses but also enjoyed activities such as swimming and PE. Our group times together have worked really well and we have our own assemblies and good work book. The common room is a big success, especially the new pool table!

Class 6 have enjoyed a busy Autumn term, studying how things work, based around The Iron Man by Ted Hughes. We have joined together with class 5 to do drama and music, resulting in a session which we shared with parents. We have been doing money work in maths – recognising coins and simple addition of pennies or coins up to a range of totals from 10p to £1. We enjoyed our visit to Notts County ground to see the Games of Remembrance, and our visit to East Bridgford Garden Centre at the end of term.

This term Class 7 grabbed their gas mask boxes, stamped their identity cards and went back in time to the Second World War Home front. We have prepared the ground, planted seeds, harvested vegetables and made delicious soups in the Dig for Victory campaign. We have followed the story of William Beech and his evacuation to the countryside with Mr Tom in our story. We survived air raids in the city and helped boost morale with our singing and music. After the war we got into the Christmas spirit. We decorated our tree, made cards and baked gingerbread Christmas trees. We also went ice skating in Nottingham and had an amazing Christmas Dinner!



# Diary Dates & Info

*Merry Christmas*

## Anti-bullying Week

In November the school took part in National Anti-Bullying Week. The theme was "choose respect". Everybody wore blue for the day to help raise awareness of the cause. A paper chain was created to represent everybody in the school being unique but united using the representations that each pupil created. Post 16 spent some time playing games together and making posters to highlight bullying. KS3 worked together to make their own RESPECT acrostic poem whilst listening to Aretha Franklin's "R.E.S.P.E.C.T" for inspiration. The primary classes spent time making friendship potions. They experimented by mixing ingredients together and talking about what they thought made a good friend.



## Diary Dates

7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Inset Day
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	First day of term
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood Panto – Nottingham Playhouse
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Last day of half term
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Inset Day
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	First day of second half term

## Fundraising

### School:

Race for Life	£832
Children in Need	£165.92
Save the Children - Christmas Jumper Day	£46.50

### FOALS:

Christmas Fair	£1690.81
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## Donations

This term we have been incredibly lucky to have been so many donations to Ash Lea School. As you are aware up to this point all monies donating have gone to the building improvements. Our next project is improving our outside environment. We will be looking to improve each area in stages as the money is donated. All donations are really appreciated and we cannot say thank you enough to all our friend and supports.

Mrs Winter in memory of Shelley	£245.00
M Hodgkinson & Julia Hinde	£250.00
Auntie of Jessica Lowe	£25.00
Elisha Rowley	£245
Mrs Flitterman	£50.00
Crusader Pub - Clifton	£306.00
Cotgrave Bandits Golf society	£1,957.00

Our current fundraising total is **£78,412.32!**

Thank you to everyone who has donated  
Please visit our **Creating a Better Environment** fundraising page if you would like to donate or set up your own fundraising event. Thank you.  
[mydonate.bt.com/events/creatingabetterenviroment](http://mydonate.bt.com/events/creatingabetterenviroment)

Ash Lea School, Owthorpe Road,  
Cotgrave, Nottinghamshire, NG12 3PA

Tel: (0115) 9892744

Email: [reception@ashlea.notts.sch.uk](mailto:reception@ashlea.notts.sch.uk)  
Web: [www.ashlea.notts.sch.uk](http://www.ashlea.notts.sch.uk)