



Summer Newsletter 2026

A Message from the Headteacher

As we close for the summer break it's a moment to reflect on the school's many achievements over the past year. Receiving our OPAL Platinum award with a 100% result was a particular highlight for us, the first special school in the East Midlands to have been awarded this. The rich play and exploration this has offered all our pupils is the biggest achievement of all and has been transformational.

Our imminent transfer to the Raleigh Education Trust as something that has already and will profoundly shape our school and its provision for our staff and pupils for the better, as well as Ash Lea Academy (as we will be on the 1st of September) enriching the Trust itself too. The 'Big Conversation' Trust wide event in July gave our whole staff team a real sense of belonging to a community that has children and people at its heart.

We say a sad farewell to four members of staff. TAs Laura Morena from Cherry will be leaving to start her teacher training, Amanda Charlton will be returning to New Zealand, Di Lawler will be leaving us for travelling adventures and Ellena Staples is leaving to take up her first teaching post. We wish them all very well.

Have a wonderful summer break with your families however you choose to spend it and we will see the pupils back on the 3rd of September.

Kate Davies

F.O.A.L.S

FOALS would like to thank our wonderful parents and carers for all their support in raising funds for our children this year. We have been able to fund 3 swims and a disco, bought two bell tents for use on the Lea and at our forest school site, and paid for hoodies and the prom bus for our 2026 school leavers. We have also funded the Culture Day food tasting, had ice cream van visits to school and providing cooling ices to students and staff at our sports day. None of this would have been possible without the ongoing support of our fantastic team of teachers, TA's and staff and the wonderful volunteers who make up our FOALS committee. We are always looking for new members to join our fundraising team. Anything you can help us with would be greatly appreciated. Thank you

The FOALS team

Dates for the Diary:

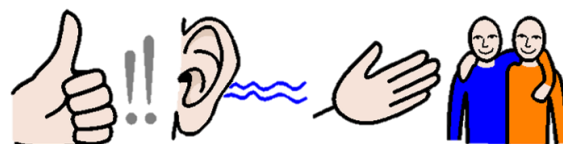
1st September 2026 – **INSET**
2nd September 2026 – **INSET**
3rd September 2026 – **Pupils back to school**
13th October 2026 – **Parents Evening (TBC)**
16th October 2026 – **INSET**
9th November 2026 – **Diwali Celebration**
9th – 13th November 2026 – **Enterprise Week and Market (TBC)**
19th November 2026 – **Presentation Evening (TBC)**
20th November 2026 – **Children in Need**
10th December 2026 – **Christmas Jumper Day**
16th December 2026 – **Christmas Singalong (TBC)**

Online Safety

A reminder to help keep children safe online over the summer 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](#)



Attendance

This term, our whole school attendance is **88.84%**. 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 **2.76%** 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.

A Message from the Governing Body

As we reach the end of another busy term, I wanted to take a moment, on behalf of the Governing Body, to reflect on all that has been achieved at Ash Lea School and to thank you all for your continued support. It has been a term full of highlights. Continued fundraising has gone from strength to strength, with our Annual Football Match and Summer Fayre proving the most successful yet, raising an incredible £2,500. We also enjoyed a brilliant Sports Week, celebrated OPAL Platinum accreditation — a fantastic recognition of the outstanding play opportunities on offer at Ash Lea and pupils have been out and about on lots of trips throughout the term. These moments remind us just how much care, creativity and commitment goes into making Ash Lea the special place it is for every child.

As you will know, Ash Lea School will formally transfer to Raleigh Education Trust on 1st September, over the summer break. A great deal of hard work has continued behind the scenes this term to prepare for this, and I want to say a particular thank you to the staff who have led and supported this process — managing due diligence, paperwork, and countless practical arrangements, all while keeping the day-to-day life of the school running smoothly for our pupils. Your professionalism and care throughout this transition have not gone unnoticed, and the Governing Body is enormously grateful.

What has been particularly pleasing is that this has never felt like a one-way process. From the outset, Ash Lea has been made to feel genuinely welcome by Raleigh, and it has been fantastic to see the trust actively draw on the skills, experience and knowledge of our own team along the way. It is a real reflection of just how talented and capable our staff are, and a reminder that we are lucky to have such a strong team at Ash Lea. This is a forward-thinking trust that recognises what our school already does well, and we are confident that being part of a specialist trust will help Ash Lea continue to develop and strengthen in the years ahead, to the benefit of every pupil.

I'd also like to thank our parents and carers for your continued support during this period of change. The Governing Body remains committed to keeping you informed as we move through the transition.

As we head into the holidays, I hope every family gets some well-earned rest and time together. On behalf of the Governing Body, I wish you all a very happy and restful break, and I look forward to welcoming you back in September as we begin this next chapter for Ash Lea School as part of Raleigh Education Trust.

With very best wishes,
Chris Hankinson
Chair of Governors, Ash Lea School

Safeguarding

Please remember that over the summer break we will have a monitored inbox for any **safeguarding concerns**. Please email safeguarding@ashlea.notts.sch.uk. Alternatively, for **urgent concerns** you can call the Nottinghamshire MASH team directly on 0300 500 80 80.

