



Avondale Preparatory School

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Headmaster: Mr Stuart Watson BEd, Dip Tchg

Monday 17 April, 2017

Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the Summer Term. I trust that the break has been a restful time for you and the family.

Before launching into the term ahead let us reflect on a brilliant end to the Spring Term. Congratulations must go to the Prep Department for their superb effort in putting on Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Joseph and the technicolored Dreamcoat'. What made the evening such a success was the united team effort displayed from staff and children alike. Children clearly enjoyed the musical, with a number of school trips bursting into song! Thank you to all parents for your support with after school rehearsals as well as attendance on the evening itself; furthermore, to parents who joined us who don't have children in the Prep Department. Your presence saw the school hall filled to capacity, creating a vibrant atmosphere for children to perform. The evening rose £221 which will see the school invest further in performing arts equipment.

The last few days of the Spring Term saw Years 3 and 4 venture to Hooke Court, Dorset to immerse themselves in a two- night residential learning programme with children coming back buzzing about their experience. The group took part in a range of activities which saw them complement their history and science studies in addition to tackling a number of team building initiatives.

Not to be outdone, a number of Years 5 and 6 children spent the final two days of the term and the first week of the holiday period in Romania going on a number of excursions with orphaned children. They also spent a day in a Brasov school learning more about the Romanian language and education system. The trip was a huge success and continues to evolve year on year; a number of parents who had billeted children at this end in the past were able to be reunited. There will be a special Romanian Exchange assembly on the first morning back (Tuesday 25 April) at 8:45am showcasing the events of the week; both children and parents will share their experiences dispelling pre- conceived notions. I would strongly encourage all parents of children who travelled to attend, but also parents with children in Years 4 and 5 considering this opportunity for the next academic year to familiarise themselves with the programme. In the second leg of the exchange, we look forward to welcoming four orphaned children here for the final four weeks of the term.

As usual at the start of any term there are a number of housekeeping things that need mentioning.

Parents Evening

Please be advised that our Parents Evening for the Summer Term takes place on Thursday 25 May, starting from 3:45pm. Appointments can be made by signing up for a specific time slot under your child's teacher's name. Clipboards will go out on the hallway dresser on Monday 15 May; please may we ask that you take a note of the appointment time you have requested and adhere to the allocated time slot as a courtesy to other parents. **Should you require extra time, please make another appointment with your child's teacher for another day.** Meetings now take place in the school hall in 15 minute intervals (with EYFS appointments taking place in our Nursery and Tots respectively); should you have a child that does

morning sessions (and the timing of the Parents Evening does not suit), please speak with your child's key worker, who will be available to meet you at a mutually convenient time. Mrs Henley shall also be available on the evening for 10 minute intervals, should your child be in receipt of SEN support,

Staffing

It would normally be standard procedure at this time of the year for me to advise of the class and staffing structure for the following academic year. I am still in the process of finalising an appointment at present and will advise you in due course; hopefully within a few weeks. As stated in previous correspondence, this term becomes the busiest in terms of prospective parents visiting the school and late postings materialising within the service industry. This term also sees a growing role, with the EYFS attributing for approximately 55% of the school population.

'New Generation Impact' Achievement

Thank you once again for your support of student- led charity events. The skipathon held on the penultimate Friday of the Spring Term has brought in £1200 so far, with more still to come. These funds will go directly to support orphaned children in Romania in the form of redeveloping the outside covered areas. Pola Ferchow was attributed as being the best betting tips uk football skipper in the Pre- Prep Department with 116 skips in 1 mi-nute, with Jemima Wray taking honours in the Prep Department with 143 skips; a remarkable achievement for a girl in Year 4!

Summer Uniform and New Thrift Shop Arrangements

I should like to remind you that all children should return to school after the Easter holiday period 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 (with the exception of Nursery) and hats (all 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. Fleeces are no longer required, but we recommend that your child brings their raincoat to 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 Years 1-6 require **white sports socks** for games and the new short sleeved **school house polo shirt**. To aid you in preparing your child, our uniform shop, including thrift shop, shall be open on Monday 24 April from 10am- 11:00am. Mrs Lister and Mrs Sam Wallace shall be available to assist you. Normal hours during the course of the term are Mondays and Fridays 8:30am- 9:30am.

Return of Cups

Please may we kindly ask that all recipients of awards from last year, return the cups by half term to allow us adequate time for engraving. This includes Primary Enterprise Programme Cups.

Calendar

The Summer Term calendar shall be made available on the first day back of the term. We have made it more succinct in recent years; term dates for planning holidays can now be found on our website. 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 for children in Nursery- Year 6. **Please may we ask that forms for enlisting in after school activities are returned on Wednesday 26 April** so that updated lists can be confirmed quickly. **Clubs also start on this day.**

Notification of Fees for the Academic Year 2017-18

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 2017). Please also find an updated 'Terms and Conditions' and 'Complaints Procedure'. All decisions taken have been mindful of the current economic climate, but are seen as necessary steps, due to maintenance and operating costs that continue to grow.

We still remain undisputedly the most cost effective independent option in the Wiltshire/ Hampshire area; for the bulk of age groups, this equates to approximately £2800 less per annum than the nearest school of similar standing; this margin has widened in recent years.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your children a successful term ahead and remind you that I have an open door for further communication should you so require.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Watson