



**Ash Lea**  
working together to be our best

# Spring Newsletter 2023

## Headteacher Update

Our wonderful Forest school work has continued throughout the winter months. The team are certainly appreciating the warmer days! We know that many of our pupils struggle with learning in a classroom environment. However, the environment and approach to learning has supported those attending to regulate, challenge themselves, show resilience, teamwork, patience whilst developing the practical tool skills that the activities on offer demand. After the Easter break we will have two open days for parents of those pupils currently attending.

This 'low-demand – high engagement' approach sits alongside our play / continuous provision trial in Hawthorn. Teachers Jenna Jones and Sam Howells have used the principles of continuous provision and have refined this to support the learning of those pupils best. We have seen an increase in how engaged pupils are and their independent self-directed learning and problem solving. These skills are essential for our pupils to support them to be young adults who can communicate what they want and solve problems when these arise. Staff volunteers will be working on the secondary play space so that the learning provision continues beyond the classroom.

Our phonics scheme 'Little Wandle' is becoming well-established in some classes and this targeted input is making a real difference to pupils' reading and writing and teacher Hannah Griffiths has ensured that our new and current reading books support pupils.

Katie Evans has been leading on a 'Language Protocols' project, so that how we talk about and to our pupils is consistent and creates a positive view of them, within the school and beyond. She has spoken to all staff and pupils, and we will be sharing our ideas with parents and carers next term and we would appreciate your thoughts and feedback on our work so far.

Next term will be the last in our Artsmark journey and we hope to gain accreditation in this creative quality standard. Some of our pupils will be working on their nationally accredited 'Arts Award' and we have loved venturing to our local galleries and arts venues. These experiences have expanded our pupils' worlds and made sure that arts venues have a better understanding of our pupils' needs. Next term will see classes venture further afield – some classes are planning their visits to London.

Planned building work, meeting with multi-academy trusts, improving our 'life after Ash Lea' offer, improving our physical curricular offer have continued too throughout this term. We will be able to tell you more about the building work in particular next term.

We have said a sad goodbye to one of our newest members of staff, Kate Slater, who has retired so that she can support her family. Whilst she has only been with us for a short period of time, she has supported throughout the school and been an incredible asset. One of our longest serving members of staff, Alison Savage, has also had to retire due to ill-health. We hope to see her soon to say goodbye properly in the summer term.

I wish you all a wonderful Easter break,

*Kate Davies* (Headteacher)

## Governor Update

Dear All,

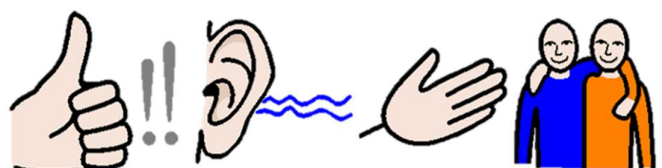
As the School breaks for Easter, the termly newsletter seemed a perfect opportunity to introduce myself as the incoming Chair of Governors. Having spent last year as a co-opted governor, I have seen first-hand all the hard work and dedication that goes into making Ash Lea such a great place for the children and I am incredibly proud to be able to support the school in my role as Chair.

The governing body would like to say a huge thankyou to the departing Chair – Dr. Mags Bailey. Mags did a wonderful job, providing stability and leadership throughout, in what proved to be a challenging year. I am really looking forward to working with the rest of the governors and the school team over the rest of the year as we continue to strive to make the school a great environment for the pupils.

Have a great Easter break.

*Chris Hankinson* (Chair of Governors)

Do the **best** that we can, all of the time  
Listen carefully to what others have to say  
Help others whenever we can  
Always be polite and **friendly**





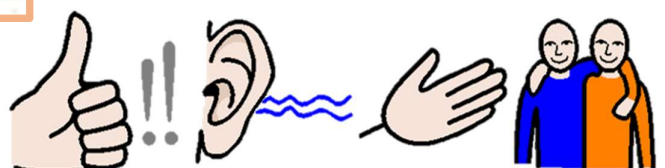
**Ash Lea**  
working together to be our best

# It's a Fine Life!

Our topic this term was 'Victorians' and the pupils have been experiencing what life was like then. They have looked at the differences in the food they ate (salad jelly anyone?!), the jobs they did, the toys they played with and the clothes they wore. Rowan, Hawthorn and Cherry have even had a trip out to Beaumanor Hall where they experienced a real Victorian classroom!



Do the **best** that we can, all of the time  
**Listen** carefully to what others have to say  
**Help** others whenever we can  
Always be polite and **friendly**







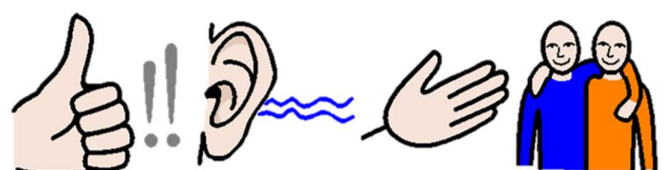
**Ash Lea**  
working together to be our best

# Ash Lea Careers Fair

Following on from Careers Week the school held a Careers Fair for all pupils in Year 7 to Year 13. We were joined by a number of adult service providers who had activities for the pupils to engage with and speak with them about what they offer. Amongst others this included Adventure Services, The Cotgrave Community Kitchen and The Youth Trust. We were also joined by Richard Whitehead (OBE)! The event was co-ordinated in partnership with the SNAid team (pupils from South Nottingham College) who are working with us to develop our careers offer.



Do the **best** that we can, all of the time  
**Listen** carefully to what others have to say  
**Help** others whenever we can  
Always be polite and **friendly**







**Ash Lea**  
working together to be our best

# Artsmark Trips

This term we have continued with our Artsmark journey, with some classes arranging trips to art exhibitions, galleries, shows and performances. Elm made the journey to the Contemporary where they worked with artist, Charlotte Tupper, explored the exhibition, and made their own art using inspiration from some of the work they had seen. Willow caught the train to Leicester Museum and Art Gallery to look at the varied and brilliant displays on offer.



## Important Dates

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

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – **Forest School Open Days**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May – **Bank holiday**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May – **Bank Holiday (Coronation of King Charles III)**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – **Half Term**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – **INSET Day**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June – **Lea Green Residential**

WB Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June – **IEP Review Meetings**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June – **Dukes Barn Residential**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July – **Leavers Prom (P16)**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July – **Leavers presentation and School Summer BBQ**

Do the **best** that we can, all of the time  
**Listen** carefully to what others have to say  
**Help** others whenever we can  
Always be polite and **friendly**

