



Avondale Preparatory School

Ignite Your Purpose, Become Your Potential

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Headmaster: Mr Stuart Watson BEd, Dip Tchg

Thursday 1 September, 2022

Dear Parents

I trust that the summer holiday period has been beneficial for the family and that the fantastic weather has had a positive influence on outlook.

May I take this opportunity to welcome a number of new families to Avondale. We had a small 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.

This year Avondale celebrates its centenary! Starting out as a 'school for children of officers' back in 1923, the school has grown and expanded over the years, moving from a small building in Amesbury, to the farmhouse on the Stonehenge Roundabout, shortly thereafter. Avondale moved to its present site in 1957.

As we did for our 90- year celebrations, we intend to host a performance which documents the ten decades that have passed; this will also tie in with a history focus for the children. Whilst our calendar is already packed with productions and the like, we feel the most conducive time for reflection will be the second half of the Summer Term; further details will be made available nearer the time.

At our Presentation Day last academic year, I mentioned that Debbie Lister, our office manager will be leaving as she looks to move back to the Isle of Wight. Debbie has been Avondale's longest serving member of staff, having served for 22 years! I would like to take this opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been, working with her for the past twelve years. Her experience and dedication to the school are irreplaceable! Friday 30 September will be Debbie's last official day with us in person; I say this, because Debbie will continue to work from home maintaining the high standards that currently exist; email and phone communication will remain largely unchanged in this respect, with Mrs Vicki Taylor, having a presence in the office for a period of time each morning.

Further to previous email correspondence over the holiday period, I can confirm that Mrs Sara- Emily Lysaght will be starting as our new catering manager on Tuesday 20 September; Emily brings with her a wealth of experience within school settings. Miss Alison White will be employed on a temporary basis before Sara commences her duties with us. Cooked lunches have returned to being a compulsory part of the school fee structure; this is to ensure the financial outlay for staffing and rising food costs are met.

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

Year 5/6- Mrs Celina Rae/ Mrs Jo Stephenson- Jarrett (11+ focus/ SEN)

Year 3/4- Mrs Georgina Barrington- Tolan, supported by Mrs Carmel Everett- Collins, Mrs Cathy Nufer (1:1), Mrs Louise Wright (1:1)

Year 2- Mrs Emma Stirk, supported by Mrs Sheryl Davis

Year 1- Mrs Amy Worley, supported by Mrs Laura Coleman (am)

Reception- Mrs Charlotte Hibbs (Mon- Tues) and Mrs Caroline Nash (Wed- Fri), supported by Mrs Aprille Nicholls (am), Mrs Laura Coleman (pm)

Nursery/ Tots- Miss Victoria Scadden (EYFS Leader)/ Miss Shannon Pavey

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 also be made available 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.

Military Wrap Around Childcare Scheme

Please be advised that the Government has launched a new initiative that will benefit the bulk of Avondale families. From Autumn 2022, eligible Service personnel (Tri-Service) **can apply** for up to 20 hours per week of free childcare after school during term time for children aged 4 to 11 years. For eligibility questions and procedures, please click on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-for-service-children>

A Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) account must be set up with HRMC for each child that Service Personnel wants to claim the funding for.

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 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 Wilshire Council’s Free Entitlement Funding).

As advised last year, the sessions for use of the 30 hours Free Entitlement Funding, have changed. 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 shall be sent home with children on the first day of the term; however, I would encourage you to refer to our website for further information.

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. After school

activity lists will be displayed in the hallway leading to the dining room. These lists are the official ones taken for communication with home- please may we kindly ask that you check that the details are accurate, as it is not uncommon for children to start (or stop) clubs later in the term and for texts to be omitted.

On the back page of the calendar, you will find a comprehensive list of after school activities. Whilst ASCC shall operate from Day 1, teacher led clubs will start on Tuesday 6 September. A permission letter shall be sent out with the calendar; return of the permission slip promptly is much appreciated. Please also indicate your ASCC requirements.

Please note that our Nativity, planned for the latter part of the term, will now be EYFS focussed, with Reception children taking a more leading role. As numbers continue to grow across the school, and based on the success, there will be a more comprehensive Pre- Prep Production for children in Years 1 and 2 at the end of the first half of the Summer Term.

Together with the calendar, you will also receive a pack containing permission slips to meet a number of school requirements. Please may we ask that these are returned 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 5 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.

Uniform

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 requirements and price lists can be found on our website www.avondaleschool.org Whilst we are mindful of keeping prices low, please be advised that prices have needed to increase 15% in line with manufacturing increases.

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 which can be found in the school hall, beside the piano. **The uniform shop will be open on Friday 2 September from 9.00 – 11.00am.**

We are most grateful for the services of Mrs Emma Hillyard who continues to support Mrs Debbie Lister in a voluntary capacity in the running of the uniform shop. If you are unable to make the uniform shop opening time on Friday and require any uniform, then please email office@avondaleschool.org and Mrs Hillyard, or Mrs Lister will sort it for you. Contact should be made with the school office during the course of the term for further items of uniform.

As advised in July, 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. White sports socks are also required for children in Reception and Years 1 and 2. Boys in Years 3-6 will require long red 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 12 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.

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, including LAMDA lessons, 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. Lessons with Mrs Reed, Mr Hunt and Mrs Flower commence on Wednesday 7 September. Lessons with Miss Becksy will commence on Friday 9 September.

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 5 September in what, I know, will be another successful year.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Watson