

Low Ash Primary School

December 2015 Newsletter

Low Ash Primary School, Wrose Road, Wrose, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD18 1AA

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Staff News

As mentioned in my last newsletter, Mrs Douglas will be leaving at Christmas. Therefore, we have recruited **Miss Nicola Viles** who will teach Class RD until the end of the school year. Miss Viles will actually start on Monday 14th December so she can get to know the children and classroom routines whilst Mrs Douglas is still here. Mrs Robinson will continue to be Early Years Leader until the end of the school year, combining the role with her Key Stage 1 Leader role.



We also welcome back Mrs Todd from maternity leave, who will take up where she left off as Nursery Nurse in Nursery. Miss Preskey, who has been covering for Mrs Todd, will stay on for a while longer to support the new teacher in Reception.



What a fantastic event! Thank you for your attendance and help in making this year's Christmas Fair one of the best we have ever had. You helped us raise a whopping **£1,228** which will go towards buying resources for the children.

New Governors

I am pleased to announce that **Mrs Sarah Allport** (Year 6 Parent) and **Mrs Jude Greaves-Newall** (Reception Parent) were nominated to be our two new Parent Governors and will be joining our Governing Body in January. Mrs Allport will be starting straight after Christmas, as Mr Derek

Daykin has already 'retired' from the Governors. Mrs Greaves-Newall will start when Natalie Lofthouse leaves the Governing Body after our Ofsted Inspection, which is expected some time in January. Welcome to them both - it's great to have you on board!

Bad Weather

A reminder should we get heavy snow this winter.



School will only close if there are serious worries about the safety of children, parents/carers or staff, or if several teachers are unable to get to school.

If this is the case, I will contact Bradford Council and let them know that the school will be closed. The Council will then inform local radio stations of the closure. You will also be able to find out if the school is closed by accessing the School website - www.lowash.bradford.sch.uk or by 'Googling' the 'Bradford Schools Online' website. Once on this site click on the 'Closed Schools' at the top of the page.

Sporting Success Well done to the Low Ash **Under 11s Athletics Team** who won the North Bradford Area Finals at Hanson last week by a significant margin. Their performance, particularly in the running events, was outstanding! The Team now go on to the Bradford Finals in February – we wish them every success.



New Play time Signs

You will have noticed the new playtime rules signs, which went up in the playground this week. The rules originally came from each class and were considered and agreed by the School Council.



I think the rules are brilliant, as they fit in really well with the new 'Our Values' themes we introduced in September that run through our curriculum. After Christmas the 'Our Values' theme is 'Democracy'. This follows on from the first two themes we had in the Autumn Terms, which were 'Respect' and 'Tolerance'.

Safety

In response to reports of possible 'suspicious behaviour' by members of the public at several schools across Bradford recently, we have increased staff visibility in and around access points leading in to school.

The main gate to school will be open at 11.15 for Nursery (a staff member will be present from then until the gate is locked around 12.30).

Also, at the end of the day, both entry gates (from Wrose Road and Wrose Rec) will be unlocked slightly later than at present at 2.45pm.



Local Authority Review of Low Ash

As a guide to how well the school is performing, the school was 'inspected' on 9th November by a review team which included: Local Authority Officers, a Headteacher from another Bradford School and a current Ofsted Inspector. Each of the four Ofsted areas (Leadership and Management, Teaching and Learning, Behaviour, Welfare and

Safety and Outcomes for children) were all graded as 'Good'.

Some of the comments in the recently received report include...

'The impact of the determined and focused leadership is that the quality of education at the school has improved rapidly and is now good.'

'The curriculum is impressive. It supports both the academic and wider development of the pupils. There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities, covering sports, the arts, music and pupils' spiritual development.'

'The school is inclusive and works harmoniously so that all pupils thrive. Different groups of pupils, including those who have special educational needs and those who are more able, make good progress.'

'The behaviour of pupils is good. They are polite and courteous in lessons and around school.'

'The proportion of pupils making really rapid progress is rising quickly in all year groups because pupils are given the skills needed to use grammar correctly and recall number facts accurately.'

The full report can be viewed on the Low Ash School Website under 'Latest News' on the Home page.

Important Dates Coming Up

School Christmas Dinner	Wednesday 16 th December
Carols by Candlelight	Thursday 17 th December at St Cuthbert's Church at 6.30pm
School closes for Christmas holidays	Friday 18 th December
School re-opens after Christmas	Monday 4 th January

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr Terry Woollin (Headteacher)