



# Avenue Junior School

## June Newsletter 2016

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### *Amazing Zara*

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Zara Kirkham in 4RP has raised an amazing £1705.20 (last time I looked!) so far for the Big C Charity. Zara, who is 9 years old, completed a remarkable DIY charity "quadrathlon" along part of the north Norfolk coast. This involved cycling, swimming, kayaking and walking along a route that she herself had devised and planned. She completed this on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June in rain, high winds and a choppy sea! Zara decided on the challenge after her mum was diagnosed with breast cancer a year ago. Zara said she had wanted to support the charity to: "thank them for helping mummy so much, and help them to help other people like mummy." You can read Zara's full story on the EDP website and also if you would like to make a donation the link is below. Well done, Zara – you truly are inspirational!



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Zara-Kirkham>

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### *Plantation Gardens Update*

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The Plantation Garden project is now well underway and is progressing nicely. Soon, every child in the school will have had the opportunity to visit the garden for activities including maths, creative writing, poetry, art, investigating the wildlife or working with children from Recreation Road. We are currently putting together information boards, a guide book and website which will incorporate some of the fantastic work produced by the children. Congratulations to Eadie Lea and Jack Gardiner in Year 4 for their parts in designing a logo which will appear on everything produced for the project, and to Roberto Aguilera and Gracie Dot Rae in Year 5 for their designs for the front and rear cover of the children's guidebook. We are aiming for an official launch at the garden in September, but hope that many of the resources we are producing will be ready for use over the summer holidays.

## *Annual Reports*

Annual reports will be produced for Y6 by the 8<sup>th</sup> July, along with Sats results, and for the rest of the school by 15<sup>th</sup> July. In the meantime, if you have any concerns about your child's progress please do contact the teacher.

## *Recent Events*

Thank you for your understanding following the flooding. All in all, it could have been a lot worse. A couple of pictures below give you an idea of what had happened. With the help of staff, security firm and our new parents (it was our New Parents' Evening!) we were able to move all children's work, costumes and props for the Lion King, the new library furniture and other valuables before the water got them! We've lost 7 carpets and spent Friday and Sunday draining corridors and making good as many areas as possible in order for us to reopen as swiftly as possible. Thank you for the offers of help; one parent turning up in wellies at 9.30 pm on Thursday! We will need to wait until the summer for carpets to be replaced, our beautiful new library to be up and running again and the floors to completely dry out! Let's hope we have no further downpours.



## *Upcoming Concerts*

It's a busy run to the end of the school year (when is it not busy?!) and as always the time passes very quickly. All the year groups still have many exciting learning activities planned for the children. Performances for the Summer concerts are this week for Years 5 & 6 and the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> July for Year 3 & 4 performance of Jack and the Beanstalk. A letter will be coming out this week for tickets for this show. The children have all worked very hard and I am sure you will be very impressed with the results. This year we will be doing a voluntary collection after each performance to raise money for the music department in school. This will help us buy some more musical instruments and help fund next year's performance. I hope you feel able to support this with a small donation.

Can I please remind all parents that you will need a ticket to get into the performance. Due to the number of children in school and a finite capacity this has to be limited to 2 per family in order for everyone to have the chance to see their child perform. All spare tickets have now been allocated for the evening performances. Please note that children (not babies) need a ticket even if sitting on a parent's lap. Please do not turn up without tickets (unless you have just forgotten them and we have a record of these!) as every year we are have to turn people away which can be upsetting and embarrassing.

## *Staffing for 2016 – 17*

### **Goodbyes**

This year we say goodbye to Mrs Wilson. Mrs Wilson joined the school 13 years ago as Miss Morales and during her time with us has taught from Year 7 right down to Year 3 as well as having two children along the way! Anna currently works part time and is going to be expanding her professional development to include some work at infant teaching too! Miss Maynard has only been with us a relatively short time, joining as a new teacher 3 years ago. Stacey will be moving to Norwich School to continue her career. We are also very sorry to lose Mrs Miller, our Sendco who is moving to work for the Educational Psychology Service (so we will probably still see a lot of her!) from September. Carrie has been an excellent Sendco and made a real difference to the education of so many of our young people but she is staying on one day a week in the Autumn Term to ensure a smooth transition for our new pupils as well as a good handover to our new Sendoc, Ms Dawn Jones. Dawn is an experienced Sendco and we are extremely lucky to have found someone of her caliber. Dawn will be working 2 days a week from September and then full time from January as she will need to work out her notice at her current school. Dawn will be arranging coffee mornings as soon as she begins to get to know parents of children with additional needs. I will also be supporting Dawn to ensure that all needs are met whilst the transition is in process.

We also say goodbye to Daniel Gottschalk and Gemma Reeves, 2 of our classroom assistants who have been a real asset to the school in the short time they have been here. Both are now beginning their PGCE year to become teachers.

We wish all our leaving staff all the very best for the future and thank them all for the contribution they have made to the school.

### **And hellos to.....**

We welcome to our teaching staff: Miss Gemma Halls who joins our Y3 team; Miss Madelaine Reeve who joins Y5; Miss Samantha Hughes joining Year 4 and Miss Abi Parker joining Y6 and Mrs Claire Woods (currently a teaching assistant) who will complete her trainee teacher year, working with Mr Peck in Y4.

### **Support Staff**

Mrs Helen Smith, Mrs Lilly Beatson, Dr Victoria Frost, Mr Andy Powley and Mr James Dyson all join our support staff team.

### **Midday Supervisors**

We are always looking to expand our excellent team of midday supervisors. It's a great way to get involved with school life (or stay connected to the school if your children are leaving!) and many of our classroom assistants began as MSAs and volunteers in school. If you enjoy working with children, are kind, caring, a good listener and also quick learner please contact Jennie Woodhead at the school (Wednesday – Friday) for more details. Part time or full time considered.

## *Heigham Park*

It is that time of the year again when the children love to go to the park after school. In years 5 & 6 the children are often without parental supervision. This is an important part of their journey to independence and for the most part very successful.

However our experience has shown that minority of children do not always behave in the way that school and parents would expect and can often behave out of character when there is a large group of children around. The school expects pupils to behave well out of school. A pupil's behaviour should be orderly and respectful of the people and environment around them. We do not expect behaviour that would pose a threat to another pupil or member of the public or that could adversely affect the good reputation of the school. The school will investigate instances of poor behaviour out of school and may impose a sanction in line with our behaviour policy for those behaving inappropriately. However, we would also like to assure you that we do not wish to take on the role of parents and that we would only be involved in the matter related to any of the behaviours outlined above.

We want all children to have an enjoyable time after school and that includes all the children who play in the park and their parents. We have spoken with the children around wise choices and peer pressure and I hope that you can reinforce this message to your child/children for when they visit the park. If you do have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## *And finally a few reminders*

**Dogs** - Please remember that dogs are not allowed on the school premises at any time. I am still getting reports of dogs been brought onto the playground or tied up outside the school. Although your dog may be friendly this can cause anxiety and concern amongst children and parents.

**Assemblies** - It's so lovely to see so many parents, carers, grandparents etc at class assemblies. As we are now at an intake of 480 from September, space will be tight. If you are able to, please sit upstairs so we can accommodate all our children comfortably in the hall. We are working on improving the sound system!

Can I also ask that as soon as the children begin coming into the hall that you can join us in being quiet. Assemblies are quiet reflection and celebration time and we encourage a respectful quietness from the children but this is hard to do when there is a lot of talking still from our audience. Please do not take offence & chat all you like before and afterwards! I will remind some of the staff too!

I hope you enjoy the rest of term and I hope to see you at the Art Exhibition on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July. In the meantime, I will be on the playground as usual on a morning or I am contactable by email if you have any questions.

Kind Regards

Debbie Dismore