



AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

AVENUE ROAD, NORWICH, NORFOLK, NR2 3HP

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December 2021 Newsletter

As we move on into December, we can begin to reflect on the past term and look forward to Christmas. Although it is a shame that we cannot welcome you into our usual Christmassy events, we are looking forward to a festive last few weeks at school with lots of fun for all of the children. We are inviting you onto the playground for some carols – please see the next page for details...

IMPORTANT information for families entitled to free school meals

It is great that Norfolk County Council will continue to use the grant from the government's DWP Household Support Fund to provide vouchers for children entitled to free school meals for over the holiday.

Each eligible family will be allocated £55 based upon £15 per child per week for the 2 weeks of the holiday, plus an additional £25 per child to help families free up household finances in advance of an anticipated rise in energy costs in January and to try and help children enjoy a better Christmas than they might otherwise have.

If you receive one of the following then your child may be eligible:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Child Tax Credit

Please do apply as soon as possible if you are eligible. As well as your child receiving free school meals the school receives additional funding for each pupil identified. Further information can be found here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

Our Christmas lunch is on Wednesday 15th December. Please remember to order this by Monday 6th December. We will have our Christmas Jumper Day on 15th December which is different to the national jumper day but please donate to the Save the Children Fund via, <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate-hub-rgpp> if you feel able.

Scooters and bicycles

It is great to see so many of the children riding bikes or scooters to school. Please can we ask that you **send a lock in with your scooters and bikes**. This will help to keep them secure and prevent them from falling over. Please be aware that all year groups are able to store bikes and scooters at school (previously in lockdown this wasn't possible).

Staffing Updates

We have said goodbye to Mr. Ruiz who was a support staff member. He has gone to teach Math's at high school. We congratulate him on this appointment and wish him well.

We also congratulate Mrs. Read on the birth of her son Eddie who was born earlier in November.

Does your family speak a language other than English?

We believe that there may be a number of families who speak languages other than English who did not identify that when they completed their admission form.

Was your child exposed to a language other than English in their first years of life and do they continue to be exposed to that language either at home or in the community? If so, please let us know by completing the form below so that the school can receive additional funding to better support the language development of our pupils. This information also helps us to better understand the families in our community and to plan how to acknowledge and celebrate the many languages spoken by our pupils and their families.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2O0sWZI_V0G_uXMmABSzqo-yQpiYBeZHRWdC2FJKfLJUNTILRDIKQ0RGTjIST0xZ_NFRUVIVIWkU0Qi4u

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is central to everything that we do at Avenues. The Designated Safeguarding Leads in school are:

- Mike Hooper (Head of School)
- Steve Chambers (Deputy Head of School)
- Lauren Gislam (Parent Support Advisor)
- Jake Rose-Brown (Class teacher and Inclusion Champion)

If you have any safeguarding concerns or worries about a child then please do ask to speak to one of us so we can help.

Gifts for Staff – Just to be clear, staff do not expect to receive gifts at all and we all find our work reward enough. However, I have been asked by some parents if we can accept presents for staff. We ask that if you wish to give a gift to staff that this is brought in by Tuesday 14th December to allow 72 hours for quarantine.

Thank you

Carols on the Playground

Whilst we have taken the decision to not hold big Christmas events due to Covid, we are going to hold a class Christmas sing-a-long for parents and carers to attend. These events will be timetabled to avoid mixing and held outside on the playground. We ask that no more than two family members attend.

We will have a hot drink and mince pies to help end the term with some festive cheer.

I understand that this is short notice but we really have had to consider and then reconsider plans due to changing circumstances around Covid. We hope that you will be able to come.

Timeslots:

	9am	11am	1.30pm	2.30pm
13.12.21	3L	3R	3MRB	3BT
14.12.21	4Z	4H	4B	4G
15.12.21	5P	5A	5B	5TC
16.12.21	6R	6C	6T	6TH

School Term Dates for the rest of the year

Spring term

Thursday 6th January - Friday 11 February 2022

Half-term holiday: Monday 14 - Friday 18 February 2022

Monday 21 February - Friday 1 April 2022

Easter holiday: Monday 4 - Tuesday 19 April 2022

Summer term

Wednesday 20 April - Friday 27 May 2022 (Monday 2 May is a Bank Holiday)

Half-term holiday: Monday 30 - Friday 3 June 2022

Monday 6 June - Friday 22 July 2022

Summer holiday: Monday 25 July - Monday 5 September 2022

Please note, the date of 5th January 2022 is a holiday day to replace the Diamond Jubilee day which falls in school holiday time. This is a difference to the published Norfolk term dates. All schools have been told to take an additional day and we have agreed this with Recreation Road Infant School. 5th January was recommended as the date to take by the Local Authority.