



NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

## AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

AVENUE ROAD, NORWICH, NORFOLK, NR2

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### September 2023 Newsletter

If this has been your first week as part of the Avenues community then a big welcome to you and a welcome back to those returning to us. The children have settled brilliantly over the first few days and have made a brilliant start to their new classes.

#### Dates for Your Diary

##### Parent drop-in sessions (class times to be sent via Dojo)

Monday 25th September—Year 6

Tuesday 26th September—Year 4

Wednesday 27th September—Year 3

Thursday 28th September—Year 5

##### Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings

Monday 9th October 3.30pm-7.30pm

Thursday 12th October 3.30pm-7.30pm

Friday 20th October—Wear Red: Non-uniform day with an anti-racism focus

Friday 17th November: school photos

Monday 20th November: flu vaccinations

Week beginning 11th December—Christmas Carol concerts—Times TBC

#### Parent Drop-In Sessions

This will be an opportunity for you to come into school and look at your child's work so far. They will give you a chance to see the work that your child has been doing. Please see the final page of this newsletter for the schedule of sessions.

#### Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings

This is the opportunity to have a more focussed review of how your child has started and areas where they need support. We aim for all parents and carers to attend these meetings. Following on from a survey of parents and carers last year, we will offer a mix of face-to-face meetings and online virtual calls.

#### A big welcome!

We would like to welcome Mrs. Carlin and Mrs. Manrique who many of you may know from Recreation Road who now work across both schools in the Heigham Community Federation.



We already had a mural on this wall by our pirate ship but our school community didn't feel it was very inclusive and decided that it needed a fresh start. We invited Ruth knapple (@knapple\_), a local graffiti artist, to come and help us repaint the wall. We used cardboard cut outs to use as stencils and brightly coloured spray paint to make the patterns. It was a blast to work with her and with the other children and parents who helped. This is part of our continuing work to be an anti-racist school. Please do take a look when you have the chance.

By Ruby (Year 6).

### **Office Update**

#### **Parentmail**

ParentMail has been fully updated.

We are in the process of logging the lunches from the start of this term. We are hoping to have these all logged by the end of the week. Thank you for your patience with this.

#### **For New Year 3 Parents:**

You should have received an email registration link to create your account.

#### **My Child at School (MCAS) App:**

We are in the process of moving all children/parents onto MCAS which, in time, will replace Parentmail .

#### **Year 4-6 Parents:**

We are aware some of you have had problems creating an account for MCAS, particularly if you have more than 1 child at the school. This should be resolved within the next few weeks.

#### **Year 3 Parents:**

Once we have resolved the issues around creating new accounts we will send out more information regarding MCAS.

#### **At the moment**

**we are still using ParentMail to pay for school lunches/trips etc.**

**We ask that you are patient whilst we move from one system to the other and get everybody set up. Many thanks.**

### **Attendance**

It is essential that your child attends school every day. We understand that sometimes it can be difficult to make the decision about whether your child should attend school if they say they are unwell. The NHS have produced the following guidance which hopefully can help guide your decision.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

We recognise that children may also experience worry and mild or moderate anxiety, and that, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. In such cases, we recommend bringing your child to school where, in the vast majority of cases, their worries and anxiety can be supported, whereas prolonged absence from school can have a negative effect.

At Avenue Junior, we are always here to talk through any issues that you may have with attendance. You can speak with either Lauren Gislam, our Family Engagement Officer, Susanna Manrique or Mike Hooper, Head of School.

Please note, holidays in term time will not be authorised. School is only able to authorise absence in exceptional circumstances.

### **Uniform**

Our school uniform helps the children to feel attached to the school as well as ensuring that there is equality amongst the pupils with no competition to wear the latest styles and labels. It is really important that all children adhere to the uniform unless exception has been made due to individual needs and in consultation with the school. The whole policy is available at this link: <http://www.avenuejuniorschool.org/office/school-uniform/>

It's been lovely to see the vast majority of children wearing school uniform. If you need any support with uniform, please do contact us as we do have some spare, good quality uniform that has been donated.

If your child does not wear the correct uniform, their teacher will get in touch to see if school can help in any way.

### **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**

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 do not hesitate to get in contact with your child's teacher.

Volunteers have been amazing in supporting us in recent years in a wide variety of ways, including by helping us to brighten up the environment with art projects such as our new mural.

We would 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 the school office if you would like to volunteer in school; we would love to welcome you into our school.

Volunteers would have some initial safeguarding training before starting.



### **Communication with school**

Class Dojo: Great for keeping up to date with what's happening in school and to ask quick questions.

Telephone: Call us to inform us of absence or if you need to speak with someone directly or to arrange a meeting.

Email: Emailing the office is great for most communication and is the best way to arrange a meeting with staff. This is also the best way to contact Mr. Hooper and the other senior leaders.

Please do not use Class Dojo for informing us of last minute changes to collection arrangements. Thank you.

You can always speak to a senior leader or Mrs. Gibbs on the playground in the morning too.

### EAL Inclusive Schools Award

We are proud to have achieved the English as an Additional Language Inclusive Schools Award to recognise our good practice in developing and supporting diversity of culture and language in our school. We are fortunate to have more than 40 languages represented within our school community!

### School of Sanctuary/Day of Welcome

We are delighted to have been informed that work led by Jake Rose-Brown around Day of Welcome/ Schools of Sanctuary has been nominated for a Flourish Award and has been selected as one of the finalists for the Individual award.

Their Young Person and Family Judging Panel were really impressed by the way the activity is supporting children and young people in Norfolk to flourish.

The projects nominated that have been chosen are in recognition and celebration of the way they support young people across the county. Good luck to Mr. Rose-Brown!

### School Governors

We wish to thank Nania Poulson for many years of service to the school as a governor. She stood down from her position in July after volunteering, first as a parent governor, and then staying on long after her own children had left us as Chair and Co-Chair. She has provided great support and challenge for which we are very grateful. We welcome Pamela Reynell who will co-chair with Mike Grimble.

### Parent drop in session timetable below. We look forward to seeing you.

	9.15-10.15 (small hall)	9.15-10.15 (main hall)	10.30-11.30 (small hall)	10.30-11.30 (main hall)
Monday 25th September	6A	6G	6MP	6R
Tuesday 26th September	4T	4H	4RL	4KC
Wednesday 27th September	3G	3BT	3B	3H
Thursday 28th September	5U	5G	5BRB	5C