



Ash Lea
working together to be our best

Autumn Newsletter 2024

A word from the Headteacher

Thank you for your enthusiastic support for the implementation of our OPAL (outdoor play and learning) project this term. We have already started to see positive changes at playtimes and in the school environment. On parents' suggestions we will be setting up our own Facebook page for OPAL to source the resources needed for our project.

It was wonderful to see so many friends and families at our annual sing and sign at the Cotgrave Welfare. Thank you all for your excellent participation and enthusiasm! It is a very joyful event for all, made possible by the hard work of the staff teams in supporting and preparing pupils so well for the event. Particular thanks goes to our signers, Becky Bidmead and Tasha Castell who plan and guide us through the songs. A huge thanks too to Gilly Lavis and Luke Skillington for providing the musical accompaniment.

We have had to say a sad goodbye to Phil Lovett, our Transitions, Careers and Work Experience Co-ordinator. He has offered skilled support, particular for families and pupils as they prepare for 'Life After Ash Lea'. We thank him for his hard work and wish him well in his retirement from work. The school has been successful in recruiting Helen Lovell to the now expanded role, who will be the school's EHCP and Life After Ash Lea co-ordinator. We know that she will be a real asset to the school and an excellent source of support for our pupils, staff and families. She will be starting with us towards the end of January.

We have been discussing with 'Bridge Together' offering a holiday and Saturday club to be held at the school. We hope that this will be able to start from the February half term. Whilst you will be able to pay for this provision privately, families will also be able to use short breaks hours to support this. The team from Bridge Together are coming to school on Tuesday the 14th of January at 4.30pm to share more information with families. We will send reminders in the new year.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas break and we will see you all in the new year.

Kate Davies

A word from the Governors

As the Autumn term comes to an end and we all look forward to the Xmas break, we would like to wish all our amazing pupils, parents and carers a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the start of the new year.

On behalf of the School Governing Body, we would like to extend our thanks once more to Kate and the Ash Lea team for their continued hard work, passion and dedication in making Ash Lea such a great place for our pupils to learn and grow. We look forward to seeing you all in 2025. Merry Christmas!

Chris Hankinson (Chair of Governors)

Dates for the Diary:

3rd-7th February 2024 – **Children's Mental Health Week**

More information will follow about this following consultation with the school council.

3rd-7th March 2024 – **National Careers Week (inc Life After Ash Lea Fair)**

This year we will hold our Life After Ash Lea fair for pupils to meet providers offering services that may be accessed Post 18. We will also be arranging college talks for parents and pupils later in the year.

Monday 6th January 2025 – **First day of Spring Term**

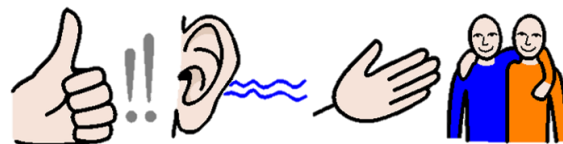
Monday 17th February 2025 to Friday 21st February 2025 – **Half term**

Friday 4th April 2025 – **Last day of Spring Term**



As you know, we are currently developing our outdoor play offer. From January, we are asking all pupils to have a pair of wellies, waterproof trousers and spare pair of clothes in school throughout the 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**



Enterprise Week

This year was another huge success with pupils from all classes working hard all week to design, make and sell a product for Enterprise week 2024. This culminated in a visit to the Dragons Den on Thursday before opening their stalls to the public on Friday and selling as many products as they could. Every class was incredibly successful and a huge thank you to all the parents who came to support the market and hopefully get some early Christmas shopping done! 🛍️



Christmas Sing and Sign

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Christmas Sing and Sign at the welfare. I'm sure you will agree it was a joyous occasion and as always, great to see everyone together with their best singing voices present. Hopefully it has got you all in the mood for some festive cheer!

FOALS

Another brilliant term from FOALS who this year organised an amazing **Christmas fair** which raised a whopping **£1868**! It was attended by lots of pupils and parents, new and old. They also held a **breakfast with Santa** at The Manvers which was loved by all and a perfect opportunity to get those orders in for Christmas! Thanks to everyone who has been shopping at **ASDA** and chose **FOALS** as their charity, this has raised **£193** which will go directly to supporting the pupils. **FOALS** have also donated a gift to every class this term and some spare coats for anyone who needs to borrow one for those cold days playing outside. A huge thank you!

FOALS are incredibly valuable to the school and without parent and staff support wouldn't be able to provide the amazing opportunities they do. **If you would be interested in joining**, then please get in touch with reception and they will pass you onto the right person. 😊

Attendance

Whole school attendance for this term is **91.02%**. Please remember the importance of ensuring your child is at school every day. The school will always offer support to families so please let us know if we can help.

