



Ash Lea

working together to be our best

September Newsletter 2024

Welcome Back to School

We have been incredibly proud of the excellent start the pupils have made to the new school year, particularly our new pupils and those pupils (and staff) who have moved classes. Change and transition is always difficult to manage but our pupils have overcome these challenges so well.

A reminder about our uniform and what our providers offer. It is expected that pupils will go outside to play, be fully immersed in exploration and their learning, and wear clothing that can help them be as comfortable and safe as possible. There are specific expectations for forest school provision, horseriding, playing outdoors, going outside, cooking, swimming, hydrotherapy and PE. Kit Out <https://kitoutclothing.co.uk/collections/ash-lea-school> have very reasonably priced waterproof clothing, PE t-shirts and cooking aprons as well as the usual uniform. You may wish to source these from elsewhere and you know your child best and what clothing will suit them for school activities. The expectation is that pupils will change into different clothing and your classes will tell you what your child will need. It is likely that school clothing will become dirty during the course of a full day of learning and exploration. Classes may also ask for a spare set of clothing. If you would like to suggest other clothing or accessories for our uniform providers to offer, we would love to hear from you. We know that changing clothing can be difficult for our pupils, but clothing for different purposes is always the aspiration.

Working Together to Improve School Attendance

The Department for Education has issued new statutory guidance for attendance called *Working Together to Improve School Attendance*. This came into effect on the 19th August 2024. It details what schools, parents and Local Authorities should do to improve pupils' attendance at school.

There are some important changes to attendance management from the 19th August 2024 which will affect the support parents and pupils receive from schools, and the legal sanctions that are used in certain circumstances. Schools are legally obliged to provide support and intervention for pupils who are at risk of persistent absence (90% attendance or below). This will take the form of meetings with parents, school-based interventions, and the offer of support from outside agencies and professionals.

Schools are very keen to identify the barriers to attendance that families face and will welcome opportunities to overcome these barriers together. However, when a child's attendance falls outside of the parental legal obligations to send their child to school, there are legal pathways that must be followed.

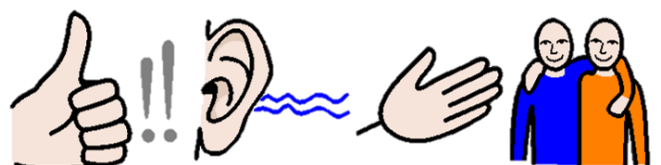
INSET DAYS 2024-25

Monday 2nd September 2024 – Admin day
Tuesday 3rd September 2024 – INSET day
Monday 4th November 2024 – INSET day
Wednesday 18th June 2025 – INSET day
Monday 28th July 2025 – INSET day
Tuesday 29th July 2025 – INSET day

Website Links

[Online and E-safety](#)
[Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
[Online Calendar](#)

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School Improvement

School improvement this year will continue to focus on improving our curriculum, how it is monitored, its diversity and how we ensure that pupils know more and remember more. We will be sharing our reviewed curriculum during an event for parents and carers this term. With new attendance guidance we will continue to improve pupil attendance with the support of our newly appointed family support worker, Louise Staples. We will also be improving our EHCP structures starting with the appointment of an EHCP, transitions and work experience co-ordinator (we are currently recruiting - we'd appreciate a 'share' of this and other posts <https://www.ashlea.notts.sch.uk/about-our-school/jobs/>). We will also be trialling the alignment of IEP reviews with pupils' EHCP reviews this year. We're also incredibly excited to be expanding our 'enquiry time' provision through the OPAL (outdoor play) project <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk> there will be lots to share with families and opportunities to contribute and participate as we work through the project over the next 18 months. This year we are also continuing to improve the accessibility of our forest school provision to all. Mark Pollard, one of our forest school leaders will be leading a day of this provision on the 'Lea' on the school grounds each Monday.

During the summer term we finalised our language and protocols policy. This policy was co-produced by our whole school community; pupils, parents and carers, staff and governors, and your contribution and parents and carers was invaluable. This policy defines how we talk to and about our pupils and how we behave towards them. We know that this will constantly evolve and will always welcome further contributions to this. [Language and Protocols Policy](#)

We are delighted to welcome Michele Ince to the school as our school's business manager. This is a key leadership role within the school with varied responsibilities covering finance, HR, health and safety as well as leading the admin team. Michele comes with a rich and varied working history mainly in operational management and finance and will be an incredible asset to the school. A very warm welcome too to two new TAs to our school; Amanda in Blackthorn and Leila in Willow.

Important Dates

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

11th November – Enterprise Week

As part of our Life After Ash Lea calendar, Y7-Y13 pupils will be taking part in the Enterprise Week. Classes will be given a challenge to design, make, advertise and then sell a product. On Thursday 14th November pupils will be pitching their products to the Dragons Den (made up of local business people) and school will be open on Friday 15th November for a market in the hall, where parents will be invited to come and purchase the products and see what we have been doing.

16th November – FOALS Autumn Fair

School will be open on Saturday 16th November for the FOALS Autumn Fair. There will be the usual fun to be had while also raising funds to support the pupils of the school.

16th December – Santa visit to School

18th December – Christmas Singalong

The Christmas singalong will be held at the Cotgrave Welfare where we can all join together for a Christmas singalong. There will be Christmas songs, there will be signing, there will be fun!

12th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Pupils are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers!

20th December – Last Day of Term

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