



Avondale Preparatory School

Ignite Your Purpose, Become Your Potential

High Street, Bulford, SALISBURY SP4 9DR

Tel: 01980 632387

E-Mail: office@avondaleschool.org

Web: www.avondaleschool.org

Co-Headteachers: Mrs Georgina Barrington-Tolan & Mrs Celina Rae

Tuesday, 31 December, 2024

Dear Parents,

Spring Term Newsletter

Happy New Year! I hope the holiday season was a restful and enjoyable time for your family. We are delighted to welcome several new families to our school community. Tory and Theodore Morgner joined our Reception and Year 4 class at the end of last term, and we are excited to welcome back Ethan Tamang, who will be joining Year 3, as well as Jack Hare, Darla Lyons, Mickey Morgan, Millicent Humphreys and Rhys Mirelle, who are joining our Tots/Nursery class. We look forward to seeing all the children back in school on **Monday, 6 January**.

The Autumn Term was a resounding success! I would like to take this opportunity to commend our Early Years Department for their outstanding effort in staging a delightful nativity. Equal credit must go to Years 1–6 for delivering a vibrant and entertaining Christmas Concert, even if it wrapped up a little swiftly!

A heartfelt thanks also goes to our Parents Teachers Association for their incredible dedication in organising a multitude of events last term. From sweet sales and Christmas Clothing Sales to the Christmas Movie Evening and beyond, their hard work brought so much joy to our community. Additionally, their efforts in arranging the Salisbury pantomime outing and the Christmas craft activities for our Early Years Department during the final week of term were truly appreciated.

Alongside the fantastic events organised by the PTA, this term we welcomed the new addition to our adventure playground, as well as equipment to enhance playtime. The PTA continues to make a lasting impact on our school community, with plans to refurbish the 'Shh' shed underway and consultations for upcoming upstairs adjustments already in progress. A heartfelt thank you goes to our PTA for their ongoing dedication. If any parents are interested in participating and supporting the PTA—whether by volunteering occasionally or offering more permanent help—please feel free to contact them at PTA@avondaleschool.org.

Staffing

During the Autumn Term, we were thrilled to celebrate the arrivals of baby girls for both Mrs. Celina Rae and Miss Vicky Scadden. We send them our warmest wishes as they enjoy their maternity leave.

In their absence, we are delighted to welcome Mrs. Stacey Morgan to our team. Mrs. Morgan, along with her son Mickey, will be joining our EYFS department while also supporting the After School Care Club. As an experienced practitioner with a wealth of expertise across various areas of school life, Mrs. Morgan will undoubtedly be a fantastic addition to our community. In the Prep Department, we are pleased to announce that Mrs. White will be stepping into the 11+ teacher role. She will work alongside Mr. Meaden to deliver the 11+ and Year 5 curriculum supporting pupils as they prepare for their upcoming examinations. It is with great sadness that we announce Mrs. Cathy Nufer will not be returning to Avondale in January due to personal reasons. Mrs. Nufer has been a highly valued and integral member of our team, and her presence will be deeply missed by staff and students alike. We are pleased to share that Mrs. Laura Coleman, who has been working part-time in the Year 5/6 classroom, will now step into this role. Mrs. Coleman brings a wealth of experience and dedication to the position, and we are confident she will continue to support our students with excellence.

Spring Term Calendar

An abbreviated A5 sized version of the Autumn Term calendar, in addition to clubs that operate after school, shall be sent home in hard copy format with children during the first week of the term. Please find a 'draft' calendar attached for your reference.

On Friday, 3 January you will receive a 'survey link' detailing our after-school clubs for the up-coming term. Please may we kindly ask that the online survey is completed promptly so that we can prepare attendance registers. Whilst ASCC shall operate from Day 1, teacher led clubs will start on **Tuesday 7 January**. Please also remember to indicate your ASCC requirements on the survey to allow us to staff appropriately and prepare the adequate amount of afternoon tea.

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.

In the final week of this term, the **Prep Department** will be staging 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies'. An after-school club has been created to aid children (and staff) in preparation for this; attendance in the Production Club, on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm is compulsory, to minimise the disruption to classroom learning time. **This is a free club.**

To our Nursery parents, a reminder that Wiltshire Council requires applications for 2025–26 school places to be submitted by the end of January. Last term, we hosted a Reception Information Evening to share insights about Reception at Avondale, including our classroom approach and what you can expect as your child continues their educational journey with us. For those who were unable to attend, we encourage you to arrange a meeting with our Reception teachers in the coming weeks to help you make an informed decision.

We take great pride in the foundation we provide for children; our Reception class truly sets the stage for developing lifelong learners. Please rest assured that a place is already guaranteed for our Nursery parents, thanks to your existing registration with Avondale. Simply inform the office in writing to confirm your interest in a Reception place for the 2025–26 academic year. If you know other families considering Avondale for the new academic year, we warmly invite you to encourage them along to learn more about what makes our school special.

Thrift Shop Arrangements

As we begin the Spring Term, children will continue to wear their winter uniform. While immediate needs should be minimal, if you require any uniform items during the term, please feel free to contact the PTA at PTA@avondaleschool.org. The Thrift Shop, managed by our Parent Teacher Association, is open every Friday from 8:10 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. New uniform can be purchased online through our uniform shop provider, Oz Wear - ozschoolwear.co.uk/

Uniform

All children in Years 1–6 are reminded to bring their full PE kit to school on the **first day back**. Toward the end of the Autumn Term, we noticed that some pupils were arriving for PE without their complete kit. This is a gentle reminder that the Prep winter PE uniform must include navy blue hockey socks, trainers, and tracksuits.

Additionally, swimming lessons will resume for children in Years 1–2 (with Year 3 participation optional) on **the first day back**. These sessions are scheduled from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parents are welcome to collect their children from the swimming pool at 3:15 p.m. If you choose this option, please notify the school office in advance. Alternatively, children will return to school via the minibus, arriving by 3:25 p.m.

Menu

Please find attached the Spring term menu. Should your child have any changes to specific dietary requirements, please email the office and these will be communicated with our kitchen team.

Adverse Weather

As the colder weather is now well and truly upon us, the likelihood of our Adverse Weather Plan coming into effect becomes a distinct possibility with the onset of snow. Please find the plan and policy attached for your reference.

Independent Schools Association

We are delighted to inform you that the school has successfully joined the Independent Schools Association (ISA), a fantastic milestone for us. As part of this transition, the school will now be inspected by ISI regulators instead of Ofsted. ISI inspectors have a deeper understanding of how small independent schools operate, ensuring a more tailored and relevant evaluation. With that said, we anticipate an inspection in the upcoming term. This is always a challenging and demanding process, and we sincerely appreciate your support and cooperation as we prepare for and undergo this important review.

Parking

A reminder to please park only in the designated 'marked bays' when using the BWM'C for pick-up and drop-off. Additionally, there is a small public car park located opposite the river, down Water Street, that requires constant access. Kindly avoid blocking this entrance. We also ask that you refrain from parking in front of the driveways or garages of the cottages on the High Street, next to Tots. Your support in this respect will make my job far easier; thank you for your understanding and support.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your children a successful term ahead.

Yours sincerely

Georgina Barrington-Tolan

Co-Headteacher