



Ash Lea
working together to be our best

Spring Newsletter 2022



Happy Easter!

After the challenges of January's Covid outbreak, it was wonderful to see so many families in school for class visits last week. We're looking forward to see more of you after the Easter holidays.

On a Covid note, you may have seen government guidance to say there will now no longer be regular asymptomatic testing in schools including special schools from the 1st of April and we will no longer be able to give you lateral flow tests until further notice.

We have had to say a sad farewell to five members of staff this term; Lynn Bexon had decided to retire so that she could help her ever-growing family, Sandie Clogg and Lauren Hammersley-Hicks have also left their support staff roles. More recently, Ellie Rogers will be leaving us this term from her teaching post and Brendon Stevens will be leaving his post as IT co-ordinator. We wish them all very well for their future ventures and thank them for their hard work. The school is in the process of recruiting new teachers to start in the Autumn Term.

The school raised £103.30 for red nose day and nearly £600 for FOALS through the Easter chocolate raffle. Thank you all for your participation and contributions and of course the FOALS team for their hard work in arranging the raffle.

Kate Davies

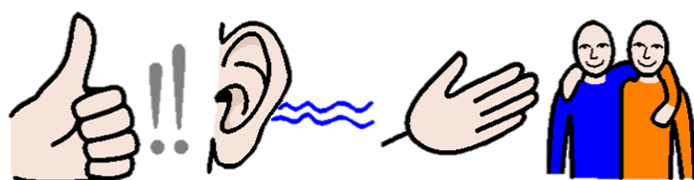
School Development

The school has continued to develop its Forest School provision and area. Some classes and their families were able to visit this area over at the Lea during the visit days. Through Councillor Richard Butler we have been given some money from Rushcliffe Borough Council to support this development, as well as support from Nottcutts Garden Centre for resources for the area. We will share more news about this when we have been able to put this funding to use. Classes have loved using this area already and have shown great problem solving and teamwork during these sessions.

The school is planning building development to improve the Cherry classroom and the reception / entrance and admin areas and it is hoped that some of the work can commence over the summer holiday. We have also been consulting with classes to improve each (particularly the older spaces of school) to better meet the needs of the pupils.

The school is developing its website and we are slowly building in changes to improve its function. We have added staff photos as requested and access to training support for parents and staff will be included very soon. The school's curriculum is under review and we had an excellent training day with Peter Imray as part of this. We are refining our curriculum document and working with other special schools to ensure our curricular offer keeps improving. Phil Lovett, our transitions co-ordinator has been making a real difference to this process supporting pupils and their parents or carers to think about 'life after Ash Lea'. He has made excellent links with employers which will considerably improve the work experience offer available to our pupils.

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Outdoor Learning

As the weather has improved this term, every class has been spending time outside as part of their learning. Alongside the forest school sessions, teachers have focused on how they can take the lessons that are usually delivered in the classroom, into the outside area.



Maria's Footprints

As the This term was the official opening of Marias's Footprints, the new outdoor learning area outside Rowan. When we sadly lost our good friend Maria last year, her sons began a campaign that raised over £10,000 for the school. This money was used to build a new outdoor learning area for Class Rowan, a class that Maria had spent many years in and was close to her heart. It was a beautiful sunny day and the area was officially opened with lots of play and laughter just as Maria would have wanted. Our guest of honour was Maria's son Izaak.



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Careers Week

This term the school held a careers week where classes were encouraged to take some time and think about Careers and 'Life After Ash Lea'. There was a number of activities took place over the week including Q+A and virtual visits with colleges, and exploring job roles through play.

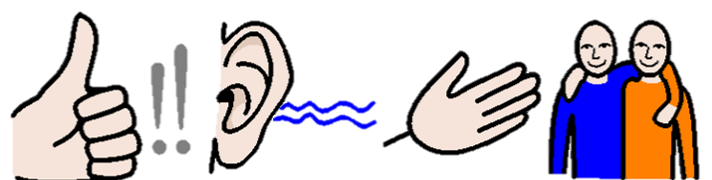


Table Cricket

We had two teams from Willow Class enter the Country Table Cricket competition following on from four weeks of training from Nottinghamshire County Cricket. It was a long day out at Trent University but both teams did incredibly well, with one team picking up first place in the competition. They will now move onto the next stage in May!



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Governor Update



Dear pupils, parents, carers and staff,

The Autumn term ended on a high, with pupils demonstrating their amazing talents during 'Enterprise Week' and Arts week. Well done and thank you to everyone involved; from the staff who put a lot of preparation and effort into organising both events and especially to the pupils, all of whom very clearly demonstrated the School Vision 'Working together to be our best'. It was great to see a number of parents attending the market at the end of 'Enterprise Week' and hopefully we'll be seeing more of you at events in the Summer term.

This term, staff and pupils have shown an amazing amount of resilience when Covid hit most classes back in January. Everyone bounced back from this and we are now striving to bring a sense of normality back to the school day. This will extend into next term with the return of residential visits for some and the highly anticipated production of 'Aladdin'.

Hope you all have a relaxing Easter break,

Dr. Mags Bailey (Chair of Governors)

Important Dates

Please see our **live** online diary for all important dates [Online Calendar - Ash Lea School](#)

Monday 18th April - **Bank Holiday**
Friday 22nd April - **Earth Day/Plastic free Cotgrave litter pick**
Friday 29th April - **Plastic free Cotgrave Sculpture Workshop**
Saturday 30th April - **Plastic Free Sculpture Unveiling**
Monday 2nd May - **Bank Holiday**
Monday 9th May - **School Photos**
Thursday 12th May - **Lumos fundraising: Harry Potter Day**
Monday 16th May - **International Families Day**
Friday 20th May - **Olympic Athlete visit: Sports for School**
Tuesday 24th - 25th May - **School production: Aladdin**
Wednesday 25th May - **SOS fashion show (evening)**
Friday 27th May - **Platinum Jubilee Picnic**

Monday 6th June - **INSET day (school closed to pupils)**
Wednesday 29th June - **Sports Day**
Friday 1st July - **Ash Lea LGBT+ Pride Parade**
Friday 1st July - **Leavers Prom at Cotgrave Welfare**
Monday 11th - Friday 15th July - **Arts Week: Archaeology**
Friday 22nd July - **International Friendship Day**
Tuesday 26th July - **Leavers Presentation / Family BBQ**

Further information about activities will be emailed nearer the time.

A reminder from the office that from the 4th April 2022 there will be an increase in the cost of school dinners from £2.35 to £2.40. There will also be a new Summer Menu that has been sent out to parents via email. It can also be found [here](#).



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