



AVANTI COURT
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Excellence Virtue Devotion



AVANTI COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Guardians, HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Welcome back to Avanti Court primary School for the Spring Term 2015. I hope you and our children had a good holiday.

As you are aware I will be the Interim Headteacher of our school until April 2015. Mr Biddulph was a brilliant headteacher and I aim to carry on his good work. I will work to support the religious aims, ethos and values of the school. We will all work together to ensure our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, as well as their learning and progress, are at the heart of our work.

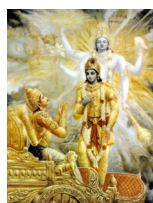
Good home school communication is vital. You will receive a monthly newsletter like this one which will provide information about our work. It should be with you during the first week of every month. My apologies that this issue is later than planned, but there was a great deal to find out before I could write it! A copy of the newsletter will always be put on the school website. We have moved away from the fortnightly newsletter in order to provide more detailed information about our work. Hopefully you will find this useful.

I am delighted to say that we will also be having a school to home texting service in order to communicate with you directly to your mobiles for reminders, emergencies or simple messages. More information about this will be sent out separately.

I am very excited at the prospect of working with the staff, governors and you to ensure that the school goes from strength to strength. I will be outside the school every morning to welcome the children....please do come and say hello!

Thank you.

Mrs Whincop
Interim Headteacher.



OUR VALUE THIS MONTH IS RESPECT

"A devotee should see that because Krishna is present in everyone's heart as Paramatma, everybody is the embodiment or the temple of the Supreme Lord, so as one offers respect to the temple of the Lord, he should similarly properly respect each and everybody in which the Paramatma dwells. Everybody should therefore be given proper respect and should not be neglected.

Bhagavad-Gita Chapter 9 Verse 11

DATES FOR JANUARY 2015

There do not appear to be too many activities taking place this month. I know the teachers are busy planning visits for the next few months. Here are the dates for January. The term dates will always be included on the back page of the newsletter.

13.1.15 FOAC Meeting -8.40am
14.1.15 Open Forum— 2.30pm
20.1.15 Mobile Library visit
27.1.15 Holocaust Memorial Day assembly
30.1.15 First Biker's Breakfast

New dates and events during the month will be passed on through the normal letters through the texting service.

**HALF TERM
REMINDER
Monday 16th
February to
Friday 20th
February 2015**

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT GOLDEN AWARDS

Our school has a tradition of celebrating the achievements of our children. Every Friday we hold the Golden Assembly when different children are praised for their work, their attitude or behaviour. These children in Year 3 came to show me their great art work and they had the chance to sit in the Golden Chair too!



At Avanti Court
education is
as enjoyable
as it is engaging



EVERY DAY MATTERS EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

**ATTENDANCE FOR
DECEMBER 2014
WAS 88.5%- POOR
OUR TARGET - 97%**

At Avanti Court School we expect excellent attendance and punctuality. Children have to be in school in order to make significant progress. Every day at school is important. Every minute they are late for school they miss a part of their education. I would like to remind parents that we are not able to authorise ANY term time holidays. Please could I also remind you that school begins at 8.30am. Children should be in their classes at this time so they should be in school between **8.20 and 8.25am**. The weekly attendance figures will now be posted in the classrooms and only the overall attendance record for the school will be reported here.

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2015

AVANTI COURT GALLERY



**OUR HOLY SHRINE
IN THE HALL**



**OUR CHILDREN SUPPORT
AND HELP EACH OTHER**



**JUMPING HIGH AT THE
ACTIVE8 CLUB IN THE
MORNING!**

I WISH I KNEW..... each month this section will include information about school procedures, policies and practice. If you would like to ask any questions please come along to the Open Forum. We will then answer your queries via the newsletter.

I WISH I KNEW ABOUT.....Collective Worship at Avanti Court.

We are a Hindu Voluntary Aided School and as such we follow the Hindu tradition for Collective Worship which is inclusive of all faiths. This is done through stories, songs, drama and pupil presentations which relate to the values that underpin our ethos.

Every Monday and Friday we have whole school assemblies, led by the Head teacher or Deputy Headteacher. We are pleased to say that our Reception classes now take part in these assemblies. On the other days children meet as year groups. Our collective worship assemblies give us an opportunity to meet as a school family group and share a happy and spiritual time together.

GOVERNOR'S NEWS

The Governing Body is at the heart of our school and each month they will be making a contribution in the newsletter to let you know more about their work.

These are our valued governors....

Edward Anobah Chair of Governors

Vishal Merai Vice Chair
Curriculum Committee
Safeguarding

Darpna Tank Parent Governor
Curriculum Committee

Chet Patel Parent Governor

SanjayJayantilal-Patel
I Foundation Governor
Finance Committee

Shilen Shah I Foundation Governor

Minul Shah I Foundation Governor

Vik Krishna I Foundation Governor

Vacancy Staff Governor

Liz Whincop Headteacher

Shamita Kumar Clerk to the Governors
The position of staff will be filled this term.

On behalf of the children, parents and staff of the school I would like to thank the governors who volunteer to support the school and are passionate about school improvement.

STAFFING NEWS.

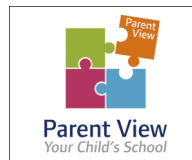
This term we would like to welcome Miss Toncheva who is our new teacher working in Niebieski Class. I know she will join a strong team in Year 1 who will support her to ensure continuity and progression for the children in her new class. We say farewell to Mrs Desmond, who has been at Avanti Court since it first opened its doors. She has been a valued member of our staff and we thank her for all her hard work at the school. She leaves us to spend more time with her family. Our thanks to all the staff for a positive start to the term.

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

PARENT VIEW

I am not sure if you are aware of the Ofsted Parent View site where you can share your opinions of the school. Every parent at the school can go on and register their opinions on different aspects of school life. May I suggest that you spend 5-10 minutes looking at the site at the address below.

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>



QUESTIONNAIRES

In terms of evaluating parents, pupils and staff views we will also be carrying out an internal survey of your views about the school. Our annual parent and pupil surveys will be sent out with the newsletter next month. This will be our opportunity to share your opinions about our school with the leadership and management team. If you are happy with the school please tell us by sending it back. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve...even more reason to return the form. Our aim is to get at least 50% returns.

We will also be sending out a questionnaire to the children to gather their views. If your children are very young you may like to sit with them and talk about their experiences.

PARENTS' OPEN FORUM

Each month Mrs Bana and I will be holding a Parent's Open Forum meeting. This is an opportunity for you to come along and talk to us about any ideas, suggestions or concerns you have about our school. We do not discuss individual children or staff at these meetings, but more general school matters. It would be lovely to see as many parents as possible.

The first Open Forum takes place on

WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY

at 2.30 in the school hall.

NEXT OPEN FORUM

Wednesday 11th FEB at 6.00pm

PARENT WORKSHOPS

I am delighted to see that Avanti Court School holds regular workshops for parents on various topics from supporting phonics and maths at home to toilet training and safeguarding. The programme for this term is available on the school website and also enclosed in this newsletter. Our thanks to Mrs Bana and the staff for facilitating these sessions.

FRIENDS OF AVANTI COURT (FOAC)

It is fantastic that Avanti Court has such a brilliant association of parents who support the school in terms of fund raising and organising community events for our school family.

Here is the FOAC Mission

- A powerful voice for all children;
- A relevant resource for all families and communities;
- Bringing the parents, staff and community all together.

For more information please the FOAC page on the school website. Thank you and well done to all parents involved.



BE HEALTHY AND STAY SAFE

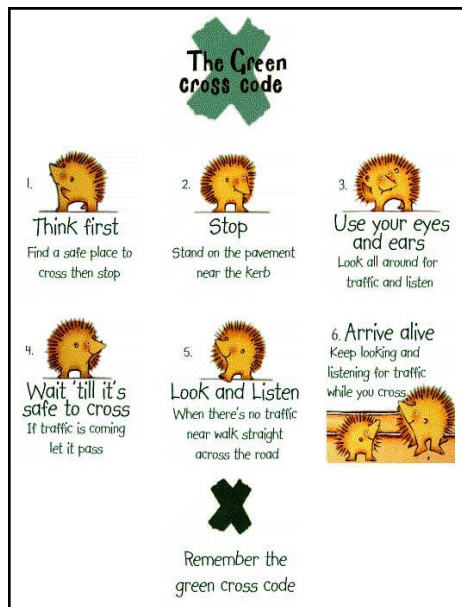
ROAD SAFETY

This time of year it is vital that children stay safe on the roads. I know that most of our children do not go home alone but it doesn't do any harm to teach the children of the good old **Green Cross Code**.

The government **THINK!** campaign is aimed at keeping children safe on the roads. We will hold school assemblies on Road Safety and we know that you will reinforce the message at home. Please visit:

<http://think.direct.gov.uk/education/early-years-and-primary/>

Please also remember to drive safely, particularly around the vicinity of schools.



BIKER BREAKFAST

FOAC and staff members have worked together to set up an exciting project to encourage children to ride their bikes to school. They are rewarded with breakfast at school. The project will run for three weeks and hopefully after that more children will be keen to ride to school. This is all part of our healthy school work to promote walking or cycling to school. Thank you again to all those involved in setting up this initiative. More information to follow.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Every month we will be including a section on our school curriculum including PRE (Philosophy, Religion and Ethics). Members of staff responsible for each curriculum area will write a short piece about their subject and how it is taught at the school. Hopefully we can also include some examples of children's work.

Our focus this term in terms of Teaching and Learning will be to implement the recommendations of the Ofsted Report and a review which took place at the school last term. We will be reviewing the following policies and ensuring you have copies of these once completed:

- Teaching and Learning
- Marking and Assessment
- Gifted and Talented/ More Able Children
- School Environment and Display

We will also be having pupil progress meetings where the class teacher and the senior leadership team review all the pupils to assess the progress they have made. This will ensure that every child is being challenged, supported and the curriculum is differentiated to meet their needs.

The information will be shared with you at the Parent Consultation evenings at the end of this term.

HOME LEARNING

The programmes for the Home Learning Projects for 6 weeks will be sent out this week. I have been impressed at how well organised these half termly projects have been and I understand that they were introduced following collaboration with parents. In addition I would like to remind parents that the following should take part along side the Home Learning Projects

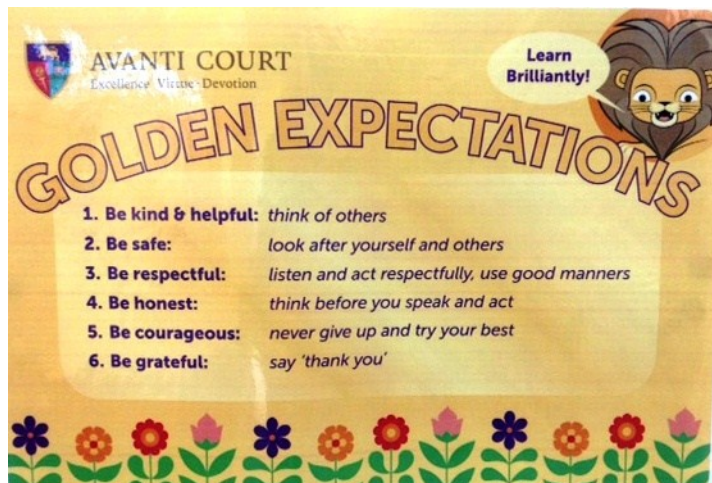
On a daily basis..:

- Reading
- Phonics bug
- Learning of High Frequency Words
- Number bonds to/from 10-20.

On a weekly basis:

- Spellings to learn
- Sounds of the week.

Hopefully we can discuss Home Learning at the Open Forum to review how well this home/school initiative is working.



GOLDEN EXPECTATIONS

Avanti Court has some wonderful Golden Expectations which are used to ensure all our children behave appropriately. I thought it would be useful for you to see these Golden Expectations in order to support them at home. I have to say that I have been impressed with the good behavior I have seen at our school!

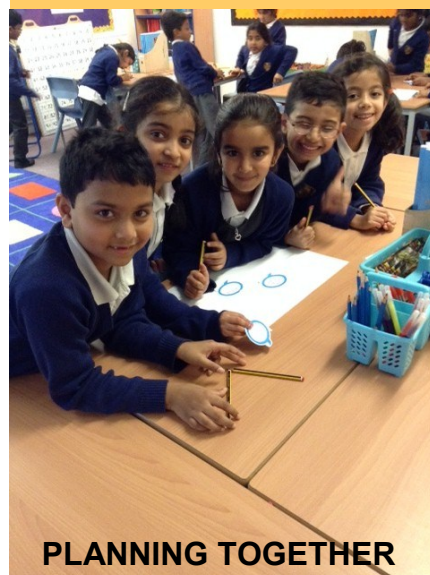
AVANTI COURT GALLERY



LEARNING TOGETHER



PLAYING TOGETHER



PLANNING TOGETHER



WRITING TOGETHER

AVANTI COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL



CARLTON DRIVE
BARKINGSIDE

IG61LZ

Tel
0208 551 9489

Email
avanticourt@avanti.org.uk

REMINDERS

WINTER CLOTHES This may be very obvious, but please could parents ensure that children come to school in suitable protective clothing for break times. Children should always wear a coat to school during the winter. If there is light rain we will expect the children to go out to get some fresh air and exercise for a short period. Therefore it is vital that a coat with a hood or hat is brought to school every day.

LOST PROPERTY

Please could you always remember to check the Lost property Box on a regular basis. It is amazing to see lost coats and shoes in the box!

ATTENDANCE AND SICKNESS

Please remember to let the school know if your child is absent from school. By 9.30 am. A reminder that if your child has sickness and diarrhoea they should stay away from school for 48 hours. This prevents the spread of any virus which may be passed onto other children and adults.

DATES FOR 2015

Spring Term 2015

5h January.— 2nd April
HALF TERM

16th-20th February

Summer Term 2015

20th April-24th July

HALF TERM

25th-29th May

School closed on 25th
May for Bank Holiday

Autumn Term 2015

Wed. 2nd September—
Friday 18th December
Please note that the
Autumn Term dates are
provisional.

INSET DAYS

To be confirmed

SHERPA CLUBS

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL

I am delighted to see that the school has both a breakfast and after school club run by the Sherpa Kids England. John, who runs the clubs, has asked us to inform parents that there are still a few vacancies in both the clubs. If you would like further information please contact him on 07803 88 76 10



PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHILDREN

We will be using our children's images in the newsletter and on the school website this term. I have been informed that any parent who does NOT wish images of their child to be included has already informed the school. In order to ensure our records are updated please could you inform the school if your requirements have changed.

If you do not wish you child's images to be included in school literature please write to the school as soon as possible, or speak to the office staff.

WEBSITE NEWS

Our apologies that our school website has not been updated this term. It is crucial that our website reflects the good work that is going on at the school., so I am sorry that new information has yet to be posted. We are aiming to include more photographs and examples of children's work to the site. It is a very good and professional website with a lot of very useful information so please do visit it if you haven't done so already.

PARENT PAY

A reminder from the school office that all Parent Pay accounts should be in credit at all times. Please keep checking your account to make sure there are sufficient funds to cover the cost of meals and trips. We are pleased to inform you that you can now pay for all school clubs via Parent Pay too. Thank you.



SCHOOL BUDGET 2015-16

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

This term we will be working to set the budget for the new financial year for 2015-6. This is a crucial time for the school as the budget allocation we get from the council determines how much we have to spend.

The number of children receiving or being eligible for Free School Meals gives the school additional funding.

One way parents can help our budget is to ensure that you inform us if they are eligible for FREE SCHOOL MEALS. We would urge parents to apply if they are eligible.

All applications are handled with the greatest confidentiality.

This would have a huge impact on the allocation of additional needs funding we receive from the borough. Please consider applying. Thank you

HEAD LICE

CHECK HAIR EVERY FRIDAY

Every school child throughout the country is likely to catch head lice and nits at some time during their school life.

I would like to suggest that you check your child's hair every Friday and treat any head lice found.

We will be telling children that

FRIDAY IS CHECK YOUR HAIR DAY!

COMMUNITY NEWS

This section will be used for any community news you may have. Please inform the school if you would like to mention any local events.

Let the school know at least two weeks before the end of the month if you would like anything mentioned.

B & Q DAFFODILS

We would like to thank our local B and Q store for donating daffodils to the school. The daffodils will be used and planted by Year 2 as part of their science curriculum.

We appreciate any donations such as this as we have very limited funding.



PARKING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

I have been very surprised to see the dangerous driving which is taking place outside the school in the morning. It is vital that we keep our children safe and at present some of our parents are putting our children at risk.

I understand that this has been an on-going problem which we need to address immediately.

If you have to travel to school by car I would urge you to park well away from the school and walk. I will be speaking to the staff and governors about closing off car access to Carlton Drive between 8.00 and 8.45am

We will be monitoring this closely in the weeks ahead. Thank you to those parents who walk to school or drive safely.

**PLEASE
WALK TO SCHOOL**