



# Avondale Preparatory School

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Headmaster: Mr Stuart Watson BEd, Dip Tchg

Monday 4 April, 2016

## Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parents

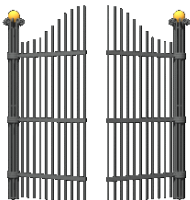
Welcome back to the Summer Term. I trust that the break has been a restful time for you and the family. This term we welcome a number of new children to Avondale, predominantly in our Tots and Nursery areas. This term is indeed the busiest time in the EYFS with numbers attributing to nearly 60% of the school population. The warmer months will see more learning opportunities shared outside.

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; they documented their learning in a fitting assembly, shared with the rest of the school on the final day of the term. Additionally, 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 school in a school in Brasov learning more about the Romanian language and education system. Undoubtedly, the trip was a step up from last year with the group more familiar with one another. There will be a special Romanian Exchange assembly on the first morning back (Tuesday 12 April) at 8:45am showcasing the events of the week. All parents are most welcome to attend- this would be an ideal opportunity for those parents with children in Years 4 and 5 considering this **FREE** 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.

### Gold Certificate System for Rewarding Success

Your child may have been lucky enough to have brought home a gold certificate in recent weeks (or a number over the course of the year). I should like to take this opportunity to share that recipients are awarded a gold certificate for **going above and beyond what would normally be expected of them**. As I am sure you will appreciate, what is expected from one child, is undoubtedly different for another. The certificates are not seen as a means for recognising attainment, but attitude and commitment within the classroom. For those children who are awarded five certificates within a school year, a special A4 sized certificate is awarded on presentation of the other smaller certificates.



### School Security- side gate and front door entry before and after school

As a polite reminder, school officially opens at 8am; we are unable to supervise children before this time and therefore are not insured to take children before 8am. For this reason, the side blue gate shall only be opened from this time. There may be occasions where you may have an earlier meeting to get to- if this does become the case, please advise the school office the day before; entry to the school can be made through the front door, where your child will be asked to remain seated in the dining room until 8am. **Please may we ask that this is an exception to the arrangement, rather than it becoming the norm.** With summer approaching, the blue side gate shall be opened at the end of the day for children in ASCC, providing children are supervised outside. The ASCC team come inside between 4:30pm and 5pm for afternoon tea and the gate will be locked during this period. Entry should be made

through the front door on these occasions. If the Tots are playing outside (or have joined the ASCC team), this shall be communicated on the white front door at 25 High St.

### After School Care Club

For those of you that take advantage of our after school care facility, you will be aware that a substantial afternoon tea is now provided each night. To aid us with our catering, please may we ask that if your child is not a regular in the programme post 4:30pm that this is communicated with us on the ASCC form in the hallway by placing a tick beside your child's name to indicate they will require afternoon tea. Failure to do this may result in the quantities provided being affected.

### Parents Evening

Please be advised that our Parents Evening for the Summer Term takes place on Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 full day 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,



### 11+ Success

At this time of year, it is always difficult knowing just how to play things- we congratulate those children who have been successful in achieving places to respective Grammar Schools whilst we empathise with those children who came close, but missed out. Congratulations goes to Alice Searle and Takudzwa Mavunga for achieving 11+ distinction.

### Staffing

For those with children in our full day nursery, you will be aware that we said goodbye to Mrs Liz Taylor and Mrs Jane Kace at the end of the Spring Term. As advised earlier, Miss Victoria Scadden shall be stepping across from Tots to oversee the planning and implementation of learning programmes across both parts of the school. We also welcome Mrs Amy Jenkins to our 'mornings nursery'. Amy is an experienced teacher and started with us late last term; she replaces Mrs Carrie Ashton who was awarded an appointment elsewhere at short notice. I should also like to welcome Mrs Sheryl Davis to the Tots team. Sheryl is an existing parent at Avondale and replaces Mrs Karen Morgan who joins Figheldean School with the start date still to be confirmed.

The Spring Term saw a number of interviews conducted, involving lessons with our children as I looked to finalise appointments for the following academic year. You will be aware that there are a number of staff currently on maternity leave; having had written confirmation in the final week of the Spring Term, I share with you that Mrs Jo Bovill, who oversaw our Nursery and Mrs Laura Palmer, who oversaw Reception and the EYFS, will not be returning as they look to spend quality time with their new additions! With this in mind, as well as Ofsted's renewed focus, there will be a restructuring of the school in the following academic year.

The school will be divided into two parts:

**Pre- Prep** (including the EYFS and Years 1 and 2). This will be overseen by Mrs Melissa Beresford.

**Prep** (including Years 3-6). This shall be overseen by Mrs Jo Stephenson- Jarrett in addition to overseeing SEN.

Additionally, there will be a new position created focusing on developing the teaching and learning of the core subjects in Literacy and Numeracy. This shall be overseen by Mrs Rachael Banham.

Knowing the complexities and importance of the role, Mrs Sarah Lamont shall be moving to our EYFS to oversee learning programmes in our nursery; as shared at the Junior production last term, Miss Charlotte Sides shall be leaving us very close to the end of the Summer Term to have her first child. Mrs Vicky Fleming shall be overseeing the learning programme in Year 3 for the final three weeks of the year. Next year, I am pleased to confirm the following two 'Prep' appointments; Miss Georgina Barrington, who joins us from Oasis Academy in Bristol. Georgina is a vibrant teacher who the children quickly gained a rapport with during her lesson observation. She has represented Scotland in the recent Commonwealth games and her determination and direction will be key attributes in driving forward the girls games arena next year. We also welcome Mr Anthony Rahman; Anthony is an experienced teacher, currently at Amesbury Archer School. Like Georgina, it was noticeable from the start that his rapport with children was of the highest calibre. Anthony is already known to a number of Avondale staff, having worked with Mrs Beth Henley for a time. Both candidates will be welcomed additions to the school and come with glowing references. We look forward to the impact that they will have in the year ahead.

Please find below the staffing allocation for the 2016-17 academic year; a number of teaching assistants will be allocated later in the year:

<b>Pre Prep</b>	<b>led by Mrs Melissa Beresford</b>
<b>Tots</b>	led by Miss Vicky Scadden
<b>Full Day Nursery</b>	led by Mrs Sarah Lamont
<b>Mornings Nursery</b>	led by Mrs Teri Hayward
<b>Reception</b>	led by Mrs Melissa Beresford, supported by Mrs Dawn Cannon
<b>Year 1</b>	led by Mrs Isabel Elgy, supported by Mrs Pauline Smith
<b>Year 2</b>	led by Mrs Ali Humphrey



<b>Prep</b>	<b>led by Mrs Stephenson- Jarrett</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	led by Miss Georgina Barrington, supported by Mrs Suzanne Stone
<b>Year 4</b>	led by Mr Anthony Rahman
<b>Year 5</b>	led by Mrs Stephenson- Jarrett
<b>Year 6</b>	led by Mrs Rachael Banham (Core Subjects Development Leader)

#### 'New Generation Impact' Achievement

Thank you once again for your support of student- led charity events. As advised at our Junior production, the Mathethon brought in £1600. These funds will go directly to support orphaned children in Romania in the form of redeveloping the sports field shared between the boys orphanage and local school. An update of kitchen facilities has already been completed.

#### Summer Uniform and New Thrift Shop Arrangements

I should like to remind you that children should return to school after the Easter holiday period in **Summer Uniform**. For girls, this means **Avondale** summer dresses and straw hats and for boys, short sleeved shirts and shorts. **All children should arrive and depart school in their blazers (with the exception of Nursery who will still require a fleece) 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. Fleeeces 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 **school house polo shirt**. To aid you in preparing your child, our uniform shop, including thrift shop, shall be open on Monday 11 April from 10:30am- 11:30am. Mrs Lister and Mrs Samantha 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 13 April** so that updated lists can be confirmed quickly. **Clubs also start on this day.**

## **Change in School Hours for 2016-17**

May I draw to your attention that the length of our school day will be changing in the following academic year to a 5:30pm finish in ASCC and Tots (Monday- Friday). Tots fees have been considered in this change and are reflected accordingly. ASCC fees will continue to be invoiced in arrears on a monthly basis with the sibling discount now in line with school fee remissions for those with more than one child.

## **Notification of Fees for the Academic Year 2016-17**

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 2016). 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 (including staffing) that continue to grow.

We still remain the most cost effective independent option in the area; for the bulk of the school, 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.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Watson