



Low Ash Primary School Newsletter

May 2021

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Parking

Sadly, once again, we have to start the school newsletter with pleas to you to park safely and responsibly around school. Some parents still continue to park on permit only roads or block driveways and are becoming abusive when challenged by residents. Only yesterday, after the reminders were sent out to parents, a parent became abusive after being asked to move their car which was blocking a private driveway. The resident had to leave urgently and was unable to do so. This is not acceptable.

The way in which a minority of people drive and park around school puts our children (and other pedestrians) at risk. Please also remember that the school car park is for staff only and not a drop-off point for parents. We have again had a situation this week where a parent's car pulling into the staff car park nearly hit a small child in a pushchair. We are concerned that our pleas are being ignored. Will it take a serious accident for them to be taken seriously?

Please walk to school when you can or park a little bit further away. Our Walk to School initiative has seen an increase in the number of pupils coming by foot or bike/scooter which is really pleasing. Can we increase that number even further?

If you have no other option but to travel to school by car, Highcroft Community Centre can once again be used for parking. The Bold Privateer have also kindly said that parents and carers can use their car park at drop off and collection times. If using the Bold Privateer, please be considerate and mindful that, at some times of the day - generally earlier in the morning - they may have deliveries which will have to take priority over parent parking.

Supporting your children

We are very aware that the COVID pandemic is continuing to take its toll on the mental health and well-being of children and adults alike. We would like to sign post you once again to The Young Minds website which has lots of advice on how you can support your child's mental health.

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

Raffle

Thank you to all of those who have already bought raffle tickets to be entered in our prize draw. All money raised will be put towards our end of term surprise for the children which will take place on the last day of term. If you have already bought tickets on Parent Pay but would like to buy more, you can collect a barcoded letter from the school office. All tickets need to be purchased by midday on Monday 7th June and the draw will take place on Thursday 10th June.

A huge thank you to the local businesses who have contributed. Papa John's, Millionhairs, Preston Motors, Mims Cakes and the Wrose Bull have all provided some prizes.

Staffing update

Two new members of staff will be joining us in September. Mr Sam Moorhouse has been appointed as a new teacher and Miss Brogan Thornton has been appointed as a new HLTA. These are not to replace members of staff who are leaving but to add to our successful Low Ash Team.

Miss Harsharon Lalli and Miss Sarah Romani have been appointed as lunchtime supervisors and have already taken up their role.

Expansion work

Work to extend and redesign the main school entrance, originally planned to begin in May, has been delayed slightly. It is hoped that the work will begin in late June and, as stated in a previous update, 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 continue to keep you updated with the building developments.

Clubs

We are aware that some children have been left disappointed after not getting a place in one of the after-school clubs offered for next half term. This summer term we have offered a total of 26 extra-curricular clubs with over 500 places available on a first come first served basis. Despite the restrictions on numbers in each individual club due to COVID, we have actually increased the number of places offered overall. There have never been more on offer in our 11+ years at Low Ash nor, similarly, more variety!

We are constantly reviewing our procedures for allocating places however and want to make it as fair as possible. In future, we will aim to give further advance notice of the clubs to be offered and their release time on Parent Pay.

Thank you to all staff who have run an after-school club so far this year and thank you to Mr. Hurst who oversees and organises them all.

We hope your children have really enjoyed the wide range of clubs on offer so far and continue to do so.

Class photos

The photographer will be in school on Thursday 10th June to take class photos. **We ask that ALL children come to school in uniform that day.** If your child has PE (those in Year 3 and in Year 6), they should come in school uniform with their PE kit in a bag and we will ensure that they are able to change in Covid-safe conditions once their photo has been taken. Reception children will not need to bring their PE kit that day.

Parent Pay and School Ping

The office team would like us to remind you to regularly check Parent Pay for any new items that might be added.

Similarly, please check School Ping regularly for messages and updates from school. If you have not already, you may find it useful to turn on auto notifications.

Leavers' Hoodies

For any Year 6s wanting to order a leavers' hoodie, orders need to be placed by Thursday 10th June. (Please see original letter for further details).

Warmer Weather

We have high hopes that some warmer and brighter weather is just around the corner! When it arrives, please send sun hats into school with your children and apply sun cream at the start of the day.

Forthcoming Important Dates:	
School closes for half term	Friday 21 st May
School reopens after half term	Monday 7 th June
Class photographs	Thursday 10 th June (All year groups to come in school uniform)
Year 6 Activity Week	Week commencing 28 th June
Healthy Schools' Week and sports days	Week commencing 12 th July (Sadly, we don't think we will be able to invite parents/carers to the sports days this year)
School closes for summer	Friday 23 rd July

We hope you all have a restful half term holiday and, with the easing of some restrictions, manage to (safely) have some fun.

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

Fiona Meer and Beth Medhurst (Co-Headteachers)