

Low Ash Primary School

January/February 2019 Newsletter

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Sporting Successes

Congratulations to our **Cross Country Teams** from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who competed in the Bradford Schools Cross Country Finals on Wednesday 23rd January. The children performed really well, despite it being bitterly cold!

A special 'well done' goes to Mia Naylor from Year 6, who came a fabulous **3rd place** in her race and received a bronze medal, and Finlay Cottenham from Year 3 who **finished 10th** in his race - brilliant! Well done to all 37 children who took part.



Our **Under 11s Badminton Teams** finished in 2nd and 3rd place in the recent North Bradford Competition – well done to them.

The **North Bradford Indoor Athletics Competition** was held on February 5th at Hanson. Our proud tradition of finishing in one of the top two places was maintained with the A Team finishing in 1st place. They will now compete in the Bradford Finals at the end of February. Well done also to the B Team who finished a creditable 4th.

Thanks to our sports coach, Mr Renardson, Mr Robinson, Miss Broadbent (PE Leader) and the teachers, we continue to develop talents in several sports and compete to a high standard. Our efforts have been recognised and, once again, Low Ash has been awarded the **Active Mark Gold Standard** by the West Yorkshire Schools Games Partnership for 2018.



Your Child's Progress Sheets

You should have received your Parent/Carer '**How well your child is doing**' progress sheet a short while ago. We hope that the information about the 'next steps' your child needs to focus on will be useful to you. These sheets, along with the Open Evenings in September and Parents' Evenings in November and March, are designed to keep you up-to-date with important information about how well your child is progressing throughout the year and also how you can help at home.

Spring Term Parent Consultation Evening

The next Parent/Carer Consultation Evening will be held shortly after February half term - Wednesday 13th March from 3.30pm to 5.30pm and Thursday 14th March from 3.30pm to 7.00pm. As normal, you will be able to book a 10 minute session using our online booking system, which will be available on our school website. **The booking system 'opens' on Monday 11th February and will 'close' on Wednesday 27th February.** If you are unable to book online please call in at the office or ring 01274 582927, after 9.30am, and speak to a member of the office team.



Parental Questionnaire The online questionnaire for 2018-19 is now available to access using the link <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FQ6QI/>. The questionnaire is designed to gauge parent/carers opinions about how well Low Ash provides for your child's education and identify what areas you feel we can improve upon. It's really important that we have an accurate 'picture'. So, even

if you think we are doing well and can't suggest any improvements please let us know and complete the questionnaire.

Minibuses

As you would expect, the new minibuses have been very popular with the children. Many year groups, including Nursery, have visited several places linked to class topics or subjects. These include Bradford Cathedral, Bradford University, Bradford College, a local synagogue and mosque and Mill View Residential Home. Having the minibuses has also meant we can enter more teams in sports competitions so more of our children have the opportunity to represent the school.



Charity Fundraising

Although it seems like ages ago, the 'Christmas Jumper Day' held on December 14th raised £348. Half of the money was given to Save the Children, with the other half going to our new overseas charity in Uganda – 'Mamma Shirls'. Thank you.

New Exiting System

Those parents/carers who have attended Achievement Assemblies on Fridays will already know that we have a new swipe card system for exiting the school building. This is to ensure the school building is even safer. Adults or children can only exit if a member of staff 'swipes' an electronic card reading or if there is a member of staff stationed at an open door. All doors open automatically when the fire alarm is activated.

Headteacher's News



I have decided that this year will be my last as Headteacher of Low Ash Primary and I will be taking early retirement in July. The many different demands on being a Headteacher take their toll over time. So, after 6 years as Headteacher, I feel now is the time to step down. I also thought it was important that the new leadership team have plenty of time to settle in to their new roles before the next Ofsted inspection is due – probably in late 2020.

Despite many turbulent, challenging and uncertain times, I believe Low Ash remains a warm, friendly and very special place for pupils to thrive, flourish, enjoy and excel. The pride I have felt being 'at the helm' of a primary school which has 'blossomed' into one of the best primary schools in Bradford, both on what we offer our children and what we have achieved, can never be replaced and will never be forgotten.

It has been a privilege to have been the Headteacher of Low Ash Primary School and I will leave with many fond memories of my time here. Thank you all for your support during my time here and enabling me to end my teaching career on such a positive note and in such a special place.

Following meetings, discussions and interviews, the Governors have decided that, in order to maintain the high standards that Low Ash has achieved, Mrs Medhurst and Mrs Meer (current Deputy Heads) will lead the school as Co-Headteachers from September 2019. Mr Hurst (current Assistant Head) will become Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Robinson (current Early Years and Key Stage 1 Leader) will become Assistant Headteacher.

I'm sure you will join me in congratulating all of them on their new positions. They have all been instrumental in raising standards at Low Ash over the last 6 years. They know the school really well and have a clear understanding of what's needed to further improve the school.

As you would expect, Mrs Woollin will also be taking early retirement at the end of this academic year. I know she echoes my sentiments about what a special place Low Ash is. After teaching for 20 years, I have no doubt that she will miss the children dearly. The wonderful relationships a teacher has with the children they teach are irreplaceable.

Further details regarding teacher recruitment for September 2019 will follow in due course.

As ever, your continued support and help in making Low Ash an even better school is much appreciated - thank you.

Terry Woollin (Headteacher)