

# Summer Newsletter 2024



## Message from the Headteacher

We have had to say several sad goodbyes this term. Becca Burrell will be leaving Ash Lea to support pupils with additional needs in a mainstream setting. We wish her very well and know that the skills and knowledge she has developed will be put to excellent use. Sally Pratt retired after many years of service to the school earlier in the term and Sadie Fletcher, our school's business manager will be leaving to join Newark Orchard School as their business leader after 11 years with us. We're very pleased to announce that the school has employed Michelle Ince as her replacement, and she will start with us in September. They will all be sorely missed, but we wish them the very best for their new life and work ventures. The whole school said a very sad farewell to Florian, from Rowan class on the last Tuesday of term. Some of our staff closest to him attended his funeral and the school was also able to say a final goodbye, greeting his hearse at the school with bubbles and ribbons. Our sincerest condolences again to his family and friends.

Outdoor learning and its accessibility to all has been something that we have been working hard on this year in preparation for the expansion of our forest school provision. This work has been ably supported by volunteers from the Vinci company this week; pruning, cutting, clearing and painting have increased the accessibility of the area. Next year we will be running sessions on the Lea specifically for our pupils who, due to specific barriers cannot access the off-site forest provision. We have also started working with Murphy's to plan for a storage and outdoor learning facility for this area. We will also be implementing 'OPAL' to improve the quality of outdoor play for all our pupils in the new academic year.

One main focus for school development this year has been developing our curriculum content and structure and improving our approaches to learning. We will share more information about our curriculum with families in the new year. One approach to learning that has made a significant impact is our play or 'right time' model that Hawthorn, Pine and Birch have been using. This approach to teaching and learning will continue to expand to Blackthorn next year. Maple and Rowan are developing their own versions of this model of working. Implementing and improving our phonics provision has made such a difference to the reading abilities of pupils across school. We're really excited to see the impact that this improved curricular offer will make on outcomes for all our pupils.

## A Word from the Governors

The Summer term has as always flown by and wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at Ash Lea. In a term packed full of activities, fund raising and residential it's always great to see how the school community pulls together to provide great experiences for the pupils. I was recently lucky enough to be invited to take part in the termly Student Council Meeting. The pupils which make up the council shared their reflections on some of the many projects they have been involved with throughout the year. Including the ongoing links with the local Cotgrave Community Garden, which provides the pupils with a fantastic local resource where they spend time learning about the environment and sustainability. A huge thanks to all the members of the Council for representing Ash Lea School so brilliantly in the Community and the staff that play a part to make it all happen.

Thanks to all involved in the funding and organising of the amazing memorial tree which is now proudly installed at the front of the School. The tree will make a wonderful and unique way to remember the friends we have lost. The Governing Body would like to wish Sadie the best of luck as she leaves Ash Lea after 11 years with the school. Sadie has done a fantastic job for the school during her time and will be greatly missed. Good luck for the future Sadie! Finally, I want to wish everyone an enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you in September. Chris Hankinson (Chair of Governors)

## F.O.A.L.S (Friends Of Ash Lea School)

It has been another busy term for FOALS and as always, we are incredibly appreciative of the support they continue to offer the school and families. They have provided gym mats for the soft play area, which has made it more accessible for all pupils. They have given us 3 amazing bubble machines, which you may have seen them in action at the charity football game, along with funding a beach play area at the same event. This year for prom the FOALS paid for a big red bus to pick up all the leavers and have also provided an ice-cream van visit for the last day. Outside of school they hosted the brilliant disco at the Cotgrave welfare and provided many families with an Alpaca experience! A huge thank you to all involved! 😊

## Dates for the Diary:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – ADMIN Day  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – INSET Day  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Return to school for Autumn Term  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – INSET Day  
11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Enterprise Week  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Enterprise Market  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Christmas Singalong  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Party Day (Non-Uniform)  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – INSET Day  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – INSET Day  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – INSET Day

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**

