



AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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JUNE NEWSLETTER 2017

Introduction

Welcome back for the final half term of the year and a wet and windy start after such glorious weather last week. Please do keep an eye on the weather forecast. Many children have come to school this week without adequate clothing for the change in temperature or a coat/jacket – essential if they are going to the sports centre!

Sadly we also started the term following a further terrorist attack. I have put some advice on the website for parents and carers on supporting your children with difficult news. I hope they may be of some help in these challenging times and the guidelines have been useful to us when discussing the events with children. There is a link to the documents on the front page.

Vacancies in school

We have a number of positions available starting September for Midday Supervisors. We are also sorry to be losing Debbie Lea who has introduced and led the very popular Loose Parts Play at lunchtime. Debbie will be leaving at the end of this year and we are looking for someone who is committed to creative play and outdoor learning who could help us to continue the fantastic legacy that Debbie has started. Ideally we would be looking for someone who could work 12 – 2pm daily but this could be a job share. Debbie is very happy to talk to anyone who may be interested and also to have the successful candidate work alongside her before taking over the ropes! Please get in touch if you are interested in this position. Adverts will be posted this week.

We still have had no luck in finding our new crossing patrol and whilst Miss Benstead is doing a wonderful job in covering this term, it will not be able to continue in September. Sadly, if no one applies for the position then there will be no crossing patrol on Avenue Road. In times when the County Council is having to reduce the number of patrols across the city I fear ours, which has been protected, will be lost forever. Please do consider whether you have the capacity to fill this role.

Message from the Chair of Governors

The Governors have held their Spring Term Governing Body meeting when Mrs Dismore gave us a very full report about what has been happening in school. We had information about what each year group has been doing and how different groups of children are progressing.

As well as making sure that the school's budget is being managed, so that all our current children can achieve their best, we continue to discuss the longer term future of the school. Our wish is to collaborate with other schools to provide more opportunities to support pupils and staff and to make best use of resources whilst retaining the qualities that make Avenue Junior a distinctive school. The most recent meeting was on 22nd May when we looked in detail at the various aspects of the proposal. It is through these discussions that we identify how this would work in practice. Further meetings are planned for this term and we will keep you updated about our progress.

At our meeting, the Governors discussed transition for our year 6 children and expressed concern for those families who were not able to get their first choice of Secondary School. We also asked about SATS which are a very stressful time for all concerned. We support the school in helping the pupils to be well prepared for these and just as importantly, making sure that learning and growing at our school is about much more than tests.

The Teaching, Learning and Pupil Well Being Committee will be having a monitoring day in school on 16th June when we will be able to sample the new school meals. The Governors worked with the school to improve this provision and we look forward to the time when we will have our meals cooked in our own kitchen. We will also be attending the launch of Norwich Schools of Sanctuary which is a fantastic way to show our school values in action.

With very best wishes, Wendy Cleary

Walk to School Month

Many thanks to those of you who supported the Walk to School Initiative. We had a good improvement throughout the school of walking at least part of the way to school. Interestingly, whilst I was on traffic monitoring duty there was very little poor parking! Let's make sure that this continues. I would also like to remind parents who drop children before school for breakfast club or activities in the school that the same rules apply for parking. Parking across the zig zag or double yellow lines is illegal, blocks parking spaces for staff parking and in some cases has been extremely dangerous with a few near misses of parents not being aware of children whilst reversing along the pavement. We have CCTV cameras which monitor this area of the school. Parents parking or dropping off illegally and dangerously will be contacted directly.

Performing, Visual and Creative Arts Week

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered time during our week or made a donation to the school. It was very much appreciated. We had a super week and the children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to have a more relaxed and creative end to the term – a very much needed one!

Opera Project – Into Opera - The King's Ransom

As I communicated earlier in the year we were lucky enough to be chosen to be part of a fantastic opera opportunity starting next year with performances at Open in February. We will be able to share with you more details in September. The project is being supported by voluntary donations and fundraising. One of the ways they are hoping to raise money is through the Tesco's Community Projects scheme. If you shop at Tesco's please ask for a token! If there are any parents who would be interested in advertising in the brochure that will be produced to go alongside the production, or sponsor the project in any way please contact Genevieve Raghu genevieve.raghu@into-opera.org.uk

Charities Week

Coinciding with Refugee Week we are holding our Charities Week this year between 19th – 23rd June. Details are included with this newsletter.

Non – School Uniform Day & PTA support

As part of Charities Week to support the PTA BBQ Wednesday 21st June will be a non-school uniform day in exchange for a donation to the tombola. This could be anything from toiletries, tins of food, small toys, chocolate etc but please do not send the children in with alcohol! Many thanks for any contributions. The Y3 children who are on a visit that day (3M and part of 3H) will have their non- uniform day on the Tuesday 20th June.

BBQ time! Friday 23rd June 2017 – see the PTA letter for details about purchasing tickets.

Reminders from the office

Photographs – any orders for class and group photographs must be in before 14th June 2017.

A letter has just been sent regarding the concert performances for Years 5 & 6. Please ensure you book your tickets as due to space restrictions we are unable to allocate further seats on the day.

Finances

Can I please remind all parents that music invoices, visit costs and dinner money must be paid. Parents need to check parentmail as invoices are no longer sent out routinely. You will be aware that all schools are facing funding cuts and difficult times lay ahead. Every year we have a growing number of unpaid invoices for visits, music tuition and dinner money. The school cannot carry on absorbing these costs. If you are having difficulty paying for activities or lunches you must contact the school immediately so that we can discuss the situation privately. Unfortunately if the current situation continues it will affect the activities and services we offer.

Finally

This is a busy and exciting term! Please keep an eye on emails – they should only be coming home twice a week but this is the way all the reminders of events will be sent out (unless you have requested a paper copy). Year groups will also be sending their own newsletters and curriculum maps out shortly with specific dates and events. Enjoy the term and I look forward to seeing you at some of the many events in the coming 6 weeks.

Best wishes. Debbie Dismore