



AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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December Newsletter 2017

It seems impossible to believe that we have already reached the festive period at the end of such a busy term! The children have all worked incredibly hard and are now enjoying learning carols ready for their concerts next week. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the parents, carers and children a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Date reminders

**7pm Monday 11th December – Year 3 and 4
Carol Concert at St Thomas' Church**

**7pm Tuesday 12th December – Year 5 and 6
Carol Concert at St Thomas' Church**

**Thursday 14th December – Christmas Jumper
Day and Christmas lunch**

Friday 15th December – Christmas Fayre

**Tuesday 19th December – last day at school
before Christmas**

Thursday 4th January - Spring term begins



Avenue Junior School Christmas Fayre

Friday 15th December

6.00pm-7.30pm

Brings your pennies and your sparkle!

(Donations to the tombola, & the cake stall would be much appreciated. Thank you)

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Thursday 14th December, we will support the Save the Children Christmas Jumper day. Please don't feel that you have to buy a jumper especially for this. In the past, children have enjoyed adding tinsel and decorations to their jumpers! We ask for a suggested voluntary donation of £1 to support this charity.

Usual uniform applies except for the jumper!

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS

These will be held on 11th (Year 3 and 4) and 12th (Year 5 and 6) of December at St Thomas' Church.

The expectation is that all children will come. It is always such a lovely occasion and leaves everyone full of Christmas cheer.

Children should arrive no earlier than 6.45 pm for a 7 o'clock start. Uniform should be worn.

We look forward to seeing you there and hopefully hearing you join in with some of the songs!

New Staff

Ms Jones has joined our team in the office; she will work on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

We are also pleased to welcome Wendy Goreham in her role as crossing patrol. I know that it is a comfort to all of us to know that the children are being supported in their road crossing at such a busy time of day. I would like to say thank you to the children for crossing so sensibly while the position was vacant.

Mrs. Dismore

Mrs. Dismore's letters to staff and children were well received. Many of you have been asking me how we can respond as a school community. The children have been making class cards for Mrs. Dismore and her son, Daniel, and there is a book in the office for parents to write messages or send cards if they wish. We will also be aligning our charity collection at the Carol Concert to support Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Governor News

Governors Update December

We have two new Parent Governors – Ally Ireson and Sam Rowbury – and a new Staff Governor, Miss Zivtins. Thank you to each of them for putting themselves forward for these roles. We look forward to them joining us for governors' meetings in the New Year.

Our last 2017 meetings have taken place. The Teaching and Learning and Well-being Committee had another enjoyable day in school, meeting with teachers to learn about the work that has been going on and to see some of the children's work. This time we had a particular focus on Maths and English and we always consider how the children with additional needs are being supported. We had a hot lunch with the children so we could see and taste for ourselves how good the food is and ask them what they think about it. Resources Committee monitored the latest budget information - it's a balancing act between making sure the school is financially secure for the future, whilst spending money allocated for this year to give best value for children who are with us currently.

The Full Governing Body meeting took place earlier this week when we said goodbye and thank you to Catriona Milne who has been an excellent clerk for us since 2013. We continue to spend a considerable amount of time considering issues around school collaboration. Our first consideration is always how this work would improve outcomes for children. We are agreed that joint working with colleagues at Recreation Road Infant School is key to this and, like them, we believe that the principles of the Co-operative schools model best matches our values and ethos. There will be further meetings in the coming months and we will keep you updated.

It was also my last meeting as Chair – I have very much enjoyed working with governors, Mrs. Dismore and Mr. Hooper and I will be staying on the Governing Body for the rest of this school year. Nania Poulson will be taking over from me in January; she will be a familiar face to many of you through the PTA and the Community Choir and I look forward to supporting her and the school in the months ahead.

Wendy Cleary, Chair of Governors

I would like to thank Wendy Cleary for her 8 years of service as Chair and I'm so pleased that she will remain on our governing body for a while yet! She has been a huge support to school in this role and also to me personally as I have taken on the role of Acting Head.

CNS Admission Consultation

CNS, one of the high schools our pupils tend to go to, have proposed changes to their admissions policy. They have written a letter detailing these to me and I would like to share them with you. They are proposing that their pupil numbers for Year 7 are set at 270 from 2019 and that up to 10% of this number will be 'For students with a potential for or aptitude in music.' The full Admissions Policy and details of the consultation are on their website, <http://www.cns-school.org/AboutUs/Admissions-Consultation-2019/>.

I would encourage you to contribute to the consultation to help CNS take account of the views of their potential future pupils' families.

You can comment directly via email, admissions@cns-school.org.