



AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Christmas Newsletter 2018

Christmas seems to come quicker every year and it's hard to believe we are nearly at the end of the first term! It has been lovely being back at school and Mr Hooper and I will continue to share the headship of the school for the rest of the 2018-19 year. As always at this time of year we collect for those less fortunate than ourselves. However, we also recognise that it is a costly time for all. Please only contribute to the causes if you are able to, please don't feel obliged. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the parents, guardians and children a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Date reminders

7pm Monday 10th December – Year 3 and 4
Carol Concert at St Thomas' Church

7pm Tuesday 11th December – Year 5 and 6
Carol Concert at St Thomas' Church

Friday 14th December – Christmas Jumper
Day and Christmas lunch. Sugar collection

Saturday 15th December – Big Christmas
Give Collection – see flyer

Monday 17th December – Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 18th December – School closes

Thursday 3rd January - Spring term begins

Sugar for Shelters - Bring in a bag - Friday 14th December

Just a reminder we are once again collecting sugar as part of our Christmas Charity work

Why sugar? We are asked to collect sugar because it is a simple and affordable way to support the charity. Sugar packs keep well and is a very important source of energy to the people who need help. The shelters and soup kitchens rely on large quantities of it, particularly in the winter months. Our record for collection is over 300 bags - it would be great to beat that this year!

If you can't make the Big Christmas Give on Saturday 15th then items can be brought into school on Friday 14th December.

Attendance

School attendance this term has been considerably lower than in previous years. Whilst we expect that children will become ill from time to time there has been a far greater level of absence than would be expected. Some of this is down to an increasing number of parents taking children for term time holidays. Please take all holidays out of term time. All children should aim for an attendance of 97% over the year, this allows for those odd occasions of illness. Children missing lessons find it very difficult to catch up with the rest of the class and it is very hard to have the resources to work with individual children who have missed days of learning. Let's all work together to improve attendance next term.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Friday 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!

Staffing Updates

We welcome Lesley Websdale who has joined us in the Admin team replacing Jennie Woodhead, our finance officer who leaves this term after 12 years at the school. We are very sad to be losing such a fantastic, experienced colleague, but Lesley comes with many years of experience of working in schools and we are already enjoying working with her. We are also very sorry to have to say goodbye to Diego Cuellar who is returning to Spain; he will be missed by staff, parents and children alike and I know he is very sorry to be leaving us.

Also joining us are 2 new classroom assistants; Polly Gilham and Farideh Kohanzad who are both supporting in Year 6.

We thank Mrs Wilson for stepping in whilst Mr Peterson was on paternity leave and are happy to share the news that Mr Peterson has another boy to add to his family!



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are holding our Christmas Fair on **Monday the 17th of December** from **6-7.30 pm** and we'd love you all to come along. There will be stalls selling food, arts and crafts as well as mulled wine and cakes and games and crafts for the children and of course Father Christmas in his grotto.

We need a little helping hand to run the fair and are asking for a few things...

- ❖ **Christmas Jolly Jars**, please fill a jam jar with Christmassy treats and toys (send to the office next week)
- ❖ **Donations for our tombola** (send to the office next week)
- ❖ **Cake donations** (on the day)
- ❖ **Helpers** to run some of the stalls for 30 minute slots.

If you are able to help (we can't run it without you) please email chairptaavenues@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there!

With thanks,

Avenues PTA