



AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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September Newsletter 2017

Welcome back! It was a lovely summer and it has been great catching up with the children to hear about their holidays and adventures. We welcome our new children and parents; it's been great to meet you all at the gate in the morning and the children are settling in beautifully. Please remember that if you have any worries or concerns you can speak to your child's class teacher or feel free to have a chat with any of us on the playground in the morning. You can also contact me via the school office. Mrs. Dismore would also like to offer her gratitude for all the well wishes she has received; they have been passed on and are appreciated.

Each year group will soon have a coffee get-together – we encourage you to attend as it will be a great opportunity to meet with your class teacher and to have a chat with your children about their work. Years 3, 4 and 5 will meet from 2.15pm onwards on the following dates:

Y3 Wednesday 20th September

Y4 Wednesday 11th October

Y5 Tuesday 26th September

Y6 will have a curriculum evening followed by an informal chat with teachers on Thursday 28th September at 6.30 pm

There will be another coffee get-together for anybody to meet the Dawn Jones, the SENco, and the pastoral team.

Safeguarding – Keeping Children Safe from Harm

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility in school. If you are concerned about a child, you should report the matter immediately to me or Mr. Chambers in confidence. Please be aware that if we have concerns about any child in school we have a duty to follow those concerns up. Our full Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website.

Homework

We have a new homework statement that will be included in an information pack sent out over the next week or two. In brief, we do not set formal homework tasks and want you to enjoy spending quality time with your children. The best support that you can give them is to talk about their learning with them and encourage a love of reading. Reading records will be sent home daily. We will send information home about their learning with some information about the kinds of activities they may enjoy doing as an optional task.

Couple of reminders

Nut- Free

We are a nut free school as we have a number of children throughout school with nut allergies. Could you please ensure that snacks and packed lunches are nut free. Thank you for your support with this.

Water Bottles

All children should have a transparent water bottle in school which they can refill throughout the day. If possible, named!

Parking

As you know, it is very busy at drop off and collection times but I must request that you avoid parking in front of people's drives as it blocks their access and causes local residents unnecessary upset and frustration. Thank you.

P.E. Kits

P.E. kits are best left in school until they need washing in order for children not to forget to bring their kit! Finding spare kit makes it very difficult to start lessons promptly. If you require any help in providing a games kit please do let us know.

Class Dojo

This year, every class will be using Class Dojo as a way to communicate with parents and to celebrate your child's learning in school. I know lots of you may have signed up to this already and over the next week, every child will have brought home the specific details of how to join their 'class'. Please see the attached letter for more details.

Crossing Patrol

As you will have noticed, we have a vacancy for crossing patrol outside the main gate on Avenue Road and we do not have the capacity to cover this role using school staff. Please see the letter attached which has details of how to apply should you or anybody you know be interested.

We have a lot of information to collect and to give you at this time of the year. Over the next week or two a pack of information will come home – please look out for it. All information is also posted on the website. Keep an eye on it!

Best wishes

Mike Hooper

Avenues Community Choir

Singing will be starting again on Monday 11th September! The community choir meet in the school hall every Monday from 6pm to 7pm.

Worried your singing isn't good enough? Don't be. The choir welcomes anyone who is enthusiastic, regardless of experience, adults as well as willing children aged 7+!

Still not convinced? Remember that singing with other people is officially good for your health! Recent studies have proven that singing in a group offers a range of benefits including helping alleviate stress and anxiety, and is an easy way to increase feelings of meaningfulness and social connection. All that and – in true school-hall tradition – free tea, coffee, squash and biscuits!

Hope to see lots of you on Monday and looking forward to getting singing again! Further information attached.

A message from Wendy Cleary (Chair of Governors)

The start of the school year is an exciting time for all those involved with schools – full of new possibilities and challenges. On behalf of the Governors, I welcome all those joining our school - pupils and their families, as well as staff, and say welcome back to those who are already part of our community. The Governors will be in school at various times over the coming term and look forward to meeting many of you.

One change, of which you will be aware, is that Mrs. Dismore cannot be in school at this time as she needs to be with her son. Whilst she is away, the school is in very good hands with Mr. Hooper as Acting Head. We are fortunate that the school has such an experienced Deputy Head Teacher who can take on this responsibility. He has been attending Governing Body meetings for some time as an Associate Governor and has made many contributions to support our work. So I am able to say from personal experience that the Governors are very confident about his abilities to lead our school and we look forward to working with him in his new role.