



NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

## 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](mailto:office@avenuejunior.org)

[www.avenuejuniorschool.org](http://www.avenuejuniorschool.org)



### November 2023 Newsletter

The first half term flew by with our new children settling in brilliantly. It was lovely to see you all coming in to look at your children's work in the drop-in sessions and we look forward to you joining us for the events planned for this second half term.

#### **Dates for Your Diary**

Monday 13th November—Year 4 and 5 Author Event (Natasha Hastings) and Odd Socks Day!

Friday 17th November—non— uniform Day (pyjamas welcome!)

Monday 20th November: flu vaccinations

Wednesday 22nd November—RSHE Parent Consultation (9am and then again at 6.30pm)

Monday 11th December—Year 3 and 4 Christmas Concert at St. Thomas' Church (6PM)

Wednesday 13th December—Year 5 and 6 Christmas Concert at St. Thomas' Church (6PM)

Tuesday 19th December—PTA Christmas Fayre in the playground straight after school  
Wednesday

20th December—Christmas Lunch at School and non-uniform (Christmas Jumper Day)

#### **Christmas Concerts**

The carol concerts are an opportunity for us to come together and celebrate the festive season. This will be at St Thomas' Church on Earlham Road and is a secular event. We do hope that you are able to join us for this inclusive concert.



#### **No Nuts or Kiwis**

This is a polite reminder that we are a nut and kiwi free school. This includes peanuts. Its really important to check the ingredients of snacks to check they do not contain nuts. We found the snack wrappers pictured above in our recycling—they both contain nuts. Please be vigilant about this as nuts can cause severe reaction in some children which can lead to anaphylaxis. This can be fatal.

#### **Crossing Patrol Update**

We are really pleased that Chaitanya Patil will be returning to his post as Crossing Patrol from 1.12.23. He will help the children to cross the very busy road safely.

### **Anti Bullying Week—Odd Socks Day**

On Monday 13th November, children and staff are invited to wear odd socks to help get into the spirit of anti-bullying week and celebrate our unique differences. The theme this year is 'Make a noise about bullying.' This theme is designed to empower everyone to do something positive to counter the harm and upset that bullying causes.

We do not tolerate bullying at Avenues and so if you feel your child is being bullied or are worried about any pupil, please contact your child's teacher.

### **Attendance**

**Our current attendance is 95.9%. Before the pandemic, attendance was regularly at 97%.**

It's really important that your child attends school every day. If they appear poorly and you are unsure about whether they should attend, please look at the link below.

<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 bring 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.

We are here to help so please do speak with Lauren Gislam, our Family Engagement Officer, Susanna Manrique or Mike Hooper, Head of School if you have an attendance worries.

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

### **A Good News Story...**



We are very proud of the work we do to be inclusive and whilst we view

this as a never ending journey of learning and reflection, we thought we would share with you a UNHCR story about how displaced staff and children have supported the school and been supported themselves to be successful. <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/stories/norwich-refugee-teacher-helps-forcibly-displaced-children-belong>

### **Children In Need**

**Next Friday 17th November is Children in Need Day. The children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform. Some of the pupils have requested to come in pyjamas which might be a bit of fun. Children can still come in uniform if they wish! If you wish to make a donation to Children in Need, please do so via the link below:**

<https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

### **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 don't 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.

### **Driving Around School and Parking**

We encourage as many of you as possible to cycle or walk to school. If you need to drive, please keep the crossing on Avenue Road clear and do not park on the zig-zag lines.

It would help to make the surrounding area much safer for children if you could park a short distance from school and walk the remainder of the journey.

Parking is obviously very difficult around school and there have been a number of cars seen to mount the pavement whilst the paths are busy with pedestrians, including our children. We ask that you avoid mounting the path to help make it safer for pupils,

We really appreciate your cooperation with this.

### **Staffing Update:**

We wish to congratulate Ms. Cole who has been appointed as pastoral assistant. Ms. Cole has worked with us both in the office, as an MSA and supporting in class and so knows the children well. Her new role will mean that she is able to offer pastoral support to a wide range of pupils right across the school.

We also wish to welcome Mrs. Allen who is joining the team as a Teaching Assistant. She has been a wonderful volunteer for some time and we are very happy that she is joining the staff team.