

# Spring Newsletter 2024

## Headteacher

It has been a very busy, but productive term and I know that the staff team are looking forward to a very well-deserved break, particularly after our successful Ofsted inspection. I am incredibly proud of the excellent provision that our staff deliver and our pupils' very many achievements, always. It is however incredibly pleasing to have this recognised publicly too.

We have welcomed Helen Lovett this term, who is our Life after Ash Lea and EHCP co-ordinator. Some of you will have already met her through transition meetings. Helen will be leading on improvements to our EHCP meetings work to maximise our use of the time. From now onwards, these meetings will also be used to review each pupil's IEP (individual education plan) and therefore need to be run more efficiently. Whilst there will be an expectation that parents / carers and professionals will come better prepared, Helen is keen to support families with this and understand difficulties, particularly in accessing and using the hub. We will be sending out a survey to get your insights on what support you might need and suggestions for improvements. Helen will be able to offer support to families to access the EHCP hub before the meeting, please look out for these emails before you child's EHCP and be sure to reach out for support. The school is also working with the local authority on extensive changes and improvements to the EHCP process and will be feeding back on parent views as part of this process.

We are also delighted that Jamie Rawlinson joined us in March as our new site manager following Glen Meldrum's retirement in January. We will also be saying a sad goodbye to two long-serving members of staff, Elaine McNicholas, TA in Pine class and Liz Gaughan PCA. Liz had worked in the school for many years as a TA and after retirement and then joined us again as a personal care assistant. We wish them both very well in their retirement and thank them for their excellent service to the school and its pupils.

I hope that you have a wonderful break and thank you all for your continued support.

**Kate Davies**

## Governors

With Easter break just around the corner, we wanted to touch base and share some news from the Governing Board.

We're really pleased to tell you that our recent OFSTED inspection went well! We received fantastic feedback from the inspectors in general and the report is now published for you all to read. It was especially rewarding to hear the inspector talk about how welcoming the pupils and staff made them feel during their time at the school. This success belongs to all of us, but especially to our amazing staff. A huge thank you to all our teachers and staff members who continue to go above and beyond for our pupils. Your hard work, dedication and genuine care make such a difference each and every day.

We've had a few staff changes to share. In January, Glen Meldrum retired due to ill health, and after Easter, we'll be saying goodbye to Elaine McNicholas and Elizabeth Gaughan. We're grateful for everything they've brought to our school community and wish them all the very best.

We're looking forward to the summer term and all the exciting opportunities it brings. It's been wonderful to see the OPAL initiative already making such a positive impact on our school. The governors are excited about supporting staff to develop this further, ensuring all our pupils benefit from and enjoy these enriching experiences.

We hope everyone - pupils, parents, carers and staff - has a fantastic Easter break! Enjoy the time off, and we look forward to seeing all your smiling faces when we return for the summer term.

The Governing Board

## Dates for the Diary:

28<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May - **Dukes Barn Residential**

12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May - **St. Michaels Residential**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May - **Nottingham College Presentation**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May - **Portland College Presentation**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May - **Sense College Presentation**

As part of our Life After Ash Lea programme colleges will be coming into school to present to pupils and parents. Information will be sent out from the school reception.

9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June - **Sports Week** (Sports Day Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June)

Sports week this year will see a range of activities for all pupils to access including a sports day which parents will be invited to.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June - **INSET Day**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July - **Arts Week**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July - **Leavers Prom** This will be open to secondary pupils and Post 16

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - **School BBQ**

Please join us for our annual whole school BBQ to celebrate the end of the school year.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July - **INSET Day**

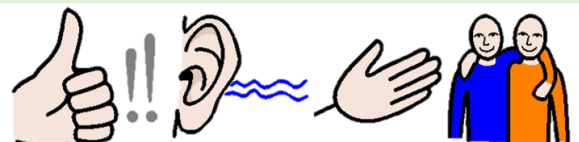
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July - **INSET Day**

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**Listen** carefully to what others have to say

**Help** others whenever we can

Always be polite and **friendly**



### Life After Ash Lea Fair

This term we had several P18 providers join us and meet pupils to share their offer. They had activities with a flavour of what they do and give pupils the opportunity to think about their options for the future. We even had some ex-pupils join us to share their experiences. Providers included [Mencap](#), [The Adventure Service](#), [Sams Place](#), [Pulp Friction](#) and [Reach](#). Next term we will have talks delivered from various colleges to pupils and parents. Please look out for information hitting your inbox soon!



### FOALS

Following on from the success of the breakfast with Santa last Christmas, FOALS have arranged and paid for breakfast with the Easter bunny on Saturday the 5th of April, for students and siblings. The FOALS disco in February was well attended and lots of fun was had by all. In the summer term, we hope to arrange for another disco and a swim at Cotgrave leisure Centre. As always, we welcome new members to our small and friendly committee.

**Save the date:** FOALS Swim at Cotgrave leisure Centre, *Sunday 11th May 3-5pm.*



### IIHF Women's World Championship Ice Hockey

Teaching Assistant **Jodie Bloom** will again be representing Great Britain this month as captain of the **GB Ice Hockey Team**. You can watch all the games for free on **YouTube** at @DumfriesIceBowl. Please tune in and show your support, we wish her and the team the best of luck!

### Attendance

Whole school attendance for this term is **91.40%**. Please remember the importance of regular attendance for your child's learning, well-being, and future success. The school is always happy to offer support for families facing attendance challenges.

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