



Avondale Preparatory School

Ignite Your Purpose, Become Your Potential

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Headmaster: Mr Stuart Watson BEd, Dip Tchg

Friday 31 December, 2021

Dear Parents

Spring Term Newsletter

Welcome back to the Spring Term; I trust that the holiday period has been a restful one for the family. Let me start by welcoming a number of new families to our Early Years Department and a further two families to Year 2.

Despite the early Autumn Term finish for our Tots and Nursery, congratulations must go to our Early Years Department for staging a wonderful nativity in the penultimate week of the term; it was encouraging to have our hall back to capacity once again! Credit must also go to Years 1-6 for staging a vibrant and entertaining Christmas Concert. Both performances have been recorded and we hope to upload the content to a private YouTube channel for your perusal in due course.

Let me also thank the Parents Association, and specifically Claire Button, for her organisation of the Salisbury pantomime outing. Despite the later time and date in the school calendar, Years 1-6 had a fabulous afternoon out. For your interest, the pantomime was brought to a sudden halt the following week with a number of cast members going down with COVID.

You will be aware that COVID has spread dramatically nationwide in the form of the Omicron variant; this has forced us to employ the **Outbreak Management Plan** from the outset of the Spring Term. Please may I ask that you take the time to read this important information (attached to the email) as it will give you a greater understanding of our operating procedures until we are permitted to relax precautions. Due to the nature of how things stand nationally (and our wish to see continuity in learning programmes), please be advised that parental and visitor access to the school site will only be possible if a lateral flow test is taken on arrival, producing a negative result. Facemasks are now expected once inside.

Calendar

The Spring Term calendar shall be made available on the first day back of the term. Please find a draft copy attached, which will undoubtedly change as we are updated in respect to restrictions enforced by the pandemic. Planned fixtures with other schools will take place (with a reciprocal agreement from neighbouring schools), but residential trips will **NOT take place**. 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.

Please may we ask that the form for enlisting in after school activities is returned on Day 2 (Thursday 6 January) so that updated lists can be confirmed quickly. **Clubs also start on this day**. As advised in the Outbreak Management Plan, our Prep Department (Years 3-6) will be joining to form one bubble; attendance in the Production Club, on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm is expected, to minimise the disruption to classroom learning time. **This is a free club**.

Uniform and Thrift Shop Arrangements

I should like to remind you that children return to school on **Wednesday 5 January** in winter uniform. To aid you in preparing your child, our uniform shop, including thrift shop, shall be open on **Tuesday 4 January from 9am- 10am**; We are most grateful to Mrs Emma Hillyard for making time in her schedule to assist us during this time. Should you not be able to make this time, or require items throughout the course of the term, please contact Mrs Lister in the

school office via phone or email. Please be advised that uniform items have increased in price due to our suppliers' increased costs; we always try our best to keep things at an affordable level.

11+ Success

It is always difficult knowing how to manage this very delicate subject; In a small school, I am mindful that highlighting success can also have implications to the contrary. Please be advised that Avondale had a very successful year in achieving 11+ success. 5/6 children attained the required marks for entry, for which they should be congratulated.

Tots/ Nursery Closure- Snack/ Lunch Refunds

Please be advised that those affected by the Nursery closure in the last week of the Autumn Term, will have snack and lunch fees credited to accounts. As per our terms and conditions, we are unable to reimburse tuition fees outside of the FEF hours brought about through factors arising outside of school control.

Reception (2022-23)

It was our intention to have a Reception Class Information Afternoon on the first day back, for those parents with children in Nursery, considering coming on the journey next academic year. Unfortunately, the pandemic has made things challenging in this respect. However, if you would like to speak with either Mrs Nash, or Mrs Hibbs who are doing a fine job leading our current cohort of children, please may I ask that you make email contact with them and they will endeavour to contact you back. All staff email addresses can be found on our website.

Due to the odd COVID case surfacing late last term, and implications on staffing, please be reminded that our current Reception cohort will have a parents evening, documenting progress, on the first day back (Wednesday 5 January). This will be in the form of a phone call.

Parking

Please be reminded about parking in 'marked bays' only when using the BWM'C for pick up and drop off. I am aware that there are only 23 marked spaces and a good deal more families at Avondale than that! Please find attached, our agreement with the club for our consideration. With the continuation of clubs this term, we are hopeful that pick-ups will be less congested than what I have witnessed in recent months. The real flashpoints to consider, in order to remain onside with our neighbours, are Tuesdays before school, (when deliveries take place) and Friday afternoons, (when patrons will access the club); more so, as lockdown restrictions are eased.

Please also be reminded not to park in front of driveways (or garages) of the cottages on the High St (next to Tots). Your support in this respect will make my job far easier; thank you.

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

Yours sincerely

Stuart Watson

*Draft Calendar
Covid Outbreak Management Plan
BWMC Parking Agreement
Adverse Weather Plan*