



# **Chairman's Report 2015**

Avanti Court Primary School

Dear Avanti Court Community,

I hope you are all well.

As another year draws to a close, I wanted to reflect on the school's activities and progress since September 2014.

A key highlight of the year is that we've had Deborah Walters join us as our new permanent headteacher. Deborah has quickly got her feet under the table and started bringing about improvements in many areas of the school. I look forward to seeing her take the school to new heights in the new year as she becomes more firmly established in her role.

I thank James Biddulph for his considerable efforts in setting up the school as well as leading it over the initial few years and wish him the best of luck in his new role. I am grateful to Liz Whincop for her hard work over the Spring term and wish her well in her next challenge.

As a school, our attainment levels overall are very good. In Year 3, on the whole, the children have made the expected level of progress with 90% on track to reach year 6 expectations in Maths, 93% in Reading and 97% in maths. There has been excellent progress made in Year 2 in all areas and a particular increase in the number of higher attaining pupils achieving a level 3 in English, Maths and Reading. With 38 children joining over the year, mobility is a key concern in Year 1, however, pupils in Year 1 made expected progress in Maths, good progress in Reading and good progress in Writing. In Year 1, 85% of pupils achieved the required level to pass the Year 1 Phonics Screening check, an increase of 5% compared to 2014. In the Reception year, 81% of children have achieved the expected good level of development (GLD) as well, which is more than last year's national average and the average for Redbridge.

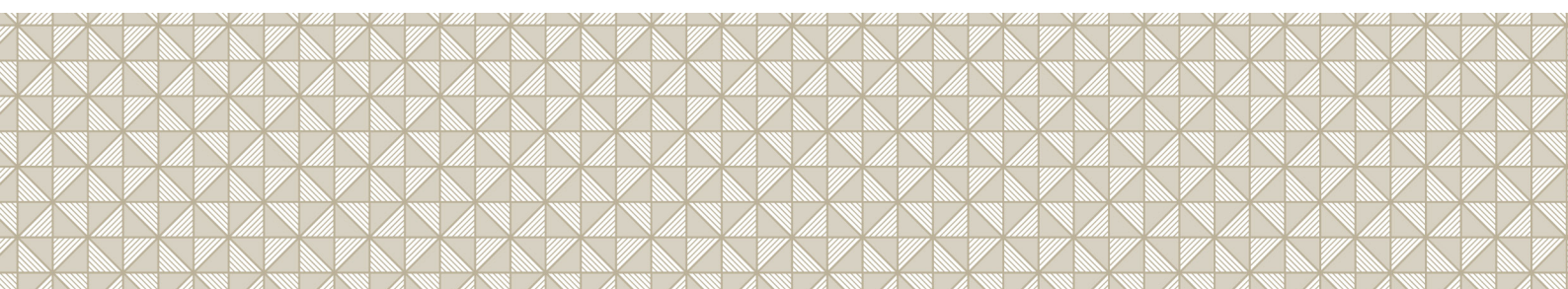
This term has seen a particular emphasis on learning about various religions and cultures as well as democracy. Our children studied Africa, China and the West Indies. I attended the assembly by Year 2 on China and was very impressed by how well they performed. Their recitation of a Cantonese song was particularly striking. In addition to Hinduism, our children engaged in learning about other world religions as well. School ambassadors visited the Houses of Parliament too, which helped them to understand the importance of democracy.

I was blown away by the Year 3 class as they brought to life the two Hindu epics – the Mahabharata and Ramayana. It was encouraging to see the progression in the children speaking in Sanskrit particularly in the Ramayana drama.

A distinctive feature of our school is the extent to which our ethos is embedded. Both Liz and Deborah were very impressed by the good behaviour of our children upon joining us. This is really a credit to all members of our school's community.

At the beginning of this academic year, the Avanti Schools Trust (AST) introduced termly mock-Ofsted inspections. The results of these reviews are taken seriously by our senior leadership team (SLT) and governing body (GB). They help us to ensure that we maintain a constant focus on rapidly improving our school.

A key concern that has been raised in these reviews is our poor attendance levels as a school – they are currently below the national average. If our children miss school time, it can slow down their achievement both academically and otherwise. Therefore, we urge you to create the very best opportunities for your child to excel in all respects by not taking them away during term times.





The AST continues to grow rapidly, having recently succeeded in its application to open a primary school in Croydon, which will be the fifth Avanti school. There are other bids going through for other parts of the country as well. The most significant of these for our school community is a secondary school here in Redbridge which, if successful, will open its doors in September 2017.

Mrs Sivadasan has been successful in her application to become our first Assistant Headteacher, bringing vital support to our SLT, she will be responsible for the Special Educational Needs provision within the school. Mr Hinds has been promoted too and will be becoming a Higher Level Teaching Assistant from September. This will ensure that we are able to release leaders regularly within our school to raise standards without the need for supply staff. He will also line manage the Teaching Assistants providing them with training to ensure excellence. We also have several members of staff becoming subject leaders - Mr Koorichh for Science, Mrs Hirani (née Kanbi) for PRE leader and Mr Patel for Computing. Overall, having more staff coming on board will mean that we will have greater capacity as a school particularly in that it will be possible to share out the various staff responsibilities.

The new year will see us adding another four classes of children to our fledgling school, bringing our total intake to over 500. With the increased numbers of children at our school, it's imperative that parents explore using more sustainable forms of transport to the school if not already doing so to prevent an unmanageable situation for all.

Our Reception outdoor play area will be undergoing a full refurbishment over the summer holiday which will ensure our children have access to a creative, inspirational outdoor learning environment

The GB approved the proposal to convert Avanti Court into an academy. Our staff raised no queries. On the back of concerns raised by parents around lack of notice around the first consultation evening, a second was organised, which was attended by five parents. Very few concerns were raised. Responses have been provided to each of the queries raised and the date from which our school will start operating as an academy is currently being decided upon. As an academy we will formalise our relationship with AST and have greater flexibility around how we run our school.

As the year draws to a close so does my chairmanship. I am stepping down to give more focus to my work and other responsibilities which are requiring more of my time and attention, knowing that the school is in good hands. My term started before the school opened its doors and it has been a great journey working with what I consider to be a wonderful governing body. I am very impressed by the tremendous community spirit that exists here too, especially through the efforts of FOAC over the years. Vishal Merai who is currently the vice chair will take on the position of chairperson from September. I know we will all support his already wonderful efforts to continue to help develop our school to go from strength to strength. Of course, I will always be a member of the Avanti Court community and on hand to assist behind the scenes as required. Because of your efforts collectively, we did well in our first Ofsted inspection and will do even better as time progresses. Our children are happy and their potential is shining through more and more day by day! I wish you all well and thank you for making Avanti Court the amazing place it is, brimming with potential and achievement!

Have a great summer holiday.

Kind regards,  
Edward Anobah

