



Avondale Preparatory School

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Monday 15th April, 2019

Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parents

Happy Easter - I hope you are all having a wonderful holiday and looking forward to the Easter weekend filled with Easter Eggs (or suitable replacements!). I hope the children are enjoying a well-earned rest and are looking forward to the busy term ahead. A quick reminder regarding the extreme reading challenge: the first entries have already trickled in, but the competition is still open so make sure you don't forget to send yours in...

As we move closer to term starting so there are some notes for your diary and a couple of bits of 'housekeeping':

Parents Evening

Summer Term Parents Evening will take place on Monday 20th May; starting at 1545hrs. We will be placing the appointment clipboards on the hallway dresser on Tuesday 7th May – please sign up for a specific time slot under the name of your child's teacher. Please make a note of your time, and alert the teacher well in advance should you have to amend it. If you require an appointment longer than the allotted 15 minutes, do email the teacher directly to organise at another time. Whilst these are scheduled meetings you are very welcome to ask to meet with teachers at any time to look through books and discuss progress - we appreciate that education is a partnership.

Parents Evening will take place in the School Hall, or the Nursery for EYFS parents.

Uniform

When I interviewed at Avondale, I was bowled over by the presentation of the pupils, and ask for your support in ensuring that future visitors to the school feel the same. The staff will be encouraged to work tirelessly to ensure that standards are met, and the below are just a few guidelines which I would greatly appreciate your support with:

Ostensibly, we are now in Summer, which means that all children should return to school in **Summer Uniform** - for girls, summer dresses and for boys, short sleeved shirts and shorts.

Please can all **children (except Nursery) arrive and depart school in their blazers. All children, including Nursery, will be expected to wear their hats on arrival and departure too.**

Just in case there is a wet break time (we are, after all, in England!) please can all children bring their fleece or waterproof to school.

White sports socks and the short-sleeved 'house' polo shirt are required for Games for all students in Years 1-6.

In order that all 'misplaced' items of clothes can be returned to their rightful owner, can I take this opportunity to remind you to name/rename them. Should an unnamed item of clothing be found, this will be put in the Thrift Shop.

Return of Cups

It's almost time for a new cohort of pupils to be celebrated! Please can any recipients of prizes from last year return these by Half Term, so that we have ample time to engrave them?

Movers and Shakers

I won't be the only new boy this term – we also welcome new pupils to the school; I am sure they (and their families) will be bowled over by the Avondale generosity of spirit! From the Tots, to the 'Top of the Tree' I have been surrounded by smiles, laughter and a huge amount of help and seen some great learning and care.

Themes

During the course of this term we will be focusing on two themes. For the first half of term we will be considering '*If I was meeting the Queen I would*'... which will encompass topics such as manners, punctuality and presentation.

The second half of term will revolve around "*How I will deal with new challenges...*" for those in Year 6 this will include looking at a new school, and for those staying on - the challenges and expectations of the year ahead.

Please do use these phrases at home so the children receive a united message.

Next year...

I am sure your thoughts will soon be turning to September and the next academic year. You will be reassured that planning is well underway to continue to provide the high quality of care and education that you expect from Avondale. An army child myself I am fully aware of the demands of postings as well as the increasingly dynamic nature of the civilian workplace and the pressures it places on families. As a result, we aim to be as flexible as we can in our preparations until the last possible minute. I will let you know of any final decisions as they are made, if you have any questions in the meantime please do make an appointment. Bearing this in mind if you are aware of any colleagues who are moving into the area, or friends who are considering Avondale, I would urge them to visit sooner rather than later. We are holding two Open Days later in the term but I would strongly advocate an early visit.

The fees for the academic year commencing September 2019 are attached to this email, in line with our policy on providing a term's notice. As ever, these have been agreed with an acute awareness of the current economic climate, and also the needs of the school infrastructure.

Should you have any queries about these fees, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me personally.

Calendar

The Summer Term Calendar is attached with this letter, and term dates further in advance can be found on the website. Please can I draw your attention to the following dates:

There are a couple of chances to come and say "hello" in the first week of term Thursday 25th April coffee in the Hall from 0830 and Friday 26th April from 1500.

We have two Open Days this term on Friday 3rd May and Friday 14th June. These are normal working days where the school will be open all day for visitors. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Clubs and Activities will start on Wednesday 24th April, **please can you return all forms indicating participation in these to the office, please return in hard copy.**

We have an exciting term ahead, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the wide range of events we have planned, at which **all** family members and friends are welcome. Please can I reiterate again that you are welcome to come and chat about your child's progress with relevant staff (myself included) at any time.

I am looking forward to this term and sharing with you the successes of your children as they enjoy the busy term and spending time with their friends.

Yours sincerely

Ben Coombes