



AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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MAY NEWSLETTER 2017

Introduction

What a busy few weeks we have had. Well done to all the Year 6 children for working so hard towards their assessment tests last week. Despite how it might seem to Year 6, and possibly disappointingly, the learning still goes on and I know Year 6 have many exciting learning opportunities lined up for the remaining term at Avenues.

Whitwell Hall

For the first time ever we had a complete year group attending the camping residential in Y5. 118/118! Despite it being a bit chilly at night (I know, Year 5 - a bit of an understatement!), the children and staff had a wonderful time. I visited on the Tuesday (before it turned very cold!) and was impressed with the enthusiasm of the children as well as the exceptionally hard work of the staff. Well done to Mr Lowe and the rest of the crew who got very little sleep, cooked for 118 over a very basic fire/BBQ, played games, ran activities and still managed to be laughing and full of energy.

Arthritis UK

We are so lucky that our children are so caring and thoughtful. Well done to this amazing group of children in 4H who baked and sold cakes to raise funds for Arthritis UK. They raised a whopping £146 for the charity. Thank you also to Miss Hughes who helped to organise this with the children.



Crossing Patrol With thanks...

A colleague and I attended the funeral of Gemma Pryce, where the love that Gemma had for her family, friends and her job shone through. The children made some wonderful bunting to decorate Gemma's home and the family would like to extend their thanks to the pupils and everyone who sent cards and condolences. In school we will be planting a tree in her memory as well as displaying a photograph to ensure we do not forget the valuable contribution she made to our school community. During Charities Week in June we will also support the NNUH critical care team as one of our chosen charities.

Life does have to move on and you will have seen Avenues' staff (including myself!) covering the crossing duty. However Norfolk County Council is now looking for a replacement for this position. If you are interested, or know someone who may be interested then please see the details included with this email.

Walk to School Month

Many thanks to those of you who are supporting the Walk to School Initiative. However there are still a number of children who are being dropped off every day directly in front of the school. Is it possible, a couple of days a week, that if you have to drive you drop them off further away so they can be part of the data for their class? This week we start the monitoring of traffic with volunteers from school noting the hotspots for traffic – I look forward to analysing the information they collect.

Midday Supervisors – Have a try out session!

From September we will need two new midday supervisors. The Midday Supervisors are a fabulously dedicated team who bring many skills and talents to our school in addition to ensuring all children are safe and well cared for. If you are interested in the position but not sure what it entails why not come and join us one lunchtime for a 'trial session'? Contact myself at head@avenuejunior.norfolk.sch.uk or ring the school office for an appointment. We'd love to hear from you. It's a great way to get involved in the life of the school.

Caring for our environment

Recently, a huge branch was snapped off one of the few trees we have in school. In addition to this, Jennie Tilsley, who maintains our grounds regularly has found plants pulled up or trampled on very quickly after she has planted them. After speaking to the children in assembly this week many of the children came to me to share their concerns about younger siblings from Recreation Road swinging on branches and trampling plants after school. We would appreciate it if you could talk to any younger siblings regarding the importance of respecting nature, particularly in the gardens near the pirate ship which were planted in memory of two of our pupils. We would also ask you to discourage the children from swinging on branches as we have so little in the way of trees it is very sad that they are being damaged. Again we come back to remembering to monitor your child whilst they are on the premises so that we can continue to open the gates early. Please do support the school.

PTA events coming up:

Family Fun!

A reminder is attached to this letter about the annual Bike Day on Recreation Road Sports Field, Saturday 20th May from 10 am to 2 pm

Without the kids fun!

Not too late to snap up a ticket to the 90s evening being held on Saturday 20th May in the crypt at Bedfords from 8 pm.

The BBQ is earlier this year so don't forget to book the date out – 23rd June. More details will follow soon.

The PTA have been very supportive of the school this year and already they have improved the sound system in school (which will be much improved once we get the speakers back up following the conclusion of the hall works), paid for the theatre trips for Year 6 to see Running Wild and Y3 to see Fantastic Mr Fox (coming up!) as well as supporting other visits too. The PTA will also be supporting the Performing Arts week next week.

As we find it more and more difficult to provide funding for additional exciting opportunities, the support of the PTA is invaluable. Please do keep supporting them to provide these opportunities for our children.

Performing, Visual and Creative Arts Week

Just a reminder that we have our special week next week. Some parents have asked about making a contribution (entirely voluntary) via parent mail. Jennie Woodhead, our business manager, will set this up this week so that you are able to do so otherwise donations can be handed into the school office. We are looking forward to a super week!

Less than 2 weeks to the half term break. Please remember to try to take all holidays in the school holidays. There are 14 weeks holiday a year when family holidays should be taken.