SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2025



Welcome!

Welcome back to those of you returning to Avenues after the break and a huge welcome to all of our new starters. It has been a lovely start to the term and we are all looking forward to the year ahead.

Reminders

Gate Times

The gate opens at 8.30am and must close at 8.50am each morning. If your child arrives after this time, they must enter via the school office to sign in as late.

Please do not enter the school building with your child. It's really important that your child is able to develop their independence to bring themselves into school. Of course, if children are feeling a little wobbly, there are always staff on hand on the playground who can help to bring them in and settle them.

The gates on both Avenue Road and Swansea Road open at around 3.05pm-3.10pm each day at home time.

Play equipment

We are lucky to have some great play equipment for the children at school but we ask that no children use the Pirate Ship, Trim Trail or gym equipment at collection time. This is due to health and safety reasons and will also preserve the life of the equipment for Avenue Junior school use during school hours. Thanks for your cooperation.

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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 Susanna Manrique/Lauren Gislam via the office to request a place.

Communication

Your child's class teacher is the first person you should speak to with any queries about your child's learning or any other issues in school. This includes SEN related issues. You can request a chat with your child's teacher by emailing the office, calling and leaving a message or sending a direct message via Dojo. Please do not enter the building in the morning to speak with them. Any urgent pastoral issues can be passed on via the staff on gate duty on the playground.

Class Dojo is great but cannot be monitored by teachers during lesson times so urgent enquiries should be directed to the school office. Please do not contact the class teacher directly if a matter is urgent – this includes changes to going home arrangements. School staff will only send communications home between the hours of 8am and 5pm; this incudes responding to messages and emails.

Please notify school of absences via the school office absence line or by sending an email to the office, not directly to the class teacher.

Parking and Transport to School

It's great to see so many children walking, cycling or scooting to school. We encourage this wherever possible and ask that children wear a cycle helmet if cycling – please remember that no cycling or riding of scooters is allowed on the playground.

We understand that some parents/carers may need to drive. If this is the case, we ask that you are considerate to our neighbours and do not park in front of driveways. We also ask that you do not 'stop and drop' children off on the yellow zig-zag lines. Please consider parking a little further away from school to ease congestion around school crossing points. We appreciate your support with this.

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Working Together

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers into school for a range of events over the year. In the Autumn Term we are running some drop in sessions and also some Maths workshops that we hope you will be able to join us for. The purpose of these is to help parents and carers feel more able to help their children. See the posters attached on Dojo and email for more information

Maths workshops

We are really pleased to be able to offer some maths workshops run by NCC Family Learning for parents (and their children) throughout the Autumn term. Please see the attached posters; these look to be really fun and, for attendance at multiple sessions there are free museum vouchers and a prize draw raffle.

- Y3 and 4 Maths through Games - Monday Sept 29th, Oct 6th, 13th and 20th, 9-11am with children joining 10.30-11am
- Y5 and 6 Maths through Baking - Friday October 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 1.15 - 3.15pm, with children joining 2.45-3.15pm
- Y3 and 4 "I wasn't taught like that" - Monday November 17th, 24th, December 1st, 8th, 9 - 11am with children joining 10.30-11am
- Y5 and 6 "I wasn't taught like that" - Friday November 14th, 21st, 28th, December 5th, 1.15-3.15pm with children joining 2.45-3,15

Information about how to sign up to these will follow.

Classroom Drop-in Sessions

This will be an opportunity for your children to show you their work and talk about their learning.

	9.15-10.15 (small hall)	9.15-10.15 (main hall)	10.30-11.30 (small hall)	10.30-11.30 (main hall)
Tuesday 30th September	5K	5G	5SB	5RB
Wednesday 1st October	6B	6T	6M	6KC
Tuesday 4th November	4A	4GL	4H	4R
Wednesday 5th November	3U	3PB	3C	3H

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Family Drop-Ins

Pop in for a cuppa, a chat, ask a question, seek advice, or even just to meet new people. Lauren Gislam (our Family Engagement Officer) and Susanna Manrique (Assistant Head of School) will be in the Outdoor Classroom (opposite the Y4 entrance) from 8:30 until 9:30am on these dates:

Thurs 9th October
Fri 5th December
Thurs 29th January
Weds 18th March
Fri 8th May
Weds 1st July

Coffee Mornings

Themed events with visiting experts offering advice around common issues such as sleep, behaviour, SEND, or to socialise with other families. These are held at St Thomas's Church Hall on the following Thursdays every half term from 8.45 – 10.30:

2nd October
18th December
22nd January
12th March
14th May
25th June

Look out for a survey coming to you by email very soon where you will have the opportunity to share your feedback on our family support and suggest themes for future events.

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 many have with attendance and so 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.

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Key Dates

w/c 22nd September and 29th September - NSPCC Assemblies (Speak Out, Stay Safe)

30th September – Year 5 Parent/Carer Drop In

1st October – Year 6 Parent/Carer Drop In

2nd October – Federation Coffee Morning

9th October – Family Drop In Session

13th and 16th October – Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings

20th October – Year 4 Residential Trip Meeting

23rd October – School Discos

27th – 31st October – HALF TERM HOLIDAYS

3rd November – Flu vaccinations

4th November – Year 4 Parent/Carer Drop In

5th November – Year 5 Parent/Carer Drop In

6th November – School Photos (Individual)

11th November – Year 3 Opening Evening

13th and 14th November – Year 4 trip to Strangers Hall

w/c 24th November – Year 4 Residential Trip

24th November – Flu vaccinations

2nd December – Year 3 and 4 author visit – Jim Smith

5th December – Family Drop In

9th December – Year 3 and 4 Carol Concert

11th December – Year 5 and 6 Carol Concert

18th December – Federation Coffee Morning

19th December – Last Day of Term