



AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Tel: 01603 441034 Email: office@avenuejunior.norfolk.sch.uk

Website: www.avenuejuniorschool.org Head: Mrs Debbie Dismore

October Newsletter 2016

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Date reminder this term

14.10.16 Coffee morning with SendCo
18.10.16 Y6 residential meeting 6.30pm
20.10.16 PTA AGM 7.00pm
21.10.16 Close Half term
31.10.16 School Re-opens
03.11.16 Y4 Residential meeting 6.30 pm
04.11.16 Bonfire Cake Sale after school
W/B 7.11.16 Parent/Carer Consultations
11.11.16 School Discos
24.11.16 Y2 Open Afternoon & Evening
09.12.16 Christmas Fair 6 – 7.30pm
12.12.16 Y3 & 4 Christmas Carols 7pm.
14.12.16 Y5 & 6 Christmas Carols 7pm.
14.12.16 Christmas Jumper Day &
Christmas Lunch
16.12.16 School Closes

We are well and truly into the term and what a great start we have had. Two fabulous authors to inspire us (more on that below), and children out and about to the showground, the Castle, investigating the school grounds with the help of an explorer - and there is plenty more to come! I've been very pleased with the way that the children have settled into their new classes and on my regular walks around school I am pleased to see the super quality of learning happening in all classes. I am starting to recognise many more faces on a morning in the playground – please do come over and say hello – there are lots of names to learn!

One of the main concerns parents have is the lack of notice for events. We are trying to tackle that this year and I have included the form for Parent/Carer & teacher meetings for the week after half term to help you to plan. Hopefully the date planner sent out earlier will also help but we will of course be adding to this throughout the year so do keep an eye on the newsletters. If you are not signed up to email alerts and would like to be, please contact the office.

Website and Twitter

All schools are required by the government to have a website and there are some essential items and reports that must be there. We work hard to keep it as up to date as possible and it is full of information but if you have any suggestions of what else you would like to be on there or what you feel is missing, please do let us know. We tend to use Twitter for alerts (for example if a school trip is going to be late back, or to keep you up to date if children are on a residential) and it was also extremely helpful when the school flooded last year. The more people signed up, the quicker messages are passed around. All messages are also displayed on the website. We don't use it all the time so you won't be forever bothered by alerts!

PTA - WE NEED YOU!

Two years ago I sent a letter home regarding the lack of support for the PTA. There was a fantastic response and we were all very pleased to see it saved. All parents are automatically members when they join the school. However we are once again in the situation we were two years ago where there are really not enough regular helpers or committee members for the PTA to be sustainable. We lost more than ½ the committee at the end of last year as their children had all left the school. The PTA raises very important funds for the school as well as providing great opportunities and fun nights for you and your children. There is the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 20th October at 7pm. Please come along and show your support. If you cannot commit to being a committee member, a willing helper would be a fabulous role for you to play. There cannot be just 6 – 8 parents/carers who are doing all the work for 480 families. Contact Sonja via avenuespta@yahoo.co.uk for further details of how you can help or just come along!

School Development and Improvement Plan

Included with this newsletter is a copy of the school's values, Respect, Aspiration and Resilience, with the aspects of what we hope to achieve in the coming year based around these values.

Parents Groups

One of the areas we would really like to expand further this year is working to open up further opportunities for joint working with parents. The coffee mornings weren't overly well attended – were they too early in the term? We'd love your feedback. I know that for working parents it is very difficult to get time off during the day so we are looking at evening drop-ins as well.

Special Educational Needs

There is a coffee morning this Friday (14th) 9am for any parents who would like to come and meet our new SENDCo (Special Needs Coordinator) Dawn Jones. See website for more details. Dawn is with us on a Thursday and Friday only until thankfully she starts full time in January. Carrie Miller is now working for the Advisory Service in Norfolk but with us for a day a week until Christmas.

New to the Area? Still finding your feet?

We are so fortunate to have a wonderful, supportive community at Avenues. Each year we have a few new families move into the area, some from abroad. We would love to set up a group aimed at offering friendship, support or just sharing great ideas of what to do in the local area. If you are interested in helping us get this group off the ground please contact myself at head@avenuejunior.norfolk.sch.uk or Jake Brown through the school office. Everyone would be welcome – new or not!

Sport and Clubs

I am pleased to report that the school has just been accredited once again with the Gold Sports Mark Award for sports provision in school. This is a great accomplishment and many thanks go particularly to Sam Barwick for her dedication to ensuring as many opportunities as possible are found for children to get active, both in and out of school.

On that note, I am not sure that all parents/carers are fully aware of all the clubs offered in school; sometimes due to children not bringing home the letters! All the clubs we can offer this year are on the website under the tab 'Curriculum'. We have nearly 480 children in school and as much as we would love to offer everything which is requested, it is not possible but there is a good selection of sporting and non-sporting clubs. Some are offered by school staff at no cost but external providers do charge. Please do check the website for more details of these clubs and contact the office if you would like your child to attend or, if the club is full, put their name on a waiting list. We are also looking at offering some sports and activity clubs during the holidays this year so do look out for further details of these later on in the year.

PARKING

Can I remind all parents of the need to park very carefully. Unfortunately, many cars are being parked on the corners of roads or straight outside the school reception area making it very dangerous for children and families to cross the road safely or come into school. This is particularly the case on College Road, Swansea Road and Milford Road. Due to parking on the yellow lines cars are sometimes forced onto the pavements which is extremely dangerous for our children. For those drivers who are parking on the yellow lines, please stop – you will cause a terrible accident. We have already had a couple of near misses this year.

PLAYGROUND

Usual reminders that due to the number of families we have in school, we do not allow scootering or cycling on the playground before or after school. Can parents also supervise children on the sports area after school? Children (and parents!) should not be climbing up the sides or swinging from the goals. The Pirate Ship on the Y3 playground can only be used before & after school with parent supervision – the school cannot accept be held responsible for any accidents that occur before or after school opening and closing times.

Suggestions

There is a box outside the office for any suggestions you may have. Thank you for those already received – we do read them! A new display board of all staff, names and roles is coming very soon. If you would like a personal reply please add your name.

Reminder

Please remember to return your data checking sheets to the office. It is important that the contacts we hold for your child are up to date in case of an emergency.

Please remember, no nuts, chocolate or sweets in school. Many thanks
Also a reminder that we ask you not to send in sweets or cakes for children's birthdays. This is school policy and is in place for a number of reasons including the pressure put on parents to send in enough treats for 30 children and our commitment to healthy eating. Birthdays are celebrated in class with a card and song (if they want it!). Please keep all other special things for parties at home.

Message from the Governing Body

Avenue Junior School Governors held their first committee and full Governing Body meetings in September. The start of the school year is a time to review what was achieved in the previous school year and also to look forward to the year to come. The school and Governors look at the Avenue Junior's Vision and Values at the start of each school year and we agreed that these continue to be right for us. Over the course of the year, they also give the Governing Body part of the framework for holding the school to account.

All minutes of the Governing Body Meetings, once approved, can be found on the school website. They give a good reflection of the work of the Governing Body and hopefully will help you to see the work that happens to support and challenge the school.

The SATs results, which are now on the school website, are a significant achievement which we noted and celebrated. They reflect the school's core values of **Aspiration** and **Resilience** and how they can be reached by pupils, staff and parents working hard together.

Another of our values is **Respect** - the children are treated with respect by the adults working in the school which, in turn helps them to learn to treat others in the same way. Parents have an important role in supporting this by modelling this in their interactions with each other and with staff.

Unfortunately there have been an increasing number of incidents which have caused concern. This is from a minority of parents and we must make it clear that abusive or threatening behaviour to members of staff, parents, children or visitors to our school is unacceptable. This can include insulting language, whether verbal or written, to any user of the school premises.

This school is an inclusive place where people are valued for their contributions, and their gender, cultural, religious and social backgrounds are respected. The Governors of Avenue Junior School and Recreation Road Infant School have agreed that this is a shared aim of both schools and a joint policy has been written which clearly sets this out. The Policy is included with this newsletter and a copy is also on the website. Please help us by treating all members of the school community with respect.

Wendy Cleary
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Governing Body

Amazing Author Visits



On Monday 26th September we were very privileged to have the Children's Laureate, author and illustrator, Chris Riddell visit our school for an amazing event. Chris talked about his books and his life as an author and entertained the children by drawing the answers to their questions.

Avenue pupils were also joined by children from Colman Junior, Bluebell Primary and Wensum Junior. All pupils were inspired by his tales and illustrations and loved the chance to chat to the author also showing their own drawings of his characters to Chris who was impressed with their skills.



Meeting a celebrity



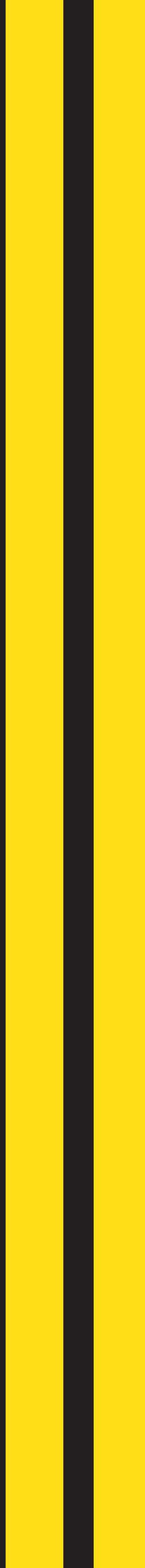
Some year 5 and 6 children were invited to a very special event on Tuesday 27th September to meet none other than Clare Balding. The event was held at 'The Open' where many schools were able to hear about her first children's book 'The Racehorse who wouldn't Gallop'.

The children really enjoyed listening to her and were able to ask questions about writing and also about the Olympics and Paralympics. She was a great inspiration to the children by talking to them about going for goals in their life no matter how big or small.

Many of our pupils were able to meet her up close where she kindly gave a lot of her time to the individual children and happily signed their books. It was lovely to hear lots of positive comments during the morning.



**DO NOT
STOP OR
PARK ON
DOUBLE
YELLOW
LINES!**





Avenue Junior and Recreation Road
Parent Behaviour and Respect Policy 2016-17



Rationale:

We want all our staff, children, parents and visitors to have a safe and protective environment in which to work. Behaviour that causes harassment, alarm, distress or intimidation to the users of the premises is contrary to the aims and values of our school.

Aims:

- That all members of the school community treat each other with respect and act appropriately

Expectation:

- That adults set an excellent example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and wider community
- That no members of staff, parents, children or visitors to our school are victims of abusive behaviour or threats from other adults on the school premises
- Physical attacks and threatening behaviour, abusive, insulting language verbal or written to any user of the school premises will not be tolerated and may result in the withdrawal of permission to be on the school premises
- Any parent who is asked to leave the school premises will have the right to appeal the decision by writing to the Head and Chair of Governors

Where possible the school will aim to work constructively with all parties to address any issues however, unacceptable behaviour may result in the Police being informed.

The school reserves the right to take any necessary actions to ensure that members of the school community are not subject to abuse.

School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from the school to be on the premises.

Signed.....Chair of Governors

Signed.....Headteacher

Date.....

This policy will be reviewed annually.

ENSURE CHILDREN ARE SAFE & HAPPY & LEARNING

Good mental health for all; e-safety, exercise, broad curriculum, body image, parents and school working together

RESPECT and CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

Challenge stereotypes, discrimination, make sense of the world today

CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT

Creative learning opportunities, assessment for Foundations Subjects & Science, Good PD for staff

IMPROVE STANDARDS IN MATHS

Improving progress of most able; challenge in classes, application of skills and reasoning

IMPROVE STANDARDS IN ENGLISH

Drafting process in writing, improve spelling and handwriting, development of the library

VULNERABLE GROUPS

SEND – sensory provision, dyslexia, numicon

Pupil Premium – progress for all, challenge most able, raise aspirations

EAL – improve provision in classes, support for parents

SPORT

MUGA, upskilling teachers working to expand curriculum content, opportunities outside school

MUSIC

Technology, across the curriculum and other schools, performance opportunities



Autumn Term Parent Consultations

Dear Parent/Carer

There will be an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher in the week beginning 7th November to discuss their progress. Could you please fill out the form below and return it to **your child's class teacher** as soon as possible.

Name of Child.....

Class.....

Name of Parent(s)/Carer attending

.....

Teachers have to see 30 sets of parents so appointments are approximately 10 minutes long. If you would like a longer appointment please speak to the teacher directly about arranging another time to accommodate this.

Appointments available (Please indicate 2 choices):

Monday 7th November

My preferred time is (please indicate)

3.30 – 4.00 4.00 – 4.30 4.30 – 5.00

5.00 – 5.30 5.30 – 6.00 6.00 – 6.20

Thursday 10th November

3.30 – 4.00 4.00 – 4.30 4.30 – 5.00 5.00 – 5.30 5.30 – 6.00

6.00 – 6.30 6.30 – 7.20

Please return completed sheet to school as soon as possible. Your appointment will be sent back to you.

I also have a child in(class)

Where possible we will arrange for the appointments to be in a similar time interval unless you inform us otherwise.