



# Avondale Preparatory School

*Ignite Your Purpose, Become Your Potential*

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**Headmaster: Mr Stuart Watson BEd, Dip Tchg**



Friday 14 April, 2023

Dear Parents

## Summer Term Newsletter

Welcome back to the Summer Term; I trust that the holiday period has been a restful one for the family. Let me start by welcoming a number of new families to our EYFS Department. We trust that all children will settle quickly and start to enjoy everything that Avondale has to offer. We also extend an incredibly warm Avondale welcome to Austin Mallett who will be joining the Year 1 class towards the end of the term.

As we reflect on the end of the Spring Term, let me thank the Parents Association for their organisation of the Easter Stone Competition, which raised £40. We had some wonderful entries, with the following children taking away awards:

EYFS- Rafe Compton

Pre- Prep- Eleanor Demirel Downer

Prep- Tabitha Worley

Congratulations must also go to the Prep Department for their performance of 'Shakespeare Rocks', in the penultimate week of the Spring Term. The retiring collection brought in £135 that will allow the school to invest further in production equipment to make next year's performance even better. Performing Arts has always been a key part of Avondale Culture; as numbers continue to grow in the main school, we have now diversified and look forward to Years 1 and 2 performing 'Wiz Wham Alakazam' at a matinee performance, in the lead- up to the summer half term break.

In the final week of the term Years 5/6 had a fantastic time in France, visiting the capital and its vast collection of monuments and tourist attractions. They were able to enjoy an art lesson at the Monet Museum and climbed 1665 steps to the top of the Eiffel Tower. Not to finish there, they travelled onto Normandy and visited the ever- popular, Mont Saint Michel and Arromanches, one the D-Day landing beaches. Thanks must go to both Mrs Devlin for her organisation and Mrs Davis for her support over the five days. Credit must also go to the children themselves for their attempts at conversational French and their impeccable behaviour!

## 100 Year Celebrations

Save the Date! Thursday 6 July and Friday 7 July, 2pm. As part of our centenary celebrations, children in Reception to Year 6 will be performing 'Memories' over two afternoons to a wide audience. This will be a walk down memory lane over the past 10 decades; whilst promoting performance on stage, there will be a great deal of learning to come out of the project. In order to prepare respective classes for the event, please be advised that there will be no class assemblies throughout the term. However, we would encourage as many parents, grandparents and relatives to join us over the two afternoons. The Friday performance will be promoted as a reunion for past pupils and staff and this will be followed by the Parents Association Picnic, when the weather is ALWAYS good! Further details will be sent out in due course.

## Calendar

The Summer Term calendar shall be made available on the first day back of the term. Please find a draft copy attached. The completed calendar, with Extra Curricular Provision (also attached) will be given to the eldest child in the family to take home on Day 1. Unlike previous years where 'ASCC return sheets' have been distributed, we are trialling an online system for recording your 'after school club' preferences. Whilst ASCC is available for every child in the school, 'teacher- led clubs' are run for children in Reception- Year 6. Mrs Lister will send individual families a

link for completion- please may we ask that a form is completed for EACH CHILD IN THE FAMILY. We hope the new system will be more streamlined in approach, minimising paper wastage, along with potential errors that can occur in administration. We shall also be looking to move all permission slips to the same online format in the coming weeks.

**Please may we ask that the online form for enlisting in after school activities (and ASCC) be completed by Tuesday 18 April (first day back)** so that club lists can be confirmed quickly. Clubs also start this day for those that have had the form completed. Please note that attendance in the Pre- Prep Production Club (for Year 1 and 2 children), on Friday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm is expected, to minimise any disruption to classroom learning time. This is a free club which runs until the end of Week 5.

### **Summer Fair!**

Save the date- Saturday 17 June, 11:30- 2pm. This is Avondale's SECOND school fair and the largest fundraiser for the school, in aid of raising enough money to extend our adventure playground. Please see flyer attached; distribution to family and friends (and prospective Avondale families) is very much encouraged. There is a great deal of preparation required to make this a success; in this respect, if you would be keen to support the school in running a stall (or monitoring the bouncy castle), please get in touch with Mrs Amy Worley ([amy@avondaleschool.org](mailto:amy@avondaleschool.org)), who is orchestrating proceedings. We are also calling for all 'good quality' clothing donations to be brought in, along with any larger ticket items for our auction. Thank you to all who have contributed so far.

### **Summer Uniform and New Thrift Shop Arrangements**

I should like to remind you that children return to school on **TUESDAY 18 APRIL**. All children should be in **Summer Uniform**. For girls, this means summer dresses and for boys, short sleeved shirts and shorts. **All children should arrive and depart school in their blazers and hats (with the exception of Nursery children)**. We are proud of our uniform; please may we ask for your support in this respect to avoid any awkward conversations at the gate. Whilst coats won't necessarily be required in the mornings, we recommend that your child brings their coat into school daily in case of wet break times. **Please may we kindly ask that all items of clothing are named; this includes renaming items bought from the Thrift Shop**. This way, we are able to return items of lost clothing to the rightful owner quickly. Any items of unnamed clothing will be placed in our Thrift Shop.

All children in Year 1- Year 6 require **white sports socks** for games and the **coloured house polo shirt**. To aid you in preparing your child, our uniform shop, including thrift shop, shall be open on Monday 17 April from 9:00am- 10:00am. Should you not be able to make this time, or require items throughout the course of the term, please contact Mrs Lister via email or Mrs Davis in the school office.

### **Parking**

Please be reminded that only marked parking bays may be used in the BWM'C for pick up and drop off. I am aware that there are only 23 marked spaces and a good deal more families at Avondale than that! Please find attached, our agreement with the club for our consideration. With the introduction of clubs this term, we are hopeful that pick-ups will be less congested than what I have witnessed in recent months. The real flashpoints to consider, in order to remain onside with our neighbours, are Tuesdays before school, (when deliveries take place) and Friday afternoons, (when patrons will access the club); more so, as lockdown restrictions are eased.

Please also be reminded not to park in front of driveways (or garages) of the cottages on the High St (next to Tots). Your support in this respect will make my job far easier; thank you.

### **New Staff**

I am pleased to welcome Mrs Ann Marie Gibson to the catering team. Ann Marie is an experienced kitchen chef and will be sharing the workload with Miss Alli White over two days each week. We also welcome back Ms Kelly Sturgess, who used to work in our Nursery about 7 years ago. Kelly will be supporting in a 1:1 capacity as we look to meet the targets of an Education Health Care Plan.

### **Staffing and School Growth for the 2023-24 Academic Year**

Numbers continue to improve across all parts of the school; specifically, in our Pre- Prep and Early Years. In this respect, if you know of any potential families that would benefit from an Avondale education, please may I ask that you direct them to get in touch with the school office. We will be supporting an Open Day in the second half of this term; for those in the service industry, you will be aware that postings are not confirmed until much later in the school calendar and it is not uncommon for the bulk of new families to view us in the last few weeks of the term (or in fact

over the summer holiday period). For this reason, the school structure, including staffing and class make-up will not be confirmed until well after half term, when postings materialise.

**Notification of Fees for the Academic Year 2023-24**

Finally, in line with our policy on providing a term's notice, please find attached the pricing structure of fees for the following academic year (commencing September 2023). You will be aware that inflation continues to rise across the country and, in turn, this has had a significant impact on our operating costs. Consequently, school fees have needed to move, with an increase of approximately 4% across the bulk of the school; this is below the current rate of inflation. I am mindful of the present economic climate. We still remain the most cost-effective independent option in the area. For the bulk of the school, this equates to between £1500 and £3000 less per annum than the nearest school of similar standing; this margin has widened in recent years. Please also find an updated 'Terms and Conditions' and 'Complaints Procedure'.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your children a successful term ahead.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Watson

**Included:**

**Extra- Curricular Programme- Summer 2023**

**Fee Schedule (2023-24)**

**Complaints Procedure**

**Terms and Conditions**

**Summer Term Calendar (draft)**

**Bulford Working Men's Club Parking Agreement**

**School Fair Flyer**