



# THE COURT

## The Avanti Court Newsletter

### Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers and children,

Well, we made it! - Our first term at Avanti Court Primary School. There is much to celebrate and many people to thank. Firstly to our children, who have settled in so well and continue to come happily and enjoy their learning. Then to our wonderful staff, all of whom have embraced the challenges of starting a new school with such loyalty and commitment to realizing our vision statement. Also to our governors for their support. And finally to you all – I have never worked in a school where there is such a positive and enthusiastic parent community. Your flexibility and stalwart commitment to the school gives me courage that what we are doing is the right thing for our young people! Thank you. I look forward to working together to make Avanti Court a beacon of excellence.

Please come and learn with us next term. We have several parent learning opportunities, which will be advertised to include more reading and maths – see below for detail and sign up in the school office.

Have a safe and happy break and if you are celebrating Christmas, I hope that it is filled with love and peace. As William Blake wrote about the importance of finding a loving relationship with the Divine, as symbolized by light;

*"We are led to believe a lie, when we see not thro the eye, which was born in a night to perish in a night, when the soul slept in beams of light. God appears and God is light to those poor souls who dwell in the night, but does a human form display, to those who dwell in realms of day"*

And as Dickens' character, Tiny Tim announced, "God Bless you one and all!"

With warm wishes,

James Biddulph, Head Teacher



### Christingle Making Workshop

Terri from Holy Trinity Church in Barkingside came to run a workshop with Year 1 children. A Christingle is a symbolic object: the orange represents the world, a red ribbon represents the blood of Christ, sweets represents the fruits of the four seasons and a lit candle represents Jesus Christ as the light of the world. The children had great fun learning about this... ask them to teach you how to make one and explain the meaning of the symbols.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Please monitor how your children use school books.

4 books have already been defaced and damaged by children. The school spent over £4000 on books and we need to make them last. All damaged books must be replaced by parents and will need to give £5 per damaged book.

# Christmas Festival Days

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL DAYS



Our Christmas Festival was full of such memorable experiences.

As part of our curriculum we celebrate different religious festivals to develop the spirituality of our children. This half of term was Christmas. We will also celebrate Passover, Holi & Gaura Purnima, Buddha's Birthday and Ratha Yatra.



**Our Nativity...what confidence and enthusiasm. A Hindu based school, learning a Christian story performed in a Jewish School Hall!!**



**UNIFORM:** We are close to agreeing a new uniform supplier and this info will be given in the New Year. All children will need to wear the school uniform following this as it is compulsory part of our Avanti Court expectations and behaviour system.



Children met Father Christmas who bought presents for each of them...especially wrapped up by some wonderful elves one coffee morning in the school. Thank you elves!!

# Parent Learning

Date	Time	Focus	Description
16 <sup>th</sup> January 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Afternoon sessions: 2-3pm  Evening sessions: 5.45-6.45pm	The Art of Teaching: The Joy of Learning	In this short course designed specifically for Avanti Court parents/carers, delegates will explore what we know about learning and teaching. Through a balance of practical activities, discussion and presentations, delegates will learn more about how children learn, how we hope to teach and what progress we expect. The course also includes learning about the unique and distinctive Avanti Philosophy and Ethics curriculum.  *Parents should commit to all three sessions ** we will run this twice, afternoon and evening sessions are repeated. Please sign up to the afternoon OR evening course.
18 <sup>th</sup> January 25 <sup>th</sup> January	8.30am	Maths for Reception Children	Two maths sessions to help parents/carers to support their children. Sessions will include practical activities and presentation to explain how we teach number to children.  *These are repeated sessions. Parents need only attend one session.
4 Thursdays after school TBC	TBC	Sanskrit for beginners	A 4 week course to learn the very basics of Sanskrit so parents/carers can support their children's learning.
15 <sup>th</sup> February	8.30am	Happy Hands	Happy Hands workshop: practical strategies to develop your child's fine motor skills to help them write and learn better.

## Key Dates:

INSET DAY  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Children start  
8<sup>th</sup> January 2013

## School Lunch:

Weekly: £10  
Half Term: £60  
Full Spring Term: £110

Cheques made payable to Avanti Court Primary School

## Our value for next term is:

### **RESPECT**

**HOME LEARNING:** The home learning projects look wonderful! Please remember that **EVERYTHING** must be done by the child. Please resist doing it for them. We are not looking for adult quality outcomes but want to show children's recorded learning, mark making etc.

**Quote of the week: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**