

AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

AVENUE ROAD, NORWICH, NORFOLK, NR2

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December 2022 Newsletter

It has been feeling very festive in school with lots of decorations having appeared in classrooms and corridors. This, along with lots of carol singing practice is certainly getting everyone into a happy mood, looking forwards to the holidays. We would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and happy holiday! We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 12th December 6pm-6.45pm: Year 3 and 4 Carol Concert at St. Thomas' Church on Earlham Road

Tuesday 13th December: Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas parties

Wednesday 14th December 6pm-6.45pm: Year 5 and 6 Carol Concert at St. Thomas' Church on Earlham Road

Thursday 15th December: Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas parties

Friday 16th December: Last day of term

Footballing Success!

Hot on the heels of the fabulous Euros victory by the England Women's team in the summer, girls football has really taken off at school in Years 5 and 6 with the girls' team winning the league and coming second in the county tournament. This is a huge achievement and was made even better by some beautiful new kits kindly donated to the school.

The boys have also been incredibly successful this year, with the Year 5 and Year 6 teams winning their respective leagues!

We're going to have to make some space for some very shiny trophies and shields which are due to be making their way to the school in the New Year!

English—Writing

Writing has been a key focus throughout the Autumn term. The children have been working very hard and seem to be enjoying their writing more and more. They have loved being visited by three authors, Robin Stevens (live), Dina Nayeri (virtual) and Robin Price (virtual). This has led to real enthusiasm for both reading and writing across the school. As a result of Robin Stevens' visit, we held a story writing competition which led to much excitement! Well done to Win Folliard, Paul Sayer, Joe Waymouth (Year 6) and Lola Dutton, Belle Baxter-Smith and Ewan Johnston (Year 5) for their winning entries!

Our focus as we move into Spring will be to improve handwriting and spelling. We will keep you update about this as we begin 2023.

Class Assemblies

Prior to the pandemic, we always invited parents and carers in to see their children performing in a class assembly. We are really looking forward to resurrecting these this year!

The assemblies provide the children with an opportunity to have fun, showcase their learning, to develop new skills and to build confidence.

The dates are as detailed with all assemblies starting at 9.10am to give a chance for families to drop off children at the Recreation Road if needed.

18.01.23	5MP
26.01.23	4P
01.02.23	3R
08.02.23	5T
02.03.23	3BT
09.03.23	4G
15.03.23	5B
23.03.23	4HK

30.03.23	3LR
03.05.23	5G
18.05.23	4H
25.05.23	3MRB
14.06.23	6R
21.06.23	6U
28.06.23	6A
05.07.23	6C

Uniform

We understand that it can be difficult to keep your children in uniform that fits them as they grow so quickly! We have noticed a growing number of children attending school in incorrect uniform and wanted to positively support children to have the correct clothing for both regular school and for PE days.

We recognise that uniform can be expensive. We have a huge supply of decent, good quality, used uniform that families can take. We welcome donations for this which would go to the PTA, but you do not have to make a donation at all if you do not wish to. We also welcome good quality, undamaged, clothing which might be of use to other children.

Items of clothing which are not part of the school uniform must not be worn for school, including on PE days. The PE kit consists of plain blue, black or white (no football shirts or logos) T-shirt, shorts, socks with trainers for outdoor wear. In colder weather children can either wear their school jumper or a **plain** blue, black or grey hoodie or zip up along with leggings or tracksuit bottoms.

The full uniform policy can be accessed here: <http://www.avenuejuniorschool.org/office/school-uniform/>

Anti Racism

It is important to recognise that racism happens in society both between people and at a systemic level. At Avenues, we accept this fact and are committed to do something about it. This means we work hard to have quite difficult conversations about where racism exists, including in school, to try to plan forward for a better future.

This is not to say that racism occurs more in our school than others, but we are working to call it out! Our children, staff and wider community are passionate about this. We were so very proud of Alina Bia Jalo, Ada Tebboth and Winston Folliard, all in Year 6, who went to the UEA with Miss Agnew to give a lecture to trainee teachers about our work around being a School of Sanctuary and what we are trying to do to promote equality in all of its forms. They were very brave to speak in front of so many people and did a fantastic job!

This complimented our work on Wear Red (Show Racism the Red Card) Day where children started to consider a definition of racism and look at scenarios in relation to this.

We continue to work with a working group of parents and carers who are meeting with teaching staff on Monday 12th December where the aim is to further develop our understanding of the definition of racism so that we can share this with you in 2023.

Anti-Bullying Workshops

We do lots of work with the children about what bullying is and what bullying isn't, to ensure that they speak up when they feel someone is being targeted. We are also conscious that we perhaps haven't done as much work with our parents and carers about this and would like to invite you in for an informal coffee morning workshop to look at the school's definition of bullying and our policy for responding to this.

Please come along and find out a bit more about how we identify and respond to bullying on Friday 13th January at 9.30am

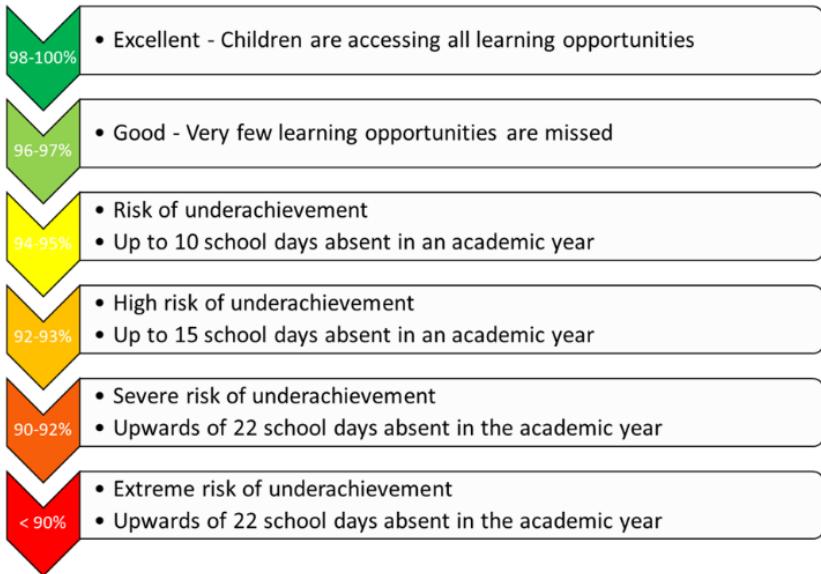
Christmas Charities

We have worked with our school's council this year to identify 2 charities to support and collect for at our Christmas Carol Concerts. The first is Nelson's Journey—they provide invaluable support to children and young people who have experienced the death of a significant person in their lives. Bereavement has very sadly affected a number of our families in our school community over the past few years and Nelson's Journey have been brilliant in providing support for both the families and school. The second charity is St Martins who provide support for the homeless in Norwich in Norfolk. They provide shelter and support for rough sleepers, help provide individuals with the skills to be successful in life and accommodate people with complex needs.

Sugar For Shelters—We have been collecting sugar again this year in support of Sugar for Shelters. This wonderful East Anglian charity help to support many homeless shelters and food kitchens during the winter period. There has been an amazing response to this charity appeal and we have collected in excess of 150kg of sugar! Much of this is produced by British Sugar (Silver Spoon) and they have pledged to match all donations of their products!

Thank you for supporting these amazing charities!

Attendance and Late Arrivals



We recognise that there are sometimes difficulties in bringing children to school and that they do get ill sometimes. Please know that you can contact Lauren Gislam, our Parent Support Advisor via the school office or psa@avenuejunior.org if you would like any support with attendance. On the graphic to the left, you can see the impact of absences over time and how missing school can lead to a higher risk of under achievement. Of course, some absences are unavoidable but do try to bring children every day on time.

Parent and Carer Volunteers

Thank you to those of you who shared with us your areas of expertise and experience. As a result of this, Year 5 have enjoyed learning from one of our parents who has talked to them all about movie visual effects and editing!

We are looking to capitalize more on the wealth of knowledge and experience that you have as an essential part of our school community. Volunteering in school can be a very useful and rewarding thing to do and you could help in many different ways from being a helping hand in class to hearing children read. Or perhaps you would like to run a small club?

We would love to hear from anyone who is happy to volunteer a bit of time with us. We have a volunteer process which will be rolled out fully in January; all volunteers will need to complete an application with one of the team here and regular volunteers will need to have a DBS check completed before they can work in school.

For now, it would be really helpful if you could give some thought to whether you can spare us a bit of time. If you are interested, please leave give your details to the school office and we will be in touch in due course in January.

Thanks for your help and support.

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.

Avenue Junior School Toy Bank

We have been collecting lots of good quality, second hand toys for our own toy bank this year. With the cost of living increasing dramatically, we're hoping to ease the burden ever so slightly by offering all families the chance to choose their children a toy for Christmas. It's also great opportunity to 're-use and recycle' within our local community. This has been a message/ethos that has been communicated to all of the children and one that is championed by our Eco-Council and our Recycling Crew!

From Monday 12th December, the toys will be displayed on the main playground at school drop off and we encourage parents and carers from all families to take a look and choose a toy or 2 for their children this Christmas. We'd love this to be a surprise for the children and so we ask that they're sent to class before browsing.



Christmas Cards

For those children wishing to give Christmas cards next week, we ask that they write the recipient's name and class clearly on the front of the envelope before putting them in the post box in the main hall. These will then be distributed by our wonderful school's council.

Staffing Updates

As this year draws to a close, we will unfortunately be saying goodbye to a number of staff across the school.

Rosie Amies—Rosie initially joined Avenues as SENCO and has this year been working as Deputy Head of School. She has been hugely influential in supporting the needs of our SEND students and vulnerable pupils and has worked closely with students, families and staff alike. She is moving to London to spend more time with her family.

Gina Dix—Gina has worked at Avenues for an incredible 15 years and has decided that the time is right to take early retirement. As well as working as a Teaching Assistant and Cover Supervisor, Gina has been invaluable in organising and managing the school's digital technology. She's been an integral part of the school, helping to keep many different plates spinning and we're very sad to see her go.

Jessica Mortlock—Jessica has worked as an MSA at Avenues for the past year. She's worked brilliantly with our team of MSAs and has forged many positive relationships with the children at school.

We wish Rosie, Gina and Jessica the best of luck for the future!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From all the staff at Avenue Junior School.