



# Avondale Preparatory School

*Ignite Your Purpose, Become Your Potential*

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Headmaster: Mr Stuart Watson BEd, Dip Tchg

Monday 2 January, 2023

Dear Parents

## Spring Term Newsletter

Welcome back to the Spring 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 across our school; we also welcome the Isiaq, Bright and Watson families to our Nursery. Additionally, we welcome the Haire Family from Australia; Corey will be joining the Year 5/6 class, with Jayden joining the Year 3/4 class. We look forward to welcoming all children back on **WEDNESDAY 4 JANUARY**.

Whilst the Autumn Term seems a distant memory, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate our Early Years Department for staging a wonderful nativity in the penultimate week of the term; it was encouraging to have our hall back to capacity once again! Credit must also go to Years 1-6 for staging a vibrant and entertaining Christmas Concert.

Let me also thank the Parents Association, for their organisation of the Salisbury pantomime outing and Christmas craft activities for our Early Years Department.

## Staffing

Further to my advice last term, we say goodbye to Mrs Celina Rae at the end of the first week back as she goes on maternity leave. In the next breath, we welcome Mrs Rachel Caulfield into the Year 5/6 role with Mrs Stephenson Jarrett continuing to prepare Year 5 children for the 11+ over the bulk of mornings. Please also be advised that Mrs Barrington Tolan will become the Designated Safeguarding Lead in Mrs Rae's absence.

## Calendar

The Spring Term Calendar shall be made available on the first day back of the term; please find a DRAFT attached. Along with the calendar that the eldest child in the family will take home on Day 1, you will find a letter outlining the procedure for signing in and out at the end of the school day. Please may we ask that the form for enlisting in after school activities is returned on Day 2 (Thursday 5 January) so that updated lists can be confirmed quickly. Clubs also start on this day.

In the penultimate week of this term, the Prep Department will be staging "Shakespeare Rocks!" An after-school club has been created to aid children (and staff) in preparation for this; attendance in the Production Club, on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm is expected, to minimise the disruption to classroom learning time. This is a free club.

## Uniform and Thrift Shop Arrangements

With winter uniform now the established norm, there should be few requirements in the immediacy; however, should you require items throughout the course of the term, please contact Mrs Lister via phone or email [office@avondaleschool.org](mailto:office@avondaleschool.org)

## **Strep A**

As you will know, there have been a number of Strep A cases reported in the media. We are keen to avoid any cases surfacing at Avondale and ask for your help in this. If your child is unwell with a temperature, please may I ask that you avoid sending them to school after dosing them with Calpol, or the like. This merely hides the symptom, and in most cases, the temperature resurfaces around lunchtime. We have a legal obligation to report an 'outbreak' of Strep A cases, defined as two cases within a 10- day period. Please may we ask for your support in communicating any diagnosis to us.

## **11+ Success**

It is always difficult knowing how to manage this very delicate subject; In a small school, I am mindful that highlighting success can also have implications to the contrary. Please be advised that Avondale had a very successful year in achieving 11+ success. Four children attained the required marks for entry; congratulations to Jenneil Stoner, Edie Patrick, Harvey Button and Charlie Forster.

## **Reception Parents Evening**

Due to Mrs Hibbs' absence late last term, please be reminded that our current Reception cohort will have a parents evening documenting progress, in the near future. Mrs Hibbs and Miss Barrington will be in touch to confirm arrangements shortly.

## **Menu**

Please be advised that a revised menu will be forwarded to you by the end of the week. Should your child have any changes to specific dietary requirements, please email the office and these will be communicated with Miss Alison White.

## **Adverse Weather Plan**

As the colder weather is now well and truly upon us, the likelihood of our Adverse Weather Plan coming into effect becomes a distinct possibility with the onset of snow. Please find the plan attached for your reference.

## **Parking**

Please be reminded about parking in 'marked bays' only, when using 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! 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). 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.

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

Yours sincerely



Stuart Watson