



# THE COURT

## The Avanti Court Newsletter

2013 – HAPPY NEW YEAR

### Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers and children,

A very Happy New Year to you all. I hope that 2013 is a happy, positive and fulfilling one. The Spring term is very busy for us, especially as there is so much to do in such a short space of time. There are only 6 weeks until half term and then 5 weeks after that is the Easter break. It's therefore really important that children attend school and come to school on time. Learning starts at 8.31 and any minutes missed soon add up.

Our two festival days this term are Passover (Jewish) and Holi (Hindu)/Gaura Purnima (Vaishnava) and we will let you know how the children will be learning about the spiritual practices of these different traditions. Our theme this term is RESPECT. Year 1 learning is focused on researching old and new toys and Reception are showing respect to all the people who help them. If your own work is a 'service' – e.g. Doctor, Nurse, Optician, carer etc please let your class teacher know – they would love you to come in to talk to the children about what you do and how you help people.

Please sign up to our parent learning opportunities. We will be running more in the future. Watch this space! Thanks to the 35 parents who contributed to the parentview website – it seems that we need to explain a little more about how we deal with bullying and our view on homework – an information sheet will follow shortly.

With warm wishes, James Biddulph, Head Teacher

#### Getting to school...problematic?

Some parents have asked if there is a way of sharing the morning run to school by families getting together to share the task. If you have a similar need please come to a coffee morning to discuss.

"We help each other at Avanti Court Primary School. Veronica helping her friend with a difficult zip"



#### HOME LEARNING ADVICE FOR QUALITY LEARNING...

Once again we have received some lovely Home Learning Projects. Well done!

Remember that they are not a competition but should be all about children's learning and enjoyment of 'finding out' and presenting their new knowledge. Everything should be done by the children, no matter if their handwriting or mark making is only emerging, their cutting skills are scary or that they cannot yet read fluently.

We are looking for:

1. Children's ideas
2. Children's handwriting and mark making
3. No copied text from books or the internet but in children's own words (for children who do not write yet, you can scribe what they say)
4. Their own cutting, sticking, IT work, writing, presentation
5. The process of asking questions is the most important!

**Avanti Life: have you read the first edition of the trust magazine?**

Follow the link on our website <http://www.avanti.org.uk/section.php?section=51>

# Parent Learning

**DATE CHANGES!**  
Please see date changes. Sign up in the office

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.  <b>AFTERNOON COURSE FULL</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> January 1 <sup>st</sup> February	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.
	3.15-4.15pm	Sanskrit for beginners	Learn the basics of Sanskrit
14 <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:

31<sup>st</sup> January: Year 1 trip

18<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> February: Half Term

25<sup>th</sup> February: Shakespeare Week

15<sup>th</sup> March: Reports to Parents

21<sup>st</sup> March: Parent Consultations with teachers

22<sup>nd</sup> March: Passover Festival

25<sup>th</sup> March: Holi & Gaura Purnima Festival

28<sup>th</sup> March: Easter Break close at 1.30



Trish reveals all...

**What's your favourite book?** To Kill a Mockingbird

**What's your favourite food?** Jamaican fayre!

**Who would play you in a movie of your life?** Queen Latifa

**Where's your favourite holiday destination?** New York, of course, lots of buzz and loads to shop!

**What's your most embarrassing moment?** When I slipped in the snow...it was not a good look with me one way and my dog the other!

## Maths Resources for sale on 24<sup>th</sup> January 3.10

Check the lunch menu on line – next week is Menu 3

[www.avanticourt.org.uk](http://www.avanticourt.org.uk)

### Cold Weather Plan:

As you know, a cold weather is predicted which may include snow. If we think it necessary to close the school for health and safety reasons we will post a notice on our website under NEWS and also on the Avant Schools Trust facebook [www.facebook.com/avantischoolstrust](http://www.facebook.com/avantischoolstrust)

Quote of the week: Don't look further for answers: be the solution. You were born with everything you need to know. Make a promise to stop getting in the way of the blessing that you are. Take a deep breath, remember to have fun, and begin. - Jonathan H. Ellerby