



# Low Ash Primary School Newsletter

## January/February 2021

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### Remote Learning

Although disappointed that we cannot welcome all children back to school just yet, we continue to be delighted with the way in which children are approaching their online learning. This wouldn't be possible without your support at home, and we appreciate the challenges it presents, so thank you. The teachers are working hard to continue to develop their activities in order to provide the best learning experiences possible under the current circumstances and the children both at school and at home are working extremely hard. Should you experience any technical issues or have any questions about the learning, please continue to contact school.

### Supporting your children

We are very aware that the COVID pandemic is taking its toll on the mental health and well-being of children and adults alike. The Young Minds website below has lots of advice on how you can support your child's mental health during this difficult time.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/>

### Lateral flow testing

The staff COVID testing programme is underway, and we have been encouraged that, as yet, we have had no positive cases in school. Please do be prepared that, due to this asymptomatic testing, there is a greater chance that we may receive a positive test result at some point, leading to a closure of one of the critical worker bubbles in school. We thank you for your understanding in advance of this possibility.

### Parent Consultation Evening

As you will already be aware, we have made the decision to postpone the consultation that was due to be held after half term until later in the year when all pupils are back in school. Details of how to book appointments will be sent out nearer the time.

### Staffing update

Mrs Medhurst has returned to school following her maternity leave and will be working as Co-Headteacher alongside Mrs Meer. Mrs Medhurst will be in school on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning and Mrs Meer will revert to working from Tuesday to Friday.

### Expansion work

Work to extend and redesign the main school entrance will begin in May and will be ongoing for approximately 6 months. This will give us a much more welcoming and larger main entrance area as well as some additional meeting rooms and office space. Although it is planned that the main entrance will continue to be safe to be used throughout term time, we will of course keep you updated with the building developments.

### Music Audit

We had a music audit by the local authority last week who seemed to be pleased with all that had taken place during the year despite the various Covid restrictions. The auditor said that Low Ash was the first school that she had come across where parts of the music curriculum had actually improved in the last year despite all that has happened.

## Clubs

We sincerely hope that clubs will start again as soon as school opens fully. The clubs will be those that started after October half term and then had to stop due to the lockdown in November although they did resume briefly for the last couple of weeks before Christmas. Please bear with us on this as we will make you aware as soon as we know any more.

## World Book Day

World Book Day is on 4<sup>th</sup> March this year. You should already have received some information via School Ping, but we would like to remind you that, on this day, children both at home and at school are invited to dress up as a character from one of their favourite books. On the day, all live lessons will be focussed on books so all children will be able to join in our celebration of reading.

Please remember too that, if your children finds themselves reading in any 'weird or wonderful' places (obviously ones which current restrictions allow), please take a photograph and email it to school for our reading display.

## Walk to School

We are still hoping to launch our Walk to School programme as soon as we are able to. This was paused due to schools going into lockdown, but hopefully will be able to start soon.

## Poor weather

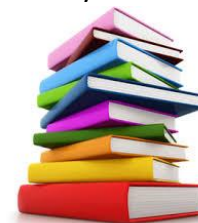
There has certainly been some interesting weather so far this year! School will only close if there are serious concerns about the health and safety of children, parents/carers or staff, or if a high number of teachers are unable to travel.



If the decision to close is taken, we will contact Bradford Council. 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 checking on the 'Bradford Schools Online' website, where it

lists all schools which have closed under 'Emergency Closures'. The school will also use the usual School Ping messaging service, plus a text message to inform you of a closure as soon as we can. If you have told us that you cannot read your messages in school hours, we will phone your second contact to make sure that the message gets through.

In the event of closure, we will try to provide live lessons as normal, though this may obviously depend on what technology the teachers are able to provide from home. There will always be work set on Google Classroom (or sent through via School Ping for Early Years) if this does not end up being possible. And, of course, we hope the children are able to venture outside and have some fun in the snow too!



**We appreciate that, for all, this has been a hard, tiring half term. We hope you all have a restful holiday and, despite the restrictions in place, manage to have some fun.**

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

<b>Forthcoming Important Dates:</b>	
<b>Non uniform day</b>	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>School closes for half term</b>	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>School re opens after half term</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
<b>Y5/6 Virtual Space Camp</b>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>World Book Day</b>	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March

Fiona Meer and Beth Medhurst (Co-Headteachers)