

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

AVENUE ROAD, NORWICH, NORFOLK, NR2

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October 2022 Newsletter

It seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming the children back to school after a long summer break and now we have reached half term! These first 7 weeks of the school year have been lovely—children have been engaged with their work and the school has felt like a really buzzy and happy place to learn and grow.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 7th November & Wednesday 7th December—Flu Vaccinations

Monday 18th November—School Photographs

Tuesday 15th November—Prospective Parents Open Evening (for current Year 2s)—18.30

Wednesday 16th November—Open day for reception admissions at Recreation Road—Prebooked tours only

Monday 14th—Thursday 17th November—Writing Cafes

Monday 21st and Thursday 24th November—Parent Consultation Evenings

Monday 28th November—Travelling Book Fair

Thursday 1st December—Winter Market

Parent Consultation Evenings

On Monday 21st and Thursday 24th November, we will be holding our Parents Consultation Evenings. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's learning, progress and general progress at school with their class teacher. Over the past few years we have used School Cloud to run these appointments virtually and we will be doing so again this Autumn. You will be sent the sign-up information for this in the coming weeks. Appointments are 10 minutes long and so if you feel that you require a longer meeting with the teacher, please do contact them in advance. Meetings unfortunately cannot be extended on the night.

We understand that it's really lovely (and helpful!) to look through your children's books. Although this won't be able to happen on the Parents Consultation Evenings, we do hope that lots of you will be able to attend our Writing Cafes and Afternoon Pop In sessions. Books will be available and the teachers on hand to answer any questions that you may have.

English—Writing

We have been working really hard this half term to promote a wealth of writing opportunities across each of the year groups.

These writing opportunities are linked closely to our literature spine and have been designed to have a clear purpose and audience. Year 3 for example have been creating some descriptive writing around Arctic exploration that Adrian Hall (a visitor to the school and an arctic expedition leader) may be able to use as part of his school based workshops. You can see the books that each year group is studying on the year group curriculum maps ([Curriculum Maps - Avenue Junior School](#)). Each year groups' books have been carefully selected to celebrate diversity.

Visiting classes, it is clear that children are enjoying writing and many of them have been really enthusiastic to share their thoughts and ideas with the adults in class. Having a clear audience for their work (other than the class teacher!) has been a real motivating factor too. Please do speak with your children about the writing they are doing at school! We strongly encourage any writing opportunities at home and class teachers will be more than happy to award Dojo points for this. You can upload pictures on Class Dojo or send them into school!

Writing Cafes

From Monday 14th—Thursday 17th November, we will be holding Writing Cafes for each of the classes across the school. Writing Cafes provide an opportunity for parents/carers to come into school and work alongside their children on a number of different activities. They also provide an opportunity for children to share the work that they have been doing this year with their adults. We understand that not all adults will be able to attend the Writing Cafes and so we will be offering more opportunities in the future for parents to pop in after school to see books.

Parent Writing Drop-in - w/c 14th Nov				
	Monday 14th	Tuesday 15th	Wednesday 16th	Thursday 17th
Small Hall session 1 (9:15am-10:15am)	5T	5G	6C	5B
Small Hall session 2 (10:15am-11:15am)	3LR	3BT	4H	4P
Main Hall session 1 (9:15am-10:15am)	5MP	6R	6U	6A
Main Hall session 2 (10:15am-11:15am)	3R	3MRB	4G	4HK

Walking to School

October has been international walk to school month and it's been great to see so many families walking, cycling and scooting to school. Finding an active way to get to school (or work!) is good physical fitness and an excellent way to wake up our brains and bodies for the day ahead. By walking/biking/scooting to school, we also reduce the number of cars around the school site making it safer for our young people and the wider community.

We hope to see lots families continuing to walk, bike and scoot to school throughout the winter and the rest of the school year. There are lots of racks by the Year 3 classrooms and down by the Year 5/6 changing rooms for children to safely store and lock their bikes and scooters.

We understand that some families will need to drive to school. We also recognize that the winter weather may determine whether or not some families walk or drive to school. In these instances, we kindly ask that you park your vehicles considerately, taking notice of the double yellow lines and zig-zag lines around the school site and ensuring that pavements are kept clear. We have politely reminded a number of vehicle users to move on when they have parked on the 'Keep Clear' markings.

Parking a little further away from the school site and then walking that last part of the journey may be a good way to still get the family active before and after school!

Sporting Success!

Football

The school's football teams have made a fantastic start to the season! Both the Under 11s and Avenue Girls made it through to the second round of their cup competitions. The Under 11's won 6-0 against Bignold and also beat Old Catton by the same score. The Under 10's won against Firside 3-1 and the Girls beat White Woman Lane 6-2.

Korfball

Our Year 6 Korfball players had a great afternoon at the UEA Sports Park for the opening season tournament! Having only had 1 training session prior to the tournament, it was a big ask, but came away with some hard fought results. The attitude of the players and the commitment shown was fantastic!

Anti Racism

The parent/carer working group, staff and children have all been consulted to contribute to the school's shared vision for anti-racism. The Diversity, Inclusion, Campaigns and Equality (DICE) group provided the pupil voice for this work and they have also visited parliament this week in training for their role. The ongoing work with the anti-racist working group of parents has continued. Recreation Road are also involved in this work as we continue to make progress on our journey to become an anti-racist school.

We are working to ensure that our work in this area is embedded in the curriculum rather than one-off days (although they are important! Show Racism the Red Card!). For example, Year 3 have been reading the book Race to the Frozen North by Catherine Johnson which explores the story of Mathew Henson, a 19th century African-American arctic explorer whose accomplishments were largely ignored and unknown until recently.

Mr Hooper led a whole school assembly to mark Black History Month in which he shared stories from here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-black-british-stories/z3w84xs> All classes have explored the stories of some significant figures from Black history

Communication with school

At Avenues, we work hard to ensure that communication between home and school is as effective as possible. Class Dojo and Email are the two main methods by which we share information with families and Class Dojo is the quickest and easiest method by which to contact your child's teacher. We understand that many of the classes across the school have a Parent/Carer Whatsapp groups—these are not affiliated with the school in any way.

We have learnt that in some instances, Whatsapp groups have become a space where members of the group raise concerns and this can sometimes have quite a negative effect. We understand that things may not always run smoothly and therefore if you have any concerns or reasons, please do contact us directly and we will be more than happy to try and address these.

Please remember, all absences must be reported to the school office, not via Class Dojo.

School Council and Eco-Council

We value the importance of student voice and the School's Council and Eco-Council are two forums where children can share their views and have a direct impact at school. The Eco-council has been discussing the school's energy usage and how we can improve our environmental impact. We have a great team of children looking to switch off unnecessary lights and appliances, shut external doors and promote recycling. Don't be surprised if the children introduce some changes at home too! We all have our part to play...

Attendance and Late Arrivals

We have seen from our own assessment information as well as national data that children who have high attendance achieve more learning in school than those children who do not.

We understand that children are sometimes unwell and in these instances we ask that you phone the school office at the earliest convenience. There is a voicemail system active before the office opens and so you can report absences without needed to speak to a member of staff directly.

Please do let us know if you are experiencing any difficulties in getting your children to school so that we can help support in this process. Lauren Gislam, our Parent Support Advisor, is a great source of support for families wanting some help to improve attendance. Please contact her via the office telephone or email her directly at psa@avenuejunior.org.

Our school gates are open in the morning from 8.30-8.50. If you arrive after this time and the gates are closed, children should sign in at the school office. They will be marked in as being 'late' on the register. Children arriving late often find it difficult to join in part-way through a lesson and this has a direct impact on their learning. Let's try to work together to ensure that children are all on time.

Clubs

We offer a range of extra-curricular opportunities at school. Some of these clubs run during the school day, whilst others run after school. Below are the clubs currently running. However, it is worth noting that other opportunities will arise for all year groups across the course of the school year. Information about clubs is usually sent out via Class Dojo. If your child is interested in joining any of the clubs currently available, please contact your child's teacher on Class Dojo.

Club	When
Girls Netball - Year 5 and 6	Monday PM
Comics and Graphic Novels – Year 5 and 6	Tuesday Lunch
Volleyball – Year 5 and 6	Tuesday PM
Football – Years 5 and 6 alternating weeks)	Friday PM
Cube Club	Monday Lunchtime – Years 3 and 4 Tuesday <u>PM</u> - Years 5 and 6
Eco Club (All years)	Weekly – during the school day
Korfball - Year 6 in first instance	Wednesday 3.15-4.30
Running Club - Y5 and 6 in first instance	Thursday 3.15-4.15
Mental Health ambassadors - All years	Usually Friday during school
DICE - Years 4,5 and 6	Usually Tuesday during school
Young Carers Club - All year groups	Monday lunchtime
Neurodiverse book club – Year 6 in first instance	Tuesday lunchtime

Norwich Highschool for Girls are currently offering girl's Football and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) clubs for Year 3 and 4 on Wednesdays after school. The STEM club runs from 4.15-5.15, whilst football is from 5.00-6.00. Please contact admin@nor.gdst.net or 01603 453265 to book a place for your daughter.

Is your child entitled to free school meals?

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 or Child Tax Credit

Please do apply 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>

If your child is eligible for free school meals then you may also be able to access a fully-funded place at the school's Before School Breakfast Club run by Set Your Sights. Places are limited but get in touch if you think this would be helpful for your child. More information here: <http://www.avenuejuniorschool.org/wrap-around-care/>

Contact Mr Rose-Brown via the office to request a place.

Parent Volunteers

Due to the covid pandemic we've had to operate very differently in school for number of years. This has meant that parents/carers haven't really had a great deal of opportunity to come into the school building and see your children's work or to get involved in some of our learning activities.

We know that parents/carers and other members of our community have a huge range of skills, interests and professions! If you would like to share some of these with your child's class or across the school, please don't hesitate to get in contact with your child's teacher. Towards the end of last year, we had art teachers and dentists come into school to talk to and inspire the children—this was so lovely! You can see the amazing results of the Year 3 Picasso art workshop here!

We would also love to build up a base of regular volunteers this year who can support learning in class. This could (for example) be for an hour a week to help with reading, handwriting or times tables. The children love having visitors in school and the academic benefit of the extra support can be significant!

Please do contact your child's teacher or the school office if you would like to volunteer in school

Volunteers would have some initial safeguarding training before starting.

