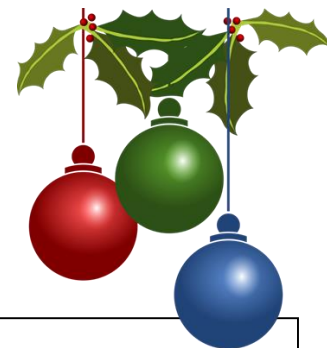


AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Tel: 01603 441034 Email: office@avenuejunior.norfolk.sch.uk

Website: www.avenuejuniorschool.org

Christmas Newsletter 2019



Christmas seems to come quicker every year and it's hard to believe we are nearly at the end of the first term.

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 9th December – Year 3 and 4
Carol Concert at St Thomas' Church**

**7pm Tuesday 10th December – Year 5 and 6
Carol Concert at St Thomas' Church**

**Wednesday 11th December – Christmas
Jumper Day and Christmas lunch.**

**Saturday 14th December – Big Christmas Give
Collection – see flyer**

Monday 16th December – Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 18th December – School closes

Monday 6th January - Spring term begins

Sugar for Shelters – Bring in a bag

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 homeless charities. Sugar packs store and keep well and are a very important source of energy to the people who need help. It is essential to many Christmas foods and beverages and the shelters and soup kitchens need 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! Deadline for donations is the 11th December.

Attendance

All children should aim for 100% attendance with the school's target being 97% over the year, allowing 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. You will also be sent a copy of your child's attendance at the end of this term along with information about whether this is a cause for concern or not.

Non uniform / Christmas Jumper Day

On **Wednesday 11th December** to support the NSPCC Christmas Jumper day. In school on that day, children will be able to wear non-school uniform. If they wish, they can wear a Christmas jumper. This does not have to be one that they have bought! Children are welcome to decorate their usual school jumpers for the day. There is a suggested donation of £1 to support this.

Staffing Updates

We wish to inform you that unfortunately Nadine Avenall will not be continuing in her role as SENDCo at Avenue Junior School and will be finishing at the end of this term. We would like to thank Nadine for the contribution she has made this term. We are pleased to inform you that we have appointed Rosie Aimes who will be starting in January. Ms Aimes is currently a SENDCo in a large primary school in London and we will organise a coffee morning in January for parents to meet with her. Obviously we recognise that this will be of concern to parents but Ms Avenall will work closely with Ms Aimes in order to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Schools Council Update

The school council has started this term and children from different classes have been enjoying our meetings. Our first meeting was about Children in Need. The children from the School Council decided how we would raise funds. We are pleased to inform you that we raised £351 for Children in Need. We all wish you a Merry Christmas from the School Council!

(Cleo Marcantonio – School Council Chair)

Researchers wanted for Schools of Sanctuary project

Mr Rose-Brown is working with Anglia Ruskin University on a Heritage Lottery funded project which will explore the experiences of Basque child refugees who fled the Spanish Civil War in the 30s and resettled in East Anglia. Do you have some spare time between January and March to do some research and take part in a community history project? The research will inspire teaching and learning and creative response in our school and in others across the region. No experience necessary. Please email Mr Rose-Brown via the office for more information.

Exciting Visitors to School!

We've been really privileged to have had two particularly amazing and inspirational people visiting Avenue Junior School this term!

Alfie Hewett, British No.1 wheelchair tennis player, Paralympics double silver medallist and two-time US Open champion, visited the school to talk about his journey and the hard work and resilience which has allowed him to achieve so highly in the sport.

We were also visited by **Paula Kahumbu**, a multi-award winning wildlife conservationist and the Chief Executive Officer of WildlifeDirect. She spearheads the Hands Off Our Elephants Campaign in Kenya, which was launched in 2014 and has done a huge amount to educate people, including numerous TV appearances.

We were also pleased to welcome Ben Manley, author of The Misadventures of Frederick (and parent of children at Avenues) who talked to the Year 3 children about his work. It was great to see how inspired the children were by his visit.

Parking

As you may be aware, many of the streets surrounding the school are going to become 'permit parking only' very soon. This will put extra pressure on non-permitted streets at drop off and collection times and we are worried that roads could become busier and therefore more dangerous for children.

We ask that you please do consider whether you absolutely need to drive to school or if you can find an alternative mode of transport or drop off further away from school.

For those of you that do and may continue to drive, please note that parking is not permitted on the yellow zig zag markings at the front entrance of the school at any time. We also ask that drivers do not mount the kerb when dropping off or collecting children. Children have spoken to me about this making them feel scared as they walk on the path and there have been near misses on several occasions.

Cash4Coins

We are asking for money you will not miss.

- ✓ FOREIGN COINS OR NOTES
- ✓ OLD BRITISH / IRISH CURRENCY
- ✓ FARTHING TO OLD 50 PENCE,
- ✓ OLD, OBSOLETE OR CURRENT CURRENCY

LITERALLY ANYTHING THAT IS OR WAS ONCE MONEY SHOULD BE COLLECTED.

Anything that we collect can then be bought by Cash4Coins as a donation to the school.

Please donate via the main office.

The Big Christmas Give

There will be a Food Bank collection on the school playground on Saturday 14th December. The support for this has been tremendous in the past and we hope you will feel able to donate again this year.