

Spring Newsletter 2026

A Message from the Headteacher

It was wonderful to visit our pupils on their residential in north Wales. This was a physically and mentally challenging adventure for all and pupils exceeded our expectations. For many this was their first residential visit with us and for some it was the longest that they had spent away from home. We will be continuing our relationship with the Outward Bound Trust as this has offered the challenge that many of our pupils have needed.

This connection was made possible and supported by the Raleigh Education Trust. As we move towards the school's conversion to academy status and joining the Trust on the 1st of July, this relationship continues to add real value to the school and its staff and pupils. As well as a wide range of collaborative projects and professional learning for staff, our pupils have taken part in several trust events, including Science week at Woodlands Academy and the Springboard Futurechef competition.

As we near conversion we will be communicating with you about key information. If you are concerned about any aspect of the conversion, please reach out to me. The governors and I know that this is absolutely the right decision for the whole school community and make what we offer even better. Have a wonderful easter break.

A Message from the Governing Body

As we reach the end of another busy and successful term and head into the Easter break, I'd like to take a moment, on behalf of the Governing Body, to say a huge thank you to everyone who helps make our school such a positive and vibrant place.

We are especially grateful to the staff who have given so much time and energy to organising and supporting the recent residential trips, both at School and in the field (or up a mountain, or in a lake!!). The photos really said it all — they captured just how much fun the pupils had and the fantastic experiences they enjoyed. We've also loved hearing the brilliant feedback from the pupils themselves, who clearly have gained so much from these opportunities.

Alongside the residentials, we'd also like to thank staff and parents for their continued support of wider school initiatives. The ongoing work around OPAL and the pupils' involvement in planning the "Big Build" are great examples of how our whole school community works together and how pupils are encouraged to have a real voice. Seeing the children gain so much from experiences like these really makes us all proud to be part of the School.

Thank you once again to everyone for your commitment, support and enthusiasm throughout the term. We wish all pupils, families and staff a very happy Easter and a well-earned break.

Dates for the Diary:

- 13th April 2026 – **Back to school**
- 13th April 2026 – 17th April – **OPAL big build week**
- 15th April 2026 – **Vaisakhi Celebration**
- 30th April 2026 – **OPAL Open Day**
- 25th – 29th May 2026 – **Half Term**
- 25th – 29th June 2026 – **Sports Week**
- 25th June 2026 – **Sports Day**
- 17th July 2026 – **Leavers Prom**
- 22nd July 2026 – **School BBQ**
- 24th July 2026 – **Last day of Summer Term**
- 27th July 2026 – **INSET Day**

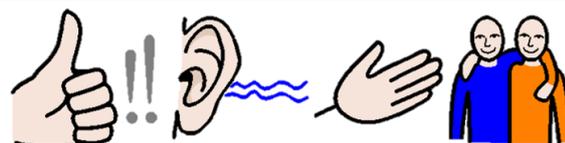
Online Safety

A reminder to help keep children safe online over the Easter break. Use of devices and accessing the internet is an important part of everyday life for many families. While the online world offers a wealth of opportunities, it is important to remain aware of potential risks and how to manage them effectively.

Our school website provides a range of helpful resources, including guidance on setting up your home Wi-Fi, ensuring appropriate safety settings on devices, and managing in-app controls. We encourage all parents and carers to explore these resources to support safe and positive online experiences for children.

[Online Safety - Ash Lea School](#)

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 do want to highlight that **2.27%** 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](#).**

Together, we can aim for even higher attendance next term, ensuring every child has the best chance to succeed.

Eid

Last week, we held a whole-school celebration for Eid, bringing together pupils and staff to mark the end of Ramadan, an important festival in the Muslim calendar. The day was filled with a range of activities, including arts and crafts, traditional music, and opportunities to learn more about the significance of Eid. The vegetable samosas were a particular highlight, proving especially popular with both pupils and staff!

Topic Work

This term, our topic has been the Vikings, and to bring our learning to life, we were delighted to welcome Viking Nigel for a fantastic day. Pupils took part in a range of exciting activities, including storytelling, open-fire cooking, and archaeological digging for Viking artefacts. They also had the unique opportunity to see and handle real Viking weapons, which was a highlight for many!

Next term, our focus will be Asia. If any parents have links to Asian culture or would like to share their knowledge, experiences, or resources with us, please get in touch hannah.goode@ashlea.notts.sch.uk.

World Book Day

This year's World Book Day followed an Alice in Wonderland theme, complete with a tea party and a visit from the White Rabbit! Pupils and staff enjoyed a fantastic day celebrating favourite stories and reading for pleasure, and each pupil chose a book to take home from the Ash Lea book stall.

