



Ash Lea  
working together to be our best

# Autumn Newsletter 2025

## A word from the headteacher

It was wonderful to see so many families at our annual 'Sing and Sign' event at the Cotgrave Club this week. We were very proud to see so many pupils who have only recently joined the school not only attend, but also keen to sing, dance, sign or perform in front of the hundreds who were in attendance. For many this is something that may have never done or had the opportunity to do before. Our aim was to have an event without the need for endless rehearsals, to gather together as a whole community in a space where all our pupils feel comfortable. A huge amount of preparation goes into this event from our incredible staff team; setting up the signing and resources at the venue to preparing our pupils for accessing something new and different with confidence.

We were delighted to have received our academy order from the Department for Education last month. This is a vital step towards us converting to be an academy and joining the Raleigh Education Trust. We are expanding and deepening how we work with the trust already. This is giving our staff and pupils wider opportunities as well as our staff team's expertise being used within the trust. Two of our pupils attended the Springboard Futurechef which we were invited to by the Denewood Academy, one of the trust's schools. Not only was it a great event, but one of our pupils won and will be going through to the regional final next year where he'll compete for a place in the grand final in London!

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas break. Thank you for your continued support, **Kate**.

## A word from the Governors

Dear All,

September feels like yesterday, and here we are already at Christmas! On behalf of the whole Governing Body as 2025 comes to an end, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all our staff, parents, volunteers, and friends for their continued support of Ash Lea School. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to working together and making 2026 another successful and exciting year for the pupils at Ash Lea. Thank you once again for everything you do.

Very best seasonal wishes,

**Chris Hankinson (Chair of Governors)**

## Dates for the Diary:

5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – **Back to school**

9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – **Children's Mental Health Week**

[More information will follow about this following consultation with the school council.](#)

16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – **Half Term**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – **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.](#)

5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – **World Book Day**

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 – **Eid Celebration**

30<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – **Easter Break**

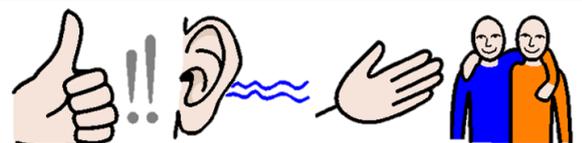
## Automatic translation & My Preferred Language for the EFL Family app

The **EFL Family App** will shortly make it easier to connect with families where English isn't their first language. Families can choose their preferred language in the app and following this, any evidence the school shares is then automatically translated for them into their chosen language.

When families comment or add in their own evidence, they can write in their chosen language, and it will be translated back into English for the school.

If you need any support with the EFL app, please reach out to school, who can support you.

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**



### Attendance

This term, our whole school attendance is **89.2%**. Thank you to all families who are helping their children attend school regularly—we know it makes a big difference!

We understand that illness has affected attendance this term (**7.97%**), but we also want to highlight that **3.07%** of absences are unauthorised, mostly due to holidays taken during term time.

To help your child get the most out of their learning, please remember that **holidays during term time are recorded as unauthorised**, and unauthorised absences of more than 10 sessions (5 days) may lead to a fine from the local authority. **You can find our attendance policy [here](#).**

### E-Safety

Next term, our online safety group will continue to develop resources to support both pupils and parents. We've started by sharing tools to help safely set up and monitor devices—some of which might even be new additions delivered by Santa! **You can find all these resources on our website by [following this link](#).**

### Pupil Parliament

This term **Elsie** and **Liam** represented Ash Lea school at County Hall Chambers. Pupils were directed to their allocated bench in the large chambers hall where they were joined by councillor representatives from twenty other Nottinghamshire schools. The agenda was a presentation on Parliament and why it is important; this included a mock debate about school uniform and a collective vote at the end.



### Christmas Sing and Sign

This year's Christmas Sing and Sign was truly spectacular, with a **record 269 attendees** including pupils, parents, friends of the school, and local councillors.

It was wonderful to see everyone together, singing in full voice and enjoying the festive spirit. A big thank you to all who joined in and made the event so memorable!

### FOALS

Thank you to all the parents, carers and staff at Ash Lea for all their support this year. We have been able to put on events including swims, discos and Easter Bunny meet. The children and staff have also enjoyed whole school activities including animal encounters and all-inclusive music sessions. We have also funded things like leavers gifts and the prom bus.

We are always in need of additional people who may be able to support these events - either as part of our committee or just as a helper at the Christmas fair - all help is greatly appreciated.

Finally, all of us at FOALS wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to raising more funds for our children in 2026.

