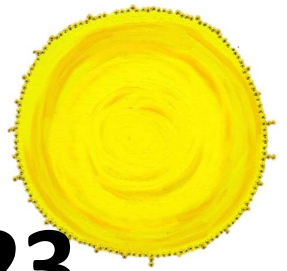




**Ash Lea**  
working together to be our best



# Summer Newsletter 2023

## Headteacher Update

It was wonderful to see so many of you at recent events; leavers presentation, family BBQ and sports day. Thank you, as ever, for brilliant support and enthusiasm in celebrating all our pupils' achievements.

We will be saying a sad farewell to several members of staff at the end of this term. Emma Bottomley, teacher in Cherry class will be fulfilling her long held ambition of travelling the world and will be venturing as far as the far east and Australia. Ariana Skillington will also be pursuing her ambition of following a different career path by undertaking a degree in occupational therapy after very many years of service to the school. Rebecca Biddles from the admin team is pursuing a new career path supporting pupils in a pastoral capacity at a local secondary school. TA Jess Ali is leaving to focus on growing her therapeutic music support business. Katie Walker and Sinead Price have left to pursue careers in social care. As part of our process of redeployment due to budgetary challenges, several of our midday support assistants will be leaving us, many having secured new posts elsewhere. Sarah Vearnals, Ian Savage, Zara Mehoy, Tim Rudd, Sally Bailey and Michelle Northey will be leaving the team. We wish them all very well. Others, Liz Gaughan, Sarah Fletcher-Whitmarsh, Dawn Green, Natalie Meek, Alithia Lane, Pauline Atkinson, Debbie Burnett and Becky Lane have secured personal care assistant posts in the school and Donna McLean will be leading the PCA team. We also warmly welcome new staff members; Suki Chan who is our new receptionist following Kelly Ginley's promotion and TA Ashton Veevers, who will be supporting a pupil to transition to the school.

The school has had to make difficult choices financially given the increases in teacher and support staff salaries, which are not completely funded by the government. As staff have left over the past term, we have not replaced them and we have removed the MDSA roles within the school, replacing with personal care assistant posts. This is a huge challenge to special schools nationally and we are speaking to our MP and are part of the National Network of Specialist Provision who are talking to the Department for Education about these challenges.

We will continue to use money the school has put aside for essential improvements to the older part of the building and most of this work will be completed over the summer and October break. This work will improve the provision for pupils in Cherry class, expand the administrative provision and offer a quality 'hybrid' meeting space for families and professionals. Due to the real success of our forest school and music therapy provision this year, we have secured funding for this provision for another year and have expanded the forest school leader cohort with Gilly Lavis joining the team.

Have a wonderful summer break with friends and family. We look forwards to seeing the pupils back on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September!

*Kate Davies* (Headteacher)

## Governor Update



Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and Staff,

It's the end of another busy school year, which has well and truly flown by again! It's been a term full of activity with hugely successful residentials, school trips and charity events, which have all received great feedback from those involved. A huge thankyou to the staff and volunteers that put in effort to make these events such a success and as always, to the pupils for representing the school in such a positive way.

It is always sad to say goodbye to the pupils that will be moving on from Ash Lea at this time of year. I was extremely fortunate to attend the recent leavers presentation. It was a great opportunity to see how much the pupils had developed through the years at the school and fantastic to see so many of them ready for their next steps into college and life after school.

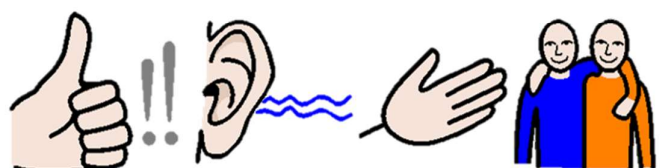
A special mention to one of our parent governors Gordon Monaghan, who (along with a team of 5 others), successfully completed the 3 Peaks challenge raising £5,000.00 to fund an outdoor hoist for the school. Well done, Gordon!!

It has been great to be able to attend a few of the many social fundraising events held over the last few months, the school are really fortunate to have such a supportive community. Talking about community - would any parent or carer like to make a difference and take a more active role in the school? If you are passionate about your child's education and care that happens during the school day and that of the other children and young people, then please consider that as a parent or co-opted governor you can make a difference. No prior governance knowledge is required as training is given and the existing governors will offer as much support as you require. If you could all give this very rewarding role some thought over the summer break and please feel free to contact me or one of the other parent governors if you require any further information (please send a message via reception). We are grateful to the two parents who have volunteered their services already.

Have a great summer break and I will look forward to seeing you all in September.

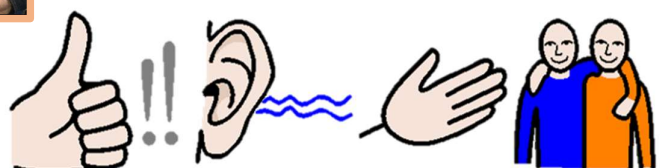
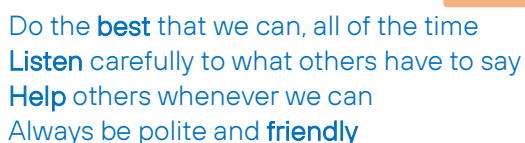
*Chris Hankinson* (Chair of Governors)

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**





Our topic this term was 'Europe' and pupils have been touring the continent exploring and experiencing culture, food, and people. Some have been finding out facts about different places, while others have focussed on the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of what Europe has to offer.







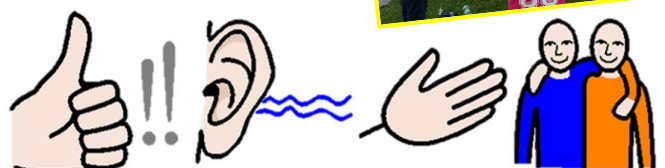
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# Summer of Sport

We've had a summer of sport with Maple Class (and their support team) heading out to Portland college to represent the school in Boccia. The team finished in third place and had a fantastic time doing it! Staff have also been getting in on the action with the Charity Football Match, it was an intense game, but Yellow Team put in the effort to take the win. We have also had several pupils receive certificates this year for their swimming. More recently was the school sports day where we were joined by parents for a great afternoon of sports and races!



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# About and Out

This term classes have been making the most of the summer weather and been all over Nottingham (and beyond!). End of term trips have been abundant with local trips to the park, visits to soft play, Skegness and some even as far as London. It is brilliant to see pupils making use of the amazing facilities available locally and showing us how independent they can be when out and about.



## 📅 Important Dates 1

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

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – **INSET DAY**  
6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – **INSET DAY**  
23<sup>RD</sup> – 3<sup>RD</sup> November 2023 – **Half Term break**  
23<sup>rd</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 – **Christmas break**  
4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – **INSET DAY**  
12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – **Half term break**  
1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – **Easter break**  
27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 – **Half term break**  
5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – **INSET DAY**  
26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – **Last Day of Summer Term**

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