



Low Ash Primary School November/December 2020 Newsletter

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End of Term Date

You may have heard in the news over the past couple of days that schools have been told that they could finish a day earlier for Christmas if they wished to use the last Friday of term as a training day. However, to do so would mean that we had to use a day's holiday from later in the year which we felt would inconvenience parents, both by finishing early next week and by changing the holiday dates later in the year.

We have therefore decided to keep to our original end of term date of **December 18th**.

Times Table Rock Stars Competition

All children in Key Stage 2 recently had the chance to compete for the school in the National Times Table Rock Stars competition. Low Ash did fantastically well – the school as a whole finished 3rd in the country and was pipped at the post by two much bigger schools, so we are extremely proud of this achievement.

Thank you to Mr Morton who organised Low Ash's participation in this and worked tirelessly over the week of the competition to enthuse the pupils and keep the momentum going.

Parental Consultation Evenings

Thank you to all parents who took part in the recent Parent Consultation Evenings. Though it was not as sociable by phone, I think that you will agree that the staff made an excellent job of making the phone calls to you to make it possible to discuss your child's progress. The whole process took four weeks to complete, but was a successful alternative to our usual arrangements.

The Virtual Christmas Fair

The Virtual Christmas Fair has been running since the middle of November and has been a huge success. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated items to be raffled or supported the school by buying raffle tickets for the incredible 24 prizes created, or purchasing tickets to 'see' Santa. We raised a massive £960 for the school which is fantastic, particularly in the circumstances.



I couldn't resist including some photos of the prizes which will be going home with the lucky winners over the next few days.



A Medical Reminder

Please make sure that everyone who picks your child up is aware that a green note given to them by the adult on the door means that your child has bumped their head during the day and will need keeping an eye on. Though hopefully this will not happen very often, it is important that

everyone involved is aware of the significance of receiving a 'green medical slip'.

Parent Representatives

Thank you to those parents/carers who have put their names forward to be Low Ash parent reps this year, supporting each year group to strengthen the communication link between school and home.

The parent rep volunteers are as follows:

Nursery - Tayyaba Rafiq
Reception - Rachel Travers
Year 1 - Rachel Travers
Year 2 - Vacant
Year 3 - Jill Earnshaw-Wojtkow
Year 4 - Bernie Bazely
Year 5 - Jill Earnshaw-Wojtkow
Year 6 - Vacant

Ideally we would like 2 parents/carers per year group, so if you are interested in becoming a parent rep, please contact the school office with your details.

Golden Learners

Low Ash's first 'Golden Learners' of the year were awarded just before half term for pupils showing excellent learning behaviours, for example skills in collaboration, communication and perseverance. The successful pupils were:

Nursery – Reenoshi
Reception – Freddie and Eli
Year 1 – Willow, Aidan and Poppy
Year 2 – Sophie and Sophia
Year 3 – Oliver and Meysam
Year 4 – Travis and Riley
Year 5 – Hannah and Freya
Year 6 – Ellie and William

Holiday Dates for September 2021 to July 2022

The dates for 2020-21 have now been agreed by Governors and are being sent out alongside this newsletter. They are also available on the school website.

New Parent Governor

Thank you and congratulations to Dave Holmes who will now become a parent governor for Low Ash. Dave has a child in Year 1, so hopefully will be

able to represent parents on the Governing Body for many years to come as we all work together to make Low Ash an even better school.

Staffing

We are very sorry to be saying farewell to Mr Morton, who leaves us at Christmas for a new job away from teaching. We will be very sad to see him go and wish him every success in his new venture.

We would like to thank Mr Henry and Mrs Sunderland, who have both come back from retirement to help us in times of need. We have really appreciated their help and have very much enjoyed having them in school. Mrs Sunderland will be finishing at Christmas to return to a more restful and relaxed way of life away from school (though she has said that she is more than willing to come back again if needed!), but Mr Henry will carry on working with children in Years 4, 5 and 6.

Welcome to Mrs Ingleson, Mrs Mathers, Mrs Ahmed and Mrs Hunter who have recently joined us as lunchtime supervisors and are working extremely hard to keep the children safe and happy at lunchtimes.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Claire Dyson, who started work with us in November as a part-time Learning Mentor, working in a pastoral role alongside Miss Thompson and Miss Grimshaw.

| Dates for the Diary | |
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| Non-uniform days | Thursday 17 th & Friday 18 th December |
| School closes for Christmas | Friday 18 th December |
| School re-opens after the Christmas break | Monday January 4 th |

All that remains to do is to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming all the children back in 2021.

Thank you for your continued support.

Fiona Meer
(Co-Headteacher)