



Autumn Newsletter 2023

Season's Greetings from the Headteacher

It was wonderful to end the school year seeing so many families at our sing and sign event at the Cotgrave Welfare. We know that having to 'perform' is something that our pupils sometimes relish, but also sometimes find difficult, which is why the format of a very relaxed whole school community singing and signing event was decided on. I know that you will agree that our staff did an amazing job of planning and preparing so that the occasion was as enjoyable and relaxed as possible for all pupils. Thank you so much for being part of the event and contributing with such enthusiasm! Particular thanks to Tasha Mills and Becky Bidmead for leading the signing so brilliantly. They lead our whole 'sing and sign' session each week, using songs to enable pupils (and staff) to practise learning to use and sign core words through sign and also communication devices. Both are furthering their signing skills through personal study and Tasha hopes to complete her Makaton training course in the new year.

You will have seen some changes in our reception area too this term. Cherry class and our admin areas have undergone some significant adaptations and improvements, making better use of the physical space within this area. Work should be completed over the summer break and we can then begin to furnish these areas, in particular our meeting room, to create a 'hybrid' meeting space.

We have had to say goodbye to some members of staff at the end of this term. TA Lucy Cresswell will be leaving us in the new year as will Lynsey Moothia who started working with our office team in November but has decided to leave due to family commitments. In better news Kelly Ginley (who Lynsey took over from) has returned to work with us and will pick up overseeing our education, health and care plan reviews and supporting families with this process. We have welcomed Sarah Robertson and Stacey Arme as personal care assistants this term.

We have been so pleased with how pupils who started with us in September have settled in and we are very proud of their achievements already.

This term our teaching team have been working hard on updating our curriculum which we be sharing in the new year. There have been amendments to our 'subject' areas to ensure that they are meeting the learning needs of all our pupils and offering the challenge that our pupils need to meet their aspirations for now and for life after Ash Lea.

Thank you all for your continued support for your child(ren) and the school. I hope you all have a wonderful break however you choose to spend the Christmas and new year period and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the new year on the 8th of January.

Kate Davies

A Word from the Chair of Governors

The governing body has been strengthened this term. We warmly welcome Hilary Dalton and Alan Gupwell, who are both parents of pupils at the school, to the governing body. On behalf of the whole Governing Body, I would like to extend our thanks to all our staff, parents, volunteers and friends for their continued support of Ash Lea School. December is always a hive of activity in School with a number of fantastic well run festive events. These events can only happen with the help and support from you all. May I take this opportunity of wishing you and your families and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Chris Hankinson**

Christmas Sing and Sign



FOALS

FOALS (Friends of Ash Lea School) have had a very successful term's fundraising and planning events. Children and families had a wonderful day on the Santa Cruise, and the Christmas Fair raised over £1500 for FOALS which will be used to support events for families and fund events and equipment in school too. FOALS are always looking for new members to join, please contact reception if you are interested. Please be aware that some of you may not get all information about FOALS through the usual school communication as you will have had to have consented to this (these are GDPR rules set by the local authority), please be sure that you have consented to receive communication from FOALS if you would like to find out about family events and supporting the group.

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 4th January 2023 – School Closed INSET Day
 Friday 5th January 2023 – School Closed INSET Day
 Monday 8th January – School Open for Spring Term
 Tuesday 9th January – **Pantomime (Rowan, Pine, Beech, Birch, Cherry)**
 Wednesday 10th January – **Pantomime (Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Willow, Maple, Post 16)**
 Mon 12th February – Friday 16th February – School Closed for Half Term
 Mon 4th March – Friday 8th March – **Careers Week**
 Thursday 7th March – **World Book Day**
 Friday 28th March – **Last day of Spring Term**



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**

