



Spring Newsletter 2024



Message from the Headteacher

We have had to say a sad farewell to Rachel Cousins who was our lead health care assistant who has been with us for four years. We're incredibly pleased that one of our health care assistants, Jo Kench will be replacing Rachel and will become a familiar contact for parents around medication and other health needs. Jo has developed her skills, knowledge and confidence during her time as a health care assistant in Rowan and Maple and will be a great asset to the school and its pupils. Whilst our focus is on supporting our pupils to develop, it's also such a pleasure to see our staff team do so too. A huge thank you to HCA Karen Sedgewick who has stepped up with such professionalism to oversee so many aspects of the health care provision in Rachel's absence for our pupils.

Our communication team have been developing the school's use of signing across the school. Becky Bidmead and Tasha Mills have been leading on our 'sing and sign' sessions, when we use targeted support for pupils who are developing their signing and communication, as well as those pupils who use communication devices (books, eye gaze or iPads). These sessions focus on core words (useful words for general use). Using the medium of songs and music, the pupils get to practise their signing. Next term the team will support everyone's signing confidence through a sign of the week as well as topic themed signs. You will be able to watch Tash and Becky sign on our website very soon!

Over the past year and more, the school has been reviewing and revising its curriculum, we will be sharing the impact of this work and the changes that have been put into place in the summer and autumn terms with parents and carers and finding out what you think about the amendments that we have made.

As part of careers week this term we held our Life After Ash Lea fair for pupils to meet and explore providers who they may choose to engage with in the future. This included Cotgrave Community Kitchen, The Adventure Services and Mencap. We have also had pupils access work experience both in and out of school, with two more placements planned over the summer term. Our leavers have also been visiting their new placements for next year, with visits from colleges planned for the summer term in school for pupils and parents to find out more about what they offer. More information for this will follow.

Over the next year we will be increasing the diversity of school events and our curriculum reflect better our school community. We will be sending out a survey to find out more from our families and welcome your responses.

The building work in Cherry class, in reception and our administrative areas will continue this Easter break. Working on such an old building has been more complex than our contractors had expected but hope that by the June half term break we will be finished! We will then be able to complete the furnishing and decoration of these areas.

We hope you have a wonderful break and wish those of you celebrating a happy Easter, and Eid Mubarak.

Kate Davies

A Word from the Governors

As always, we would like to thank our pupils, families, and staff for their continuing support this year as we go into the final term of the year. There has been so many successes for our school community which we are proud to play our part in and look forward to seeing what else the year brings. We wish you all a very relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing everyone back in school for the final term – Chris Hankinson (Chair of Governors)

F.O.A.L.S

FOALS (Friends of Ash Lea School) have had a busy term including a busy family swim at Cotgrave Leisure Centre, and an Easter Raffle which has raised an egg-cellent £343! FOALS continue to support the school with resources, including a soft flooring area for the primary soft play area and bubble machines for every playground! This term they also have a fully booked Alpaca walk taking place... we look forward to hearing how they get on.

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:

- Monday 15th April 2024 – School open for Summer Term
- Monday 6th May 2024 – School Closed Bank Holiday
- Friday 24th May – Last day of Summer Term 1
- Monday 03rd June – First day of Summer Term 2
- Wednesday 05th June – INSET School closed to pupils.
- Week Beginning Monday 10th June – Parent IEP meetings (more details to follow)
- Monday 17th June – Thursday 20th June - Sports Week
- Friday 21st June – Sports Day (more details to follow)
- Friday 26th July – Last day of Summer 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**

