



## Parents' Association

Mrs C L Button  
Chair Avondale Parents' Association, Avondale School, High St, Bulford, SP4 9DR  
01980 632387

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **INTRODUCTORY LETTER 2021 2022**

On behalf of the Parents' Association (PA), I wish to offer a warm welcome to new members of the school community and a welcome return to the existing cohort.

I hope you've all had an enjoyable summer and trust that you are looking forward to the new academic year with a mixture with anticipation and enthusiasm, especially with the worst of the pandemic now very much behind us.

The PA consists of a representative group of parents who organise activities on behalf of the school to enrich the children's experience via extra-curricular activities and facilities.

The aim of the PA is threefold:

- Enrich the time that children and parents spend at Avondale.
- Foster better relationships between the families and teachers / Avondale School via social events.
- Raise funds to help the school provide additional resources for the children by working towards common goals.

Please note that any concerns related to the governance of the school or educational matters should be raised directly with the headmaster rather than via the PA.

PA activities occur throughout the academic year, usually during the day for children and the evenings for parents and families. A flavour of the activities by term:

- Autumn Term – a disco, trip to see a pantomime and other festive activities.
- Spring Term – a 'Bake Off' and Easter competitions and cake sales.
- Summer Term – ice cream sales, a raffle and end-of-year picnic.

The 'End-of-Year Picnic' is the highlight of the PA's academic year and a favourite for the children. Covid measures unfortunately forced us to cancel July's picnic which was particularly disappointing for the outgoing Year 6. However, the headmaster has allowed it to be rescheduled for **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September, on the school field from 5.30pm**. More details to follow soon however please save the date and attend if you able to.

Supporting activities for the picnic include a '100-square' raffle, which has been extended from last year with c.30 squares remaining available (at £5 each) and the possibility of winning £200 (providing all the squares are sold). Further details on purchasing the squares to follow.

Since we were not able to hold an AGM last year, this will occur in the Autumn Term. In addition to presenting our annual accounts and a summary of last year's activities, it provides you with the opportunity to influence projects and activities therefore I would very much encourage your attendance. The date and further details will follow.

Finally, if you would like to get involved in supporting the PA's activities, please approach the most appropriate member of the team / committee. Please also let me know if you would like to volunteer for either of the vacant positions.

- Chair – Claire Button (Final year, with Stuart Marsh offering to take over from Jul 21(tbc at AGM))
- Secretary – Hannah Sandu
- Treasurer – Rachel Willis
- Marketing Rep – Katie Gilham
- **Nursery – Vacant** (*Volunteers welcome*)
- Reception – Sam Welford and Emily Davies
- Year 1 – Will Shaw
- Year 2 – Emma Hillyard
- Year 3/4 – Sheryl Davis
- Year 5 – Claire Button
- Year 6 – Rachel Willis and Hannah Sandu
- Volunteers – Jenny Close, Sian Cornish and Claire Spencer.
- Bag2School Rep – Emma Hillyard and Katie Gilham
- **Easy Fundraising Rep – Vacant** (*Volunteers welcome*)

Details of PA activities will be emailed out to you and your PA Rep (above) should also inform you. We also have a **Facebook Group**. For many years now, the PA have had a Facebook Group for all Parents. I understand there was a misunderstanding about what it was for. The Group isn't just for Committee Members, it's for all parents and any parent is welcome to join. It is a Private Group (so only members can view and post) and each post goes through Admin for Approval. It is now called '**Avondale Preparatory School Parents**' and the link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/524202551298509>

The PA has, over many years, provided considerable benefit to the children and significant sums for charity. In addition to the annual events, achievements include refreshing the school's library, partially funding the all-weather pitch, buying some new lighting equipment for the annual production and, last year, purchasing a baby grand piano. I think you'll agree these are all worthy additions to the school that enrich the children's experience during a very important time in their development and education. With your support, I very much hope we can continue this in this tradition.

One very straightforward and easy way to raise money is **Easyfundraising**. I would like to encourage you all to sign up to Easy Fundraising (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>). The website has links to all your favourite shops and a proportion of any money you spend in the shops (linked from the website) will be given free to the school by the company. We've raised several thousand pounds in this way, however, we are gradually losing our big spenders when children naturally leave the school, so please sign up, it doesn't cost you anything except a minute to sign up (you will need to go through their website to raise the money). They also have a toolbar/App which flag up any Easyfundraising Organisations as you search for them.

I look forward to meeting you over the coming term or, preferably, at the picnic on September 24<sup>th</sup>!

Kind Regards

**Claire Button**

Mrs C L Button,

Chair, Avondale Parents' Association

Email: [clairephilbrelade@virginmedia.com](mailto:clairephilbrelade@virginmedia.com)