



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Low Ash Primary School, Wrose Road, Wrose, Shipley BD18 1AA  
Tel: 01274 582927 Email: [office@lowash.bradford.sch.uk](mailto:office@lowash.bradford.sch.uk)

17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support this week in what has been a strange one for many. Despite the unusual week however, Year 4 managed to enjoy their residential to Ingleborough Hall. Mrs Meer, Mrs Medhurst and Mr Hurst were lucky enough to visit and we can all confidently say that the children were a real credit to Low Ash. Thank you also to the staff who went on the residential as, although they are very enjoyable, they are also extremely tiring!

### Parent/Carer survey

Thanks to all who completed the last parent survey. Your views are really important to us.

92% of you said you would recommend Low Ash to others.

93% of you feel we let you know how your child / children are doing.

92% of you said you understand the attendance procedures.

92% of you said that you feel when you have raised concerns, they have been dealt with properly.

95% of you said your child feels safe at school

### Below are some of the positive comments we received:

*The staff at Low Ash are friendly, helpful, caring and each member we have met goes above and beyond to try and make everyone feel safe and secure. My son LOVES school and the whole team are amazing!! 5\**

*They do a fantastic job. Can't find a single fault with the staff or the school. They are fantastic at communicating and keeping the children safe.*

*I could not ask for a better primary school than Low Ash. My son feels safe and has reached his full potential.*

*My daughter is always happy to go to go to school and enjoys it. She tells me when she's had a good day or sad day, and teachers in her class are approachable when I do have concerns.*

*My children both love attending Low Ash - they are happy to go every day, love their teachers and are thriving - what more can you ask for from a school?*

### We would also like to respond to some of the comments which raised queries or concerns.

***When we've had issues, the class teachers have dealt with them very quickly, but as working parents having the class teachers email addresses would mean we could pass on anything directly to the teachers rather than having to speak to the office staff, as sometimes feel that the messages aren't getting passed on for the class teachers to deal with issues that parents have.***

We understand how hard it is when you don't get the opportunity to speak to your child's class teacher on the door. In the past, some teachers did give their email addresses out to parents and carers for the purpose you outline above. Unfortunately, a small minority of people abused this system causing a great deal of upset. If you can't speak directly to the teacher, the quickest and most effective way to contact them is to email the school office ([office@lowash.bradford.sch.uk](mailto:office@lowash.bradford.sch.uk)) and mark your email FAO followed by the class teacher's name. Our school business manager will forward these on the day she receives them (if in the evening, it would be the following morning).

***Both my children have thrived at Low Ash and I have total confidence and respect in the school and its teaching team. However, regarding the council's attendance policy, I feel that rather than a blanket ban on all holiday/absence requests, more flexibility in the absence policy is needed. eg special family occasions, if a child is above 95% attendance - up to a maximum number of days each year etc.***



Co-Headteachers  
Mrs B. Medhurst & Mrs F. Meer



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SCHOOL



Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children and expects staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



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**School need to look at each child as an individual case when it comes to going away to visit families back home and not have a blanket rule, especially when the child is not lacking behind in their studies and the overall behaviour of the child is good in school. We talk a lot about mental health issues and it is very important in a child's life to know their families.**

We appreciate that the attendance procedures might feel frustrating for some of you. We are unable to authorise holidays of any sort in term time regardless of your child's prior attendance, attainment or behaviour. We do however take into account special events such as weddings etc. Please do not be offended if we ask for proof of an event – this is so we can consider whether we can authorise any part of your absence. We try to be as fair as possible and, whilst we are unable to authorise a 2-week period of absence for a wedding abroad for example, we would consider authorising the day itself and days for travelling time.

Whilst no holidays can be authorised, penalty notices (fines) are only issued where there are more than 3 days unauthorised absence within a 6-week period.

**I fully understand the teachers are striking but feel the school should have prioritised yr6 due to them sitting their SATs. This hasn't been done and tells me all I need to know about how much the school cares about my son's education. To have nearly all the other year groups in but not year 6 is disgusting. I would be more understanding if the school fully closed but they aren't.**

We discussed many different options for the strike day and fully understand your frustrations. Closing year 6 in the run up to SATS is most definitely not something we wanted to do. However, with regards to this year group, the way in which it is taught meant that continuing with their education on the strike days, knowing in advance which teachers were striking, would not have been possible.

**You seem to be a statistics driven school...**

We are genuinely saddened that you feel we are a statistics driven school. Yes, we are proud of our statistics - largely because the children have worked so hard that we feel they deserve them. However, Low Ash is about so much more than this. That is why we offer numerous extra-curricular clubs, are devoting a lot of time and energy on developing children's play opportunities at break and lunchtimes (as this amounts to 20% of their school day), offer 3 school residentials (as well as activities such as Space Camp, which is an additional overnight stay) and have introduced the Friday afternoon enrichment time where all pupils in Year 1 – 6 are not on timetable.

**On a number of occasions my child has had issues at school which have not been dealt with through to a conclusion.**

We expect all members of staff to follow the staged behaviour ladder. If you feel this has not been followed by a member of staff, please first raise it with them, then the Key Stage leader. If the issue is still not resolved it would then be referred to the SLT and finally the Headteachers. If you feel we as Headteachers have not investigated/ resolved the issue, then we urge you to formally complain to The Chair of Governors (as per our complaints policy). It is vital that we know when you feel a behaviour issue has not been dealt with as per our policy so we can put actions into place to remedy this.

**And finally, some exciting and positive news to end – Low Ash Primary School has been shortlisted for the T&A School of the Year award. We are all very excited and honoured to be shortlisted for this award. We will keep you updated when we hear more!**

We look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Kind regards,

Beth Medhurst and Fiona Meer  
Co-Headteachers



Co-Headteachers  
Mrs B. Medhurst & Mrs F. Meer



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