



Avondale Preparatory School

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Monday 9 April, 2018

Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the Summer Term; I trust that the break has been a restful one for the family. Let me start by welcoming a number of new parents to our EYFS Department as well as the Beer family from Australia, with Samuel entering Year 5 and Asha, Year 2. We trust that your children will settle quickly and enjoy everything Avondale has to offer.

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 Lionel Bart's 'Oliver'. 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 in the minibus 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 once again, creating a vibrant atmosphere for children to perform. The evening raised £400, for which we are most grateful; this will see the school invest further in performing arts equipment. The quality of our productions continues to improve and we are already considering a suitable selection of ideas for next year.

Earlier in the term, we celebrated Book Week with a fitting 'Pirate Day' and a linked readathon for children in Reception- Year 6. Thank you to all those who supported the cause; your efforts brought in a total of £1000, which will be used to update the 'Peter Pan' orphanage facilities in Brasov over the summer holidays. I intend to take photographs and recordings that document the orphanage in its current state in the weeks ahead; in the new academic year, I intend to share a brief report of where the raised funds have been used and the difference that they will make to the lives of the children there. I would like to recognise the following children for their efforts in fundraising:

Pre- Prep

Ollie Watkins (Pre- Prep Winner)

Charlie Fensome

Libby Sawkill and Tilly Sawkill

Prep

Tessa and Charlie Russell

The focus for the week was on reading and the following children were recognised for their efforts at our final assembly of the Spring Term:

Reception- Ollie Watkins

Year 1- Sebastian Ehlen

Year 2- Reuben Sandu

Year 3- Tom Hellier

Year 4- Charlie Russell

Year 5- Leo Musgrave

Year 6- Edward Phillips

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 Monday 21 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 Tuesday 8 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); 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

As stated in previous correspondence, this term becomes the busiest in terms of prospective parents visiting the school. This term also sees a growing role, with the EYFS attributing to approximately 50% of the school population. As much as I would like to advise arrangements for the following academic year, the service industry is not making my job any easier with postings materialising much later these days. What I can confirm is that it is now likely that classes will be made up of single year groups across the school, with the exception of Years 3 and 4. This said, there still remains a long time between now and when a decision is taken and things could well change. Changes to staffing and class allocation will be communicated with you the other side of half term.

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. We recommend that your child brings their fleece/ 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 16 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 18 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 2018). 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 £3000 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