

AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

AVENUE ROAD, NORWICH, NORFOLK, NR2

Executive Head Teacher: Mr .M. Bunting

Head of School: Mr. M. Hooper

Telephone: Norwich (01603) 441034 Fax: (01603) 441035

Email: office@avenuejunior.org

www.avenuejuniorschool.org



September 2022 Newsletter

Wishing a very warm welcome to all our new families and staff as well as those of you returning to Avenues after the summer break. We are all looking forward to an exciting year and hope to see parents and carers in school for some great activities and events as the year progresses.

Mr Bunting's federation update

The first days as Executive Headteacher of our Federation have been a whirlwind, but an exciting one! It's been a pleasure to build relationships with children, staff, parents and carers who are new to me and to get reacquainted with some I'm seeing for the first time in a different environment.

An important goal for our federation this year is to bring the school communities closer together. We have already begun to address this by mixing staff for part of this year's first Learning and Development Day. This will be the first of several federation joint ventures this year, some of which will involve parents and children. Please keep an eye on future newsletters for more information.

This term's main federation improvement focus will be writing. We know that the pandemic has significantly affected writing confidence and outcomes, so the "federation family" will work together to address this. We will seek the views and ideas of parents, along with the children, to ensure that we all work together as one to improve the learning.

Communication between home and school

Good communication between school and home is essential for the wellbeing and good progress of every child. At Avenues we use the following methods for communication. Staff may not respond after 5pm:

Class Dojo: This is a quick and easy way to contact your child's teacher and for them to contact you.

Email: Please email the office and mark the email 'For the Attention of...' to request a meeting or call from staff. You can also email the office to report a child absence.

Telephone: Call the office if you need to speak to someone to make sure that a message gets passed on. Please also use the office phone number to report child absences.

Speak directly to us: Members of the Senior Leadership Team and the pastoral team are out on the playground each morning and class teachers are on the playground at the end of the day.

Please note: We ask our staff to answer messages as soon as possible and within the hours of 8am and 5pm wherever possible.

A couple of reminders...

We are a kiwi and nut free school. This means that your child must not bring items containing either kiwi or nuts into school. This is to protect some of our children who have severe allergies.

Whilst crisps are allowed in lunchboxes as part of a balanced lunch, they are not allowed to be eaten at break time for a snack. We encourage your child to have a healthy snack at break time.

Dates for your diary...

1st October: Wear Red Day—Show Racism the Red Card

18th November: School Photos

7th November and 7th December:- Flu vaccinations

Vaccination consent forms will come home over the next few weeks. Please complete and return these as soon as possible. We want to encourage as many children as possible to have this, especially this year.

Anti Racism

Our work towards becoming an anti-racist school continues to be a very important part of our plans for this year.

At this school, we strive to recognise and celebrate our staff and pupils' identities.

We have begun collaborating with a working group of parents who met with us last term. We will continue to update you all about the progress of this work. If you would like to be involved, please contact Mr. Rose -Brown via the school office.

More information can be found here: <http://www.avenuejuniorschool.org/anti-racism/>

Staffing Updates

We do not only welcome new children into school but also our new staff. Joining us this year are:

Miss. Holmes—Year 4 teacher

Miss. Gray – Year 5 teacher

Mr. Upson—Year 6 teacher/co leader

Mr. Yarnold—Academic Mentor

Mr. Amies—Teaching Assistant

Paula Cole—Office

We also wish to congratulate Miss Bacon and her family on the arrival of her new baby, Henry.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is central to everything that we do at Avenues.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in school are:

Mike Hooper (Head of School) – main DSL

Alternative DSLs:

Rosie Amies (Deputy Head of School – Mon-Wed)

Dan Lowe (Deputy Head of School – Thurs-Fri)

Lauren Gislam (Parent Support Advisor)

Liz Williams (SENCO)

Michael Bunting (Executive Head)

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.

Mobile Phones

The school policy is that no mobile phones are allowed to be brought into school by children. The full policy can be read at <http://www.avenuejuniorschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mobile-Phones-and-Electronic-Devices-at-Avenue-Junior-School-Policy-Statement-2020.pdf>

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Clubs

We always offer a broad range of after school clubs and extra curricular opportunities. These tend to change each year dependent on staff interests and current trends.

We are still in the process of finalising our clubs list for this year. Information about these clubs and how you child can join will be shared with children and families in the near future.

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 Club run by Set Your Sights. The school pays for several children to attend this provision for a range of reasons including in order to support care givers who work. More information here: <http://www.avenuejuniorschool.org/wrap-around-care/> Contact Mr Rose-Brown via the office to request a place.

Hallswood Animal Sanctuary

We did some fantastic work last year, collecting a wide range of materials which could be recycled through the Terracycle process. The money raised from this helped to support the Hallswood Animal Sanctuary, who do an amazing job taking in injured and sick animals and rehabilitating them. This year we intend to continue with our efforts to recycle and support charity!

Within each of the classrooms, we have designated recycling boxes to collect old pens and empty crisp packets. Please try to remind your children to put their wrappers in these boxes—we will be doing so at school too!

As a school we have rehomed families of hedgehogs and squirrels from our school playground to Hallswood Animal Sanctuary.

Scooters and Cycles

We are really pleased that all children can bring bikes and scooters to school; we have expanded the number of storage for these. We do ask that no child (or parents/carers!) ride these on the school playground at drop off or

School Term Dates

Autumn term

Children in school: Tuesday 6 September - Friday 21 October 2022

Please note that school will be closed on Monday 19th September as part of the national bank holiday declared by King Charles III for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

Half-term holiday: Monday 24 - Friday 28 October 2022

Children in school: Monday 31 October - Friday 16 December 2022

Christmas holiday: Monday 19 December - Tuesday 3 January 2023

Spring term

Children in school: Wednesday 4 January - Friday 10 February 2023

Half-term holiday: Monday 13 - Friday 17 February 2023

Children in school: Monday 20 February - Friday 31 March 2023

Easter holiday: Monday 3 - Monday 17 April 2023

Summer term

Children in school: Tuesday 18 April - Friday 26 May 2023 (Monday 1 May is a Bank Holiday)

Half-term holiday: Monday 29 - Friday 2 June 2023

Children in school: Monday 5 June - Friday 21 July 2023

Attendance

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 that it can be tricky as parents and carers to get children to school on time every day but please talk to us if you are experiencing any difficulties so that we can support good attendance for every pupil.

Please note, no holidays at all should be taken during term time; these will not be authorised and may attract a fine.

Always inform the office at the start of the day that your child is absent. 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.

How would you describe our school?

Over the next few weeks we will be doing some work with the children to capture their ideas about what makes our school special and what makes it unique.

We'd like to invite you to give your opinion by suggesting up to three words that describe our school - as it is and as we aspire to be.

For example, when we discussed this in assembly this morning Mr Hooper suggested 'welcoming' and 'creative'.

[How would you describe our school? \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com)

We may use some of these words in a video for the school website which will introduce the school!