



# Avondale Preparatory School

*Ignite Your Purpose, Become Your Potential*

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**Headmaster: Mr Stuart Watson BEd, Dip Tchg**

Monday 17 August, 2020

Dear Parents

I trust that the summer holiday period has been a beneficial one for the family and that the improved weather in recent weeks has had a positive influence on outlook despite these uncertain times!

I have tried to keep correspondence with you to a minimum during our period of closure due to government guidance changing so regularly. Throughout the time, I received a plethora of information which seemed to change on a daily basis! We had a plan in place, back in June, only to find that we needed to re-jig things as new guidance came through. In this respect, please find attached our operating procedures from September; this was sent out in late July and includes our continuity of education procedures in the event of a second wave or national/ local lockdown. You will note that there has needed to be some compromise due to the implementation of the 'bubble' system; in the same breath, I share with you that we are keen to resume 'Avondale as you know it' as soon as we are permitted to do so.

In summary, please be advised that:

- All children will go directly to their classrooms on arrival at school via respective entrances (as advised in the 'Operating Procedures' document.
- We are not permitted to have school assemblies or any school performance such as Harvest Festival or Remembrance Service. With the absence of school assemblies from the programme, children will commence lessons earlier with phonics and guided reading groups operating until 9:20am each morning in the main school (Years 1-6).
- Choir/ singing is not permitted; this compromises the ability to run nativities and the Christmas Carol Service. The Christmas pantomime in Salisbury will also be in doubt.
- Sports (in curriculum time and after school) will be 'bubble specific' with boys and girls mixed. Fixtures with other schools will be put on hold until guidance says that it is safe to do so.
- Years 5/6 will not have a French Trip this year (usually conducted every intermediate year)
- The Years 5/6 Ski Trip will not take place in December this year. We are hopeful that we may be able to reschedule this for the February half term, but this will be very much dependent on circumstances.
- The Years 3/4 two night/ three day residential will be shifted to the Summer Term.
- swimming will commence for Years 1-4 when we are advised it is possible. However, it will only be feasible to implement if children remain within their bubbles.

Despite the disappointments above, **WE ARE BACK!** And we look forward to providing an enriching learning environment in all classrooms! One positive to come out of the revised guidance is that **we are now able to continue providing fully cooked lunches for all parts of the school.**

If I may refer back to our operating procedures, please may I ask all families to adhere to social distancing guidelines whilst on the school premises and in the Working Men's Club carpark. We do not wish to have the integrity of bubble systems compromised; adherence to published guidelines will allow Avondale (as a whole) to function in the event of self- isolation being necessary for a specific cohort. In this respect, we would kindly ask that parents wait outside designated entrance/ exits and

disperse once you have picked your child/ children up, without mixing with other bubbles, despite how tempting it can be for children to want to interact.

Forgive the barrage of COVID communication thus far; may I take this opportunity to welcome a significant number of new families to Avondale. We have had a number of late registrations over the holiday period across all parts of the school; we look forward to working in partnership with you in the weeks/ terms ahead.

I should also like to welcome to the staffing team, Miss Celina Summerhays, who joins us as Assistant Head/ Years 5/6 Teacher. Mrs Georgie Barrington Tolan will also be stepping up to the role of Assistant Head; with very little in the way of extra- curricular opportunities permitted, curriculum development will be very much the focus as schemes of learning and tracking systems are developed further across the school.

Please find below, the full staffing allocation for the year.

**Year 5/6-** Miss Celina Summerhays/ Mrs Jo Stephenson- Jarrett (11+ focus/ SEN)

**Year 4-** Mr Josh Tolan

**Year 3-** Mrs Georgina Barrington- Tolan

**Year 1/2-** Mrs Amy Worley, supported by Mrs Sue Lee and Mrs Carmel Everett- Collins (1:1)

**Reception-** Mrs Charlotte Hibbs, supported by Mrs Dawn Cannon (mornings) and Mrs Aprille Nicholls (afternoons)

**Nursery-** Miss Victoria Scadden, supported by Mrs Sheryl Davis and Mrs Tracey Hall

**Tots-** Miss Shannon Pavey, supported by Miss Keileigh Macdonald

**Please find below a number of housekeeping points for consideration that will affect you in the terms ahead- the list continues to grow on a daily basis! In this respect, we will update you with our ‘week ahead’ emails, sent out each Friday.**

### **Communication and Billing**

Firstly, it will come as no surprise to you that you are receiving this letter by means of e-mail; this is our only method for correspondence and was borne out of the fact that many newsletters never made it home! Furthermore, all ASCC and uniform invoices shall be sent using this method, in addition to Termly invoices and letters. In this respect, please may we ask that your e-mail details are up- to- date and accurate with the school office. **We kindly ask that your spam folder is checked on a regular basis as this is where a number of items ended up last year.** Very occasionally, we have encountered some emails not reaching recipients (this includes home and school). If you think you may have missed a form of communication, please get in touch with the school office. Please be reassured, that unless otherwise stated, all email correspondence from home will be acknowledged by the office, or classroom teaching staff.

In respect to the Termly calendar, an abbreviated A5 sized version shall be sent home with children on the first day of the term; however, I would encourage you to refer to our website for further information. Due to COVID restrictions, it is not as comprehensive as we would like. 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. After school activity lists will be displayed in the hallway leading to the dining room. These lists are the official ones taken for communication with home- please may we kindly ask that you check that the details are accurate, as it is not uncommon for children to start (or stop) clubs later in the term and for texts to be omitted.

Whilst ASCC shall operate from Day 1, teacher led clubs will start on Thursday 10 September. A full list of clubs shall be made available in the calendar which shall be accompanied with a permission letter; return of the permission slip promptly will ensure acceptance to some clubs that have restrictions on numbers. You will be contacted by phone if we are **unable** to accommodate your requests.

## **Uniform**

We have high expectations in respect to our uniform. Please be advised that only listed Avondale items of uniform are permitted to be worn at school. All uniform requirements and price lists can be found on our website [www.avondaleschool.org](http://www.avondaleschool.org)

All uniform must be **clearly marked** with your child's name on it; this includes thrift shop uniform, which may require an old name being removed! Any uniform found without names will be put in lost property which can be found in the school hall immediately to the left as you walk in the front doors. The uniform shop will be open on Monday 7 September and Tuesday 8 September from 10.00 – 11.00. If you are unable to make these dates or times, please send an e-mail to the office and your uniform will be sorted, week beginning Monday 7 September. Mrs Emma Hillyard will be taking over the running of the uniform shop this year and we are most grateful for her fulfilling this voluntary role; should you require any uniform then please email [uniform@avondaleschool.org](mailto:uniform@avondaleschool.org) and Emma, or Debbie Lister will sort it for you.

As advised earlier, children should return to school in **WINTER** uniform. Children in Reception to Year 6 require the school hat and blazer to be worn to and from school.

Additionally, the **SUMMER** PE kit, (short sleeved shirt, detailing house colours) for those children in Reception to Year 6, should be brought in for use in PE lessons. White sports socks are also required. Your child will bring a timetable home by the end of the first week to communicate when PE lessons will take place. Please be advised that all children in Years 3-6 will require their PE kit on the **FIRST DAY BACK**.

## **Appointments/ Requests for Absence**

Inevitably there are a number of appointments that are necessitated throughout the course of a school week- to ensure the safety of all children is kept paramount, please may we ask that the office is informed the moment you take your child and at the point in which they are returned to school.

All requests for absence other than doctor's/ dentists and the like, **should be directed to myself in writing. This is a mandatory requirement.** Please may I ask that holidays are booked around the dates outlined in the Termly calendars; we want your children to progress and prolonged absences from school can affect attainment levels.

## **Peripatetic Lessons**

Timetables for respective teachers follow a tumble system so as to avoid children missing the same lesson each week. These timetables are displayed in respective classrooms and on the Parents Noticeboard in the school foyer/ hallway. Lessons with Mrs Reed, Mrs Mettyear and Mrs Sandu commence on Thursday 10 September. Mr Hunt shall commence his lessons on Friday 11 September. Any absences for children on school trips are made up; we are unable to do the same, or refund, in the event of sickness or planned holidays.

## **Ofsted**

Despite the pandemic affecting routine inspections, Ofsted have said that they will be resuming normal operations in January 2021. Whilst we are due for an inspection in the second half of the Summer Term 2021, it is highly possible that it will be shifted to the following academic year, given the increasing backlog experienced during lockdown. As a school, we are not complacent in our achievement of desired outcomes; we strive to provide the best possible education for your children.

In this respect, please may I ask that you make contact with either your child's class teacher or myself should you have any concerns that may arise. Communication is the key which will allow us to meet expectations. It would be much appreciated having the opportunity to address things prior to Ofsted arriving rather than learning about them in the form of questionnaire feedback during the visit. Please appreciate that we all want different things; home learning is a prime example- we are able to challenge/ increase/ decrease the quantity set with the right level of communication from home.

**Parking**

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Pete Hillyard for the support he has offered in providing contractors to demarcate parking spaces in the Bulford Working Men's Club. Where we are permitted to park is now clearly marked; there will be a sign going up in the weeks ahead detailing that non-adherence to the Bulford Working Men's Club's expectations could result in your car being clamped.

We finally got there! I have no doubt that there will be other little snippets that come up in the next couple of weeks. Needless to say, we look forward to welcoming you and the family back on Wednesday 9 September in what, I know, will be another successful year.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Watson