



Woodstone Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr P Mullins
Deputy Headteacher: Miss G Clement

Growing together, Learning forever

Welcome to Ash Class!

Dear Parents,

Following our recent discussion, I am delighted to confirm the arrangements for our new inclusive classroom, Ash Class, which will be based in the cabin. Below, you'll find a summary of our discussion along with some key details for the return to school after the Christmas holiday.

Rationale

We understand that structured, formal lessons requiring children to sit for extended periods and work at a level beyond their cognitive abilities do not suit all pupils. Currently, these children are often taught separately by Teaching Assistants. While these lessons are planned by teachers, they predominantly delivered by TAs.

While we have endeavoured to include these children in as many lessons as possible, it has become increasingly difficult to balance their needs with those of their peers. The demands of the curriculum are resulting in children's behaviour escalating and them being more dysregulated. In turn, they are missing more of their education which is further impacting on their social and emotional wellbeing. Even when children are sitting and 'conforming', most of what is being taught is beyond their understanding.

To enable these children to flourish, they require:

- A bespoke curriculum tailored to their individual needs.
- A calm, child-led environment.
- Support from experienced, qualified staff.

Ash Class Offers

- A small group setting
- A calmer, less overwhelming atmosphere.
- A child-led approach, combining continuous provision with tailored curriculum activities.
- Individualised learning plans suited to each child's needs.
- Dedicated quality time with experienced staff.
- Weekly Forest School sessions for outdoor learning and development.

Staffing

We have selected a team of experienced and familiar staff to support Ash Class:

- **Miss Barnes:** SENCo and experienced KS1 teacher, well-acquainted with the children.
- **Miss Bexton:** Early Years Teaching Assistant and former childminder, aiding Reception children's transition.
- **Mrs Hall:** KS1 TA experienced in interventions, already familiar with many of the children
- **Miss Brooks:** Specialist in supporting high-needs children, providing continuity for Reception pupils.

Staffing Schedule

- **Miss Barnes:** Full-time class teacher and SENCo (out of class on Thursdays and two hours on Fridays).
- **Miss Bexton and Miss Brooks:** Full-time.
- **Mrs Hall:** Mornings and Thursday afternoons.

Cover for Miss Barnes to complete SENCo duties

- **Thursday Mornings:** Forest School led by Mr Medylcott and Miss Knight (both Forest School qualified), supported by Ash Class staff.
- **Thursday Afternoons:** Computing sessions led by Mrs Edwards, supported by Ash Class staff, with access to resources such as the library, iPads, and BeeBots.
- **Friday Mornings:** Mrs Clinch will support Ash Class and lead cooking sessions.

Please note, we have tried to make staffing as consistent as possible but there may be occasional changes due to unforeseen circumstances (absences, training etc.)

Curriculum and Provision

I have collaborated with local professionals who have established similar provisions to create a bespoke curriculum. Though still in its early stages, our approach will focus on three pillars:

- **Communication and Interaction.**
- **Emotional Regulation and Wellbeing.**
- **Foundational Skills and Knowledge.**

Each day will include carefully planned continuous provision. Lessons in phonics, reading, writing and maths will be bespoke, delivered in small groups or on a one-to-one basis. Wider curriculum subjects will be cross-curricular and child-led, enhancing learning opportunities.

Inclusion

Inclusion remains a priority. Children in Ash Class will continue to join their peers for break and lunchtimes, with an optional lunch club for those who prefer quieter environments. They will be invited to attend assemblies and participate in school trips and special events. All classes have been given a tree themed name to ensure Ash Class is not singled out.

Challenges

While we are committed to this provision, there are some challenges:

- **Funding:** Staff and resources are shared across all pupils and this provision may not continue beyond the summer without additional funding.
- **Resources:** Although we have expertise and facilities, additional physical resources (e.g., tables, dividers) are needed. We will build on these over time.
- **Ongoing Review:** Plans, procedures and timetables will be regularly reviewed and adapted to ensure we are providing the best possible provision.

Logistics

Start Date: Tuesday 7th January.

Please bring your child to the cabin (Ash Classroom) via the gate and path. The classroom doors will open at 8:45 am. Registration is at 8:55 am so please ensure children are in the classroom by this time. Collection is at 3:15 pm. For pupils on part-time timetables, please press the buzzer on the gate and a staff member will bring your child to the gate.

PE Kit: Please provide both indoor and outdoor kits and keep these in school all week.

- Indoor: White/Navy t-shirt, black shorts/leggings, socks, and pumps.
- Outdoor: White/Navy t-shirt, black jogging bottoms/leggings, black/navy hoodie/jumper.
- It would also be worth including some pants if your child has occasional accidents

Snack:

Children will be offered a piece of fruit at snack time however they are welcome to bring in a healthy snack from home (example yoghurt, veg sticks, fruit they like). Children under 5 will be offered milk, children over 5 will need to order and pay for their milk through cool milk as normal. Please also send in a water bottle as normal.

Equipment: Stationery and fidget toys will be provided (we find children can be very protective of their items if they bring in their own). If your child has their own ear defenders, they may bring these. Spare donations of ear defenders are always appreciated.

Pupil Passports: These will be temporarily paused to allow children to settle. Targets will be adjusted as needed.

Reading and Homework: Please continue using the same reading diaries and aim to read with your child five times per week. Homework will not be set initially.

Communication: Staff are available before and after school. While I may not always be free, Ash Class staff will happily pass on messages. You can also email ash@woodstone.leics.sch.uk, though for absences and urgent matters, please contact the school office. A formal meeting will be held in late January to discuss how your child has settled.

Finally, over the Christmas holidays we encourage you to talk to your child about Ash Class, the cabin, and staff to support their transition. We are aware the first couple of weeks may be unsettling but we are confident the children will soon begin to enjoy the Ash class.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please contact me at senco@woodstone.leics.sch.uk.

Kind regards,

Kelly Barnes
SENCo and Ash Class Teacher

