



AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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October Newsletter 2017

In This Issue & Important Dates

Page 1
Overview
Communication
Message from Governors
Dates to Remember
Page 2
School Development Plan
Playground
Parking
Parent/Carer Consultations
Mrs Dismore
Online Safety
Respect
Other Documents: Respect policy and SDIP

Date reminder this term
30.10.17 School Re-opens
30.10.17 School Photographs
02.11.17 PTA Cake Sale after school
W/B 06.11.17 Parent/Carer Consultations
14.11.17 Y2 Open Afternoon & Evening
W/B 27.11.17 Y4 Horstead Residential
W/B 27.11.17 Travelling Bookfair
15.12.17 PTA Christmas Fair 6 – 7.30pm
*11.12.17 Y3 & 4 Christmas Carols 7pm.
*13.12.17 Y5 & 6 Christmas Carols 7pm.
(*Dates TBC)
14.12.17 Christmas Jumper Day &
Christmas Lunch

The first half term of the year has been full of exciting learning. We have been treated to two author visits from Gary Northfield and Mitch Johnson who have inspired the children. An explorer has helped the Year 3 children investigate the school grounds and 'Into Opera' have begun work with some of our Year 4 and 5 pupils to produce an amazing production called *A King's Ransom*. I have enjoyed walking round school and seeing how brilliantly the children have settled. Some fantastic learning has taken place and the children have worked incredibly hard. One visitor described our pupils as 'calm and polite' – something I would echo!

We will try to keep you up to date with all of the information you need so please make sure you keep an eye out for the newsletters as well as emails. If you're not signed up to receive emails, pop into the office and they can help. Likewise, Class Dojo has proven to be a very popular tool and has enabled easy contact between parents and class teachers. If you would like to know more about this, speak to your child's class teacher.

Website, Twitter and Class Dojo (communication)

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 are trying to use our Twitter account to keep you informed about some of the great things that happen at school but we also use this to alert parents about important news (such as late return from trips etc). Class Dojo is a new tool for us this year and we will use this primarily for information to be shared between you and your child's teacher. However, we would welcome any feedback about Class Dojo as we want to ensure it's as useful to you as possible.

Message from the Governing Body

The Governors held their first Full Governing Body meeting of the school year last week. This is always a busy one with lots of admin to get the year started. This includes appointing link governors with responsibility for particular areas of the curriculum and for special groups. These governors look in detail at these - including visiting school to meet with staff, and report back to the rest of us so that we keep well informed about the work of the school and can perform our duty of holding the school to account.

The Governing Body wishes to fill two Parent Governor vacancies and a formal notification of this will be sent out after half term. Look out for governor representatives at the parent teacher consultation afternoons and evenings. We will be very pleased to tell you more about what this role involves. It is a challenging and worthwhile one. So if you like to work as part of team and are prepared to spend some time attending meetings and training in order to help the school develop then have a look at the school website, come and speak to us at the parent's evenings or contact me via the school office.

Wendy Cleary (Chair of Governors) On behalf of the Governing Body

School Development and Improvement Plan (SDIP)

A copy of the school's SDIP is enclosed with this newsletter to inform you about our main goals for the rest of the year.

Consultation Evening

You should have received a letter about making an appointment to speak with your child's class teachers. Please do get these back as soon as possible to ensure that we can organise the meeting schedule.

Online Safety

Keeping up with our children's use of technology can feel impossible! The children have such ready access to the Internet through a wide range of devices and it can be difficult to know exactly how to parent this part of their lives. We will hold an Online Safety session for parents on **Tuesday 21st November** where you can come along and find out about how to support your child in making the most of the Internet in a safe and responsible way. You will be able to choose between a session 2pm-3pm or 6pm-7pm.

PARKING

I have been very pleased with the number of car users that have been so considerate to our children as they cross the road on Avenue Road. Many of you have stopped to allow the children to cross and they have been very sensible and safe in their approach to crossing safely. However, I have also witnessed cars mounting the path, performing 3 point turns causing congestion, parking in front of residents' drives, speeding and generally driving unsafely. If you are able to drop off further away from school then please do so. If you feel you may be guilty of poor driving around school, please stop. We must all consider the safety of our pupils.

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 be held responsible for any accidents that occur before or after school opening and closing times.

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.

Mrs. Dismore

It was lovely that Mrs Dismore was able to pop in last Friday to see all of the children and to look at some of their work. Her son, Daniel, will now continue his recovery from surgery with her support. This is likely to be a lengthy process but in the meantime I am sure that you will join me in sending them our best wishes. I will continue in my role as Acting Headteacher during this period.

Respect

Respect is one of our core values and is something that we talk to the children about. We also role model respect as staff in school and ask that parents do the same. I have included a copy of our Parent Behaviour and Respect Policy written with Recreation Road Infant School. We are confident that you will join us in wanting to uphold this value in school.

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.

Most importantly!

Have a lovely half term

From all the staff at Avenues



Avenue Junior and Recreation Road

Respect Policy 2017-18



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.

AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

SDIP Priorities in a nutshell 2017 -18

ENSURE CHILDREN ARE SAFE & HAPPY & LEARNING

Good mental health for all; pastoral support, 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 (eg Opera), embedding purposeful assessment for Foundations Subjects & Science, Professional Development for subject leaders to inspire/promote passion in their subjects

IMPROVE STANDARDS IN MATHS

Improving progress of all groups but particularly upper middle ability, girls & most able; challenge in classes, application of skills and reasoning.

IMPROVE STANDARDS IN ENGLISH

Reading - whole class guided reading and individual home/school reading

Spelling – throughout all years reflected in all work

Handwriting and Presentation

VULNERABLE GROUPS

SEND – developing communication skills, effective learning passports, visual stress, sensory processing

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

SPORT

Extend usage of sports facilities, high quality gym and dance, improve teacher confidence, new diverse sports opportunities in a range of settings