



Avenue Junior School

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2019

We are almost at half term and half way through the year – where did that time go?! If your child is in Years 3 – 5, I hope that you had the chance to pop in this week on the open mornings, to see how your child is progressing and also join in some activities. For Year 6 parents, don't forget there is an opportunity for this after half term on Tuesday 26th February, when we will be running an evening with information about SATs and the residential visit.

Attendance and Punctuality

As it is a half-way point, I thought it would be a good time to send out your child's attendance so far this year. You will receive a print out at the end of this week. As a guide for you:

Your child's attendance should be above 97%, however at this point in the year, if they have had a couple of instances of illness it may be slightly lower.

Attendance between 90 - 94%: We will be looking carefully at the reasons why it is at this level and may send you a letter/email to alert you to any concerns we may have.

Attendance below 90%: This is a real cause for concern and is classed as persistent absence. At this level you will be contacted and you will have to attend a meeting with the school unless there are exceptional circumstances that we are already aware of.

For the majority of children attendance is good and our overall school attendance is 96.7%, which is above national average **but** we are struggling with the growing number of parents bringing their children late in to school. This is disruptive to the learning for the whole class and can cause embarrassment for the child, as well as the child missing that important part of settling into routines for the day. School lessons begin promptly at 8.45 am. The school gates and classes are open from 8.30 a.m. Children should not be arriving at the gates after 8.45 a.m. as they will be late getting into class. For those parents for whom this applies, please make a determined effort to turn this around. Lauren Gislam, our Parent Support Advisor, is available to give support if there are any difficulties in managing the morning routines. We will contact you directly if we see no improvement.

There are still some parents coming into school with their children at morning drop off. Can I remind all parents in all year groups that children must be allowed to come into school independently, unless there are arrangements agreed with senior staff. They are all capable of doing so. If there is an issue, please speak to one of the members of staff on duty in the playground or speak to the office staff. Teachers have already begun the morning routines and should not be disturbed at this time. Important messages will always be passed on.

Playground Collection

Thank you for respecting the boundaries at the end of the school day. It is important for the safety of all children that parents respect the barriers used until 3.15pm and only use the Milford Entrance to speak to office staff before this time. For privacy of the teachers and children, parents should wait away from the classroom doors and windows when the barriers are removed.

Could parents also please ensure that younger children are supervised in all areas of the playground. Please do not bring footballs onto the school playground for use in the MUGA area. Children should go straight home after they are collected. Can I also remind all parents that dogs are not allowed on the premises unless they are guide dogs. It is not possible for staff to always be on the playground at the end of the day, as they are often meeting with parents, so do please abide by these rules.

Good news!

Our application for funding through the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme has been successful and our project to raise money to enhance music provision in the school will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores during March and April 2019. Please encourage all your friends and relatives, if they shop in Tesco, to post their tokens for us. More details on the website. This will bring much needed funds in to keep Avenues Music thriving. Well done to Mr Taylor for his successful application.

Communication survey

We would very much appreciate your support in completing a short survey around the way the school communicates with you, so that we can ensure you get the information you want and find useful.

The survey will be available on the website for you to complete. Many thanks for your help.

Thank you for all the donations for the British Red Cross Winter Clothes Collection. We had a fabulous response and we know they will all be put to very good use.

We are still collecting board games, colouring books and jigsaws for wet play/ lunchtimes. Please drop these off at the office – many thanks.

Lettings: We currently have a slot available on a Thursday evening if anyone is interested in a regular booking. Contact Lesley Websdale finance@avenuejunior.norfolk.sch.uk for further details.