



Avondale Preparatory School

Ignite Your Purpose, Become Your Potential

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Headmaster: Mr Stuart Watson BEd, Dip Tchg

Thursday 24 August, 2023

Dear Parents

I trust that the summer holiday period has been beneficial for the family and that the intermittent weather has not dampened spirits.

May I take this opportunity to welcome a number of new families to Avondale. We have had a good number of late registrations prior to the end of the term and over the holiday period; we look forward to working in partnership with you in the weeks/ terms ahead.

Please find below, the full staffing allocation for the year.

Nursery/ Tots- Miss Vicky Scadden, supported by Miss Shannon Pavey (am) and Mrs Tracey Hall (pm)

Reception- Mrs Charlotte Hibbs (Mon- Wed) and Mrs Caroline Nash (Thurs- Fri), supported by Mrs Carmel Everett Collins (am) and Miss Shannon Pavey (pm)

Year 1- Mrs Emma Adair, supported some mornings by Mrs Tracey Hall (for the first term only)

Year 2- Mrs Amy Worley, supported by Mrs Sheryl Davis (am) and Mrs Carmel Everett Collins (pm)/ Mrs Kelly Sturgess (1:1 am)

Year 3- Mrs Robina Upton (Mon/ Tues/ Thurs)/ Mrs Caroline Nash (Wed am) Fri- Spanish/ Art/ Music

Year 4- Mr Peter Meaden, supported by Mrs Louise Wright (am) and Mrs Cathy Nufer (1:1)

Year 5/6- Mrs Georgina Barrington Tolan (Assistant Head/ SENDCO) 11+ candidates in Year 6 will be supported by Mrs Stephenson Jarett for the first few weeks before respective examinations.

Please note that room allocation has now changed due to the make- up of cohort sizes. Please see below:

Nursery Tots- Some of you may be aware that the old Tots classroom suffered a great deal of water damage over the Christmas period last year. Following a significant re-build programme over the Spring and Summer Terms, I am pleased to confirm that the Nursery and Tots will be housed together in this NEW facility. The classroom now benefits from direct access to a second kitchen, so I know there will be more baking/ cooking put into the programme! A safer means of access to this new facility is via the white door (where the minibuses are now parked).

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT ASCC WILL OPERATE FROM THIS ROOM DURING PERIODS OF INCLEMENT WEATHER AND FROM 5PM IN THE WINTER MONTHS.

Reception- As our Reception numbers have steadily grown, we have taken the decision to house the class in last year's Nursery classroom (rather than the smaller prefabricated classroom). The cohort will benefit from larger classroom space and improved indoor/ outdoor flow.

Year 1- pupils should use the south stairs (through the white door, immediately to the left of the blue gate as you enter from the school playground). Children's hooks can be found through the fire door on

the first landing. The classroom is immediately to the right of the fire door.

Year 2- again, the south staircase should be used for access, with the classroom being located through the fire door on the first landing. The cohort will also benefit from an overflow room as a further learning space.

Year 3- there is no change for children going into Year 3. They will be housed in the same classroom as last year; access up the main staircase and the classroom is immediately to the right.

Year 4- access up the main staircase and go through the second classroom to the right of the stairs. (This is the classroom where Years 5/6 were taught last year). The cohort will also benefit from an overflow room as a further learning space.

Years 5/6- are now housed in the larger classroom on the ground floor adjacent to the school office. Access to the classroom is via the main door leading to the playground (or the white door, immediately to the left of the blue gate as you enter from the school playground).

I would encourage you to browse our **‘Welcome to the Year Booklet’** where you will find further information on how we do things at Avondale, and how best you can support your child in their learning. A digital version of this will be made available via email and on our website.

Please find below a number of housekeeping points for consideration that will affect you in the terms ahead- the list continues to grow on a daily basis! In this respect, we will update you with our ‘week ahead’ emails, sent out each Friday.

Uniform

You will now be aware that we have outsourced new items of uniform. Our previous uniform supplier’s requests had become increasingly difficult following the pandemic. Lead- in times for some items were as high as 12 weeks. Additionally, large minimum orders made on-site continuation unfeasible. All new uniform can now be purchased through OZ schoolwear via their website www.ozschoolwear.co.uk/ Uniform costs remain unchanged (and in some cases, items have become cheaper). Those requiring new uniform should place an order prior to the start of the new academic year. Orders will be delivered free of charge to the school every Wednesday, if placed by the Monday of each week.

Avondale continues to run a second- hand uniform ‘thrift shop’. Whilst new parents will have already had the opportunity to come and view items, this will be made available school-wide on Friday 1 September from 9am until 11am.

We have high expectations in respect to our uniform. Please be advised that only listed Avondale items of uniform are permitted to be worn at school. All uniform must be **clearly marked** with your child’s name on it; this includes thrift shop uniform, which may require an old name being removed! Any uniform found without names will be put in lost property; **this will now be housed immediately to the left of the blue door as you enter the school building from the High Street.**

Children should return to school in **SUMMER** uniform. Children in Reception to Year 6 require the school hat and blazer to be worn to and from school.

Additionally, the **SUMMER** PE kit, (short sleeved shirt, detailing house colours) for those children in Years 1 to 6, should be brought in for use in PE lessons, whilst Reception children will have the plain blue polo top. White sports socks are also required for children in Reception and Years 1 and 2. Boys in Years 3-6 will require long BLUE socks to support the use of shin pads in football. Your child will bring a timetable home on Day 1 to communicate when PE lessons will take place. Please be advised that all children in Years 3-6 will require their PE kit on the **FIRST DAY BACK.**

Please also note that swimming commences for children in Years 1-3 on **Monday 11 September**. Our schedule has now been confirmed as 2pm-3pm. You are more than welcome to collect your child from the swimming pool at 3:15pm; alternatively, they will be returned to school in the minibus by 3:20pm. If you are collecting from the pool, please kindly advise the office.

Communication and Billing

Firstly, it will come as no surprise to you that you are receiving this letter by means of e-mail; this is our only method for correspondence (other than Tapestry in the Early Years) and was borne out of the fact that many newsletters never made it home! Furthermore, all ASCC and uniform invoices shall be sent using this method, in addition to Termly invoices and letters. In this respect, please may we ask that your e-mail details are up- to- date and accurate with the school office. **We kindly ask that your spam folder is checked on a regular basis as this is where a number of items ended up last year.** Very occasionally, we have encountered some emails not reaching recipients (this includes home and school). If you think you may have missed a form of communication, please get in touch with the school office. Please be reassured, that unless otherwise stated, all email correspondence from home **will be acknowledged** by the office, or classroom teaching staff.

School Timings

Please be reminded that the timings of the school day remain unchanged for those children in Reception to Year 6 (and those children not old enough to receive Wiltshire Council's Free Entitlement Funding).

As a reminder, the sessions for use of the 30 hours Free Entitlement Funding, are different. Please see below:

8am- 12Noon- morning session

12Noon- 1pm- lunch period (Avondale rate)

1pm- 3pm- afternoon session

It is hoped, that as numbers increase, some of our parking woes will be resolved with an earlier finishing time. Please be reminded that our agreement with the BWM'C allows for parking in **marked parking bays only, at the far end of the carpark.** Further parking can be found in front of the cottages on the High St, **but please avoid parking in front of driveways.** Please could this advice be relayed to others who may pick your child up from time to time.

Autumn Term Calendar

An abbreviated A5 sized version of the Autumn Term calendar, in addition to clubs that operate after school, shall be sent home in hard copy format with children on the first day of the term. Additionally, it is our intention to provide you with a digital copy with 'survey link'. Please may we kindly ask that the online survey is completed promptly so that we can prepare attendance registers. Whilst ASCC shall operate from Day 1, teacher led clubs will start on Tuesday 5 September. Please also indicate your ASCC requirements.

Any cancellation in respect to after school activities will be communicated via email should it be known about in advance; in the event of late notice, we shall continue to text parents.

Together with the calendar/ clubs email, you will also receive an email containing links for granting the school permission to meet a number of school requirements. Please may we ask that these are completed promptly.

'Meet the Teacher' (Reception - Year 6)

Please be advised that there will be an opportunity made available for you to meet your child's teacher on the first afternoon back (Monday 4 September) from 3:35- 4:30pm. **FREE ASCC** will be made available for those in attendance. For those parents with children in Nursery or Tots, please be advised that communication can be sought on drop- off and pick- up each day.

Appointments/ Requests for Absence

Inevitably there are a number of appointments that are necessitated throughout the course of a school week- to ensure the safety of all children is kept paramount, please may we ask that the office is informed the moment you take your child and at the point in which they are returned to school. All requests for absence other than doctor's/ dentists and the like, **should be directed to myself in writing. This is a mandatory requirement.**

Peripatetic Lessons

Should you wish for your child to have a trial for any instrument, please contact Debbie Lister in the school office. Timetables for respective teachers follow a tumble system so as to avoid children missing the same lesson each week. These timetables are displayed in respective classrooms and on the Parents Noticeboard in the school foyer/ hallway.

Any absences for children on school trips are made up; we are unable to do the same, or refund, in the event of sickness or planned holidays. Please be advised that half a term's notice is required for withdrawal of a pupil from lessons.

We finally got there! I have no doubt that there will be other little snippets that come up in the next couple of weeks. Needless to say, we look forward to welcoming you and the family back on Monday 4 September in what, I know, will be another successful year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Watson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stuart Watson