



Avondale Preparatory School

Ignite Your Purpose, Become Your Potential

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Tuesday 2 January, 2024

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 welcome Jacob Hare, Rosie Jenkins and Monty Gray to our Tots/ Nursery class. We look forward to welcoming all children back on **MONDAY 8 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 at capacity! 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 sweet sales, jumper swaps and the Christmas Movie Evening. Not to end there, I also draw attention to their organisation of the Salisbury pantomime outing and Christmas craft activities for our Early Years Department in the final week of the term.

Staffing

In the New Year, following a spell on maternity leave, we welcome back Mrs Celina Rae. Celina will return on a reduced teaching timetable, over two days, sharing the Year 5/6 commitment with Mrs Barington Tolan; this will afford each of them time to stay on top of Assistant Head administrative responsibilities. Further information, including any changes to roles, will be shared with you in due course.

There are some minor changes to other parts of the school, due to the growth in our Nursery/ Tots classroom. In this respect, please be advised that Miss Shannon Pavey will now work full time in this facility, with Mrs Carmel Everett Collins moving full-time in the Reception class. Miss Kelly Sturgess will become the Year 2 classroom teaching assistant in the afternoons.

Spring 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 during the first week of the term. Please find a 'draft' calendar attached for your reference. Additionally, with this letter, you will receive a 'survey link' detailing our after-school clubs.

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 9 January**. Please also indicate your ASCC requirements on the survey.

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.

In the penultimate week of this term, the **Prep Department** will be staging 'The Wizard of Oz'. 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.**

If I may also draw Nursery parents' attention to the 'Reception' Information Afternoon held on Tuesday 23 January at 3:30pm. Wiltshire Council require applications for 2024-25 school places to be made with them by the end of January. To allow you to make an informed decision, the afternoon will allow Nursery parents an opportunity to talk with the Reception teachers about their approach in the classroom and what you can expect from a continued journey with Avondale. Please be reassured that a place is already guaranteed for Nursery parents, given your existing registration with Avondale.

Presently, we have a buoyant Reception class of children and we would like to continue this trend in the year ahead; in this respect, if you know of any other parents who are considering Avondale for the 2024-25 academic year, we would encourage you to bring them along.

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. The Thrift Shop is run by Mrs Sheryl Davis from 8am- 8:30am daily.

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 another successful year in achieving 11+ success. Three children attained the required marks for entry; congratulations to Rupert Davis, Isabel Goodchild, and Arthur Milne.

Menu

Please be advised that a revised menu will be forwarded to you during the first week back. Should your child have any changes to specific dietary requirements, please email the office and these will be communicated with our kitchen team.

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.

Uniform on the First Day Back

All children in Years 1-6 should bring their PE gear to school **on the first day back**.

Please also note that swimming commences for children in Years 1-3 (**compulsory**; Yr 4 optional) on **the first day back**. Our schedule continues from 2pm-3pm. You are more than welcome to collect your child from the swimming pool at 3:15pm; if you are collecting from the pool, please kindly advise the office. Alternatively, children will be returned to school in the minibus by 3:20pm.

We are mindful of the amount of cancellations made last term due to swimming instructor absences. Please be advised that this is a problem across the wider Salisbury/ Amesbury area. I made a complaint with the pool midway through last term and also explored other available options for swimming lessons. Please be assured that Durrington Pool is the only facility available that fits in with our staffing and timetable structure. Should similar patterns of absence emerge this term, I would encourage you to contact the pool directly; more voices can only add more weight for ensuring continuity of the programme.

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