



THE COURT

The Avanti Court Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Pirates took over the school on Monday as Year 1 started their literacy unit finding out how pirates lived on ships – a wonderful way of linking all the subjects and connecting meaning. Have a look at their film trailer on the Avanti Schools Trust Facebook.

On Wednesday a small group of parents joined Edward Anobah, Vishal Merai (Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors) and me to discuss Avanti Court's future communication strategy. Edward related communication to the teachings in the Bhagavad Gita, "Austerity of speech consists in speaking words that are **truthful, pleasing, beneficial** and not agitating to others" (Cp.17 Text 14) and that communication is about relationships in the same way that community is about relationships. These are our guiding principles so that everyone models the behavior for our children so that school, parents and children build our special community.

We are a **listening school** and hope that you know that my team and I are always ready to hear your views to support our development. None of us are perfect and we will listen, reflect and as appropriate act to develop what we do and how we do it. There will NEVER be any recourse to your child should you have a concerns and raise them with the class teacher or leadership team – we will never operate in such a way and always treat children equally and kindly. There were many good suggestions given at our Communication Workshop on Wednesday – many thanks to Chet Patel and Shahida Khan (parents) who are leading on developing our strategy with me.

One key learning for me was that, generally, parents need more information about the changes taking place as the school grows; the recruitment of teachers, how children are being rearranged into new classes and class sizes. Misinformation, myths and legends have sprung from playground conversations and so one step in improving communication is to explain the processes and truth behind this misinformation.

Have a good weekend, James Biddulph

Recruitment Strategy 2013

As you may know we are recruiting new teachers and teaching assistants to join our team. We have already recruited an experienced teacher for Year 1. We have high expectations for all members of staff. These are the criteria on which we make judgements:

1. Qualified Teacher with successful experience in schools
2. Good Academic Qualifications
3. Good references
4. Motivation: What is their motivation for working with children and why Avanti Court?
5. Safeguarding: are they aware of their responsibilities to safeguard all children?
6. Spiritual Insight: do they understand what we mean by this? Can they contribute to the spiritual well being and development of our children?
7. Teaching: do they have successful recent experience teaching primary aged children? Can they articulate and show how they have been reflective, how they develop children's creativity, with high expectations for academic progress and with precise analysis of data to raise standards?
8. Attitude: will they strive to create our school, with a no excuses attitude so that every child really does matter?

How are children allocated new classes each year?

This is the strategy...Children will be rearranged into new classes at the end of Reception, Year 2 and Year 4. This aims to support children in learning to cope with change and transitions in life and in school; also because of the constantly changing intake of children which may unbalance classes.

We use the following criteria to ensure there is a good:

- Gender balance
 - Ethnicity mix
 - Free School Meal/Vulnerable children mix
 - Children with English as an Additional Language balance
 - Children with Special Educational Needs balance
 - Autumn, Spring and Summer born mix
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- Consulting children and parents: (1) We ask children to say (a) Who they play nicely with and (b) who they work well with. (2) We ask parents for their views and opinions

We will start this process before half term and inform you of your child's new class, teacher and class name after half term. Rests assured, we have activities and experience in supporting children with this transition. Please talk to your child from now explaining that they are going to Year 1 next year, will have fun and will have a new class and new friends as well as old ones!

Class Sizes: *Unless we have more children joining us this year, we will split the Reception classes (currently 80 children) into three Year 1 classes (26-27 children in each) Not more than statutory size of 30*

Building our future...

Building work will start from 1st August and continue to January 2014. This will involve:

1. Reconstruction of admin area
2. Redecoration of Reception classrooms and outdoor area (ready for new intake in Sept13)
3. Development of Nursery and outdoor Nursery play area
4. New boiler, air handling units, drainage (all the things we can't see!)

We will inform you how children will enter and leave school. We have a good relationship with our building contractors and they are very aware of the need to reduce the impact on children. We already have a good strategy in place and will share this with you when we have more detail from the builders.

Nursery Opening in January 2014

Dravit Koorichh is leading on admissions and process. Fliers will be sent out in coming weeks as well as more detailed information

Teaching Assistants:

Each class in Reception will have a Teaching Assistant full time

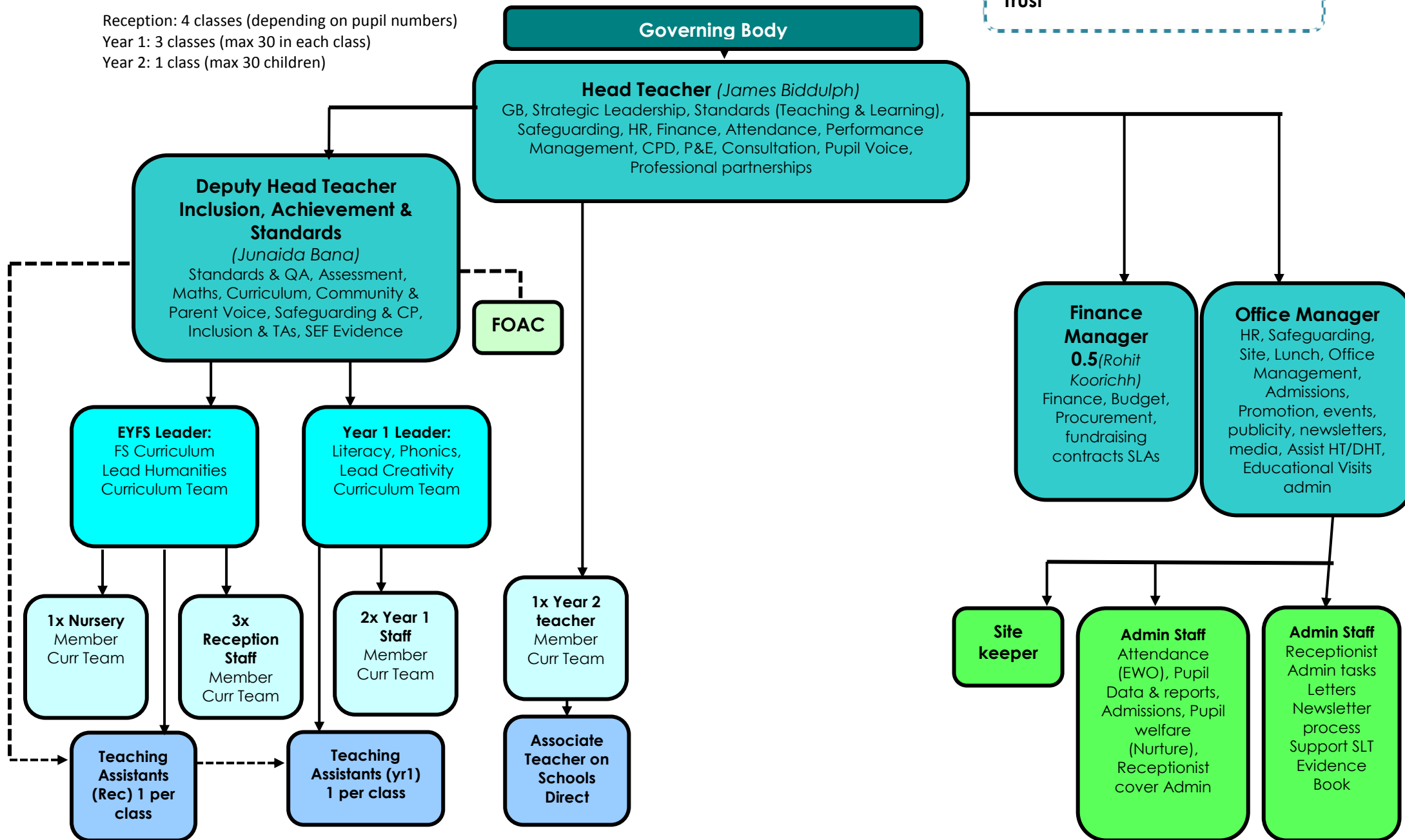
Each class in KS1 (Year 1 and 2) will have a Teaching Assistant every morning. In the afternoon, the TAs will work with identified groups of children who either need extra support, challenge or for other needs – these will be bespoke interventions to support children who we consider need it (having analysed data, observed them in class, considered their books and overall learning and of course in full discussion with parents).

Misinformation quickly spreads! If you hear something about the workings of the school and you are not sure please do not spread this 'misinformation'. Instead ask the person telling you if a Senior Leader communicated it. If not find out who did communicate it, was it a class teacher or admin staff? If in doubt it is your responsibility to ask us. But please do not be part of the myth!

Draft: Avanti Court School Staff Structure 2013-14 TBC

Reception: 4 classes (depending on pupil numbers)
 Year 1: 3 classes (max 30 in each class)
 Year 2: 1 class (max 30 children)

i-foundation & Avanti Schools Trust



Governing Body

Head Teacher *(James Biddulph)*
 GB, Strategic Leadership, Standards (Teaching & Learning), Safeguarding, HR, Finance, Attendance, Performance Management, CPD, P&E, Consultation, Pupil Voice, Professional partnerships

Deputy Head Teacher
Inclusion, Achievement & Standards
(Junaida Bana)
 Standards & QA, Assessment, Maths, Curriculum, Community & Parent Voice, Safeguarding & CP, Inclusion & TAs, SEF Evidence

FOAC

EYFS Leader:
 FS Curriculum
 Lead Humanities
 Curriculum Team

Year 1 Leader:
 Literacy, Phonics,
 Lead Creativity
 Curriculum Team

1x Nursery
 Member
 Curr Team

3x Reception
Staff
 Member
 Curr Team

2x Year 1
Staff
 Member
 Curr Team

1x Year 2
teacher
 Member
 Curr Team

Teaching
Assistants
(Rec) 1 per
class

Teaching
Assistants (yr1)
1 per class

Associate
Teacher on
Schools
Direct

Finance
Manager
0.5*(Rohit Koorichh)*
 Finance, Budget, Procurement, fundraising contracts SLAs

Office Manager
 HR, Safeguarding, Site, Lunch, Office Management, Admissions, Promotion, events, publicity, newsletters, media, Assist HT/DHT, Educational Visits admin

Site
keeper

Admin Staff
 Attendance (EWO), Pupil Data & reports, Admissions, Pupil welfare (Nurture), Receptionist cover Admin

Admin Staff
 Receptionist
 Admin tasks
 Letters
 Newsletter process
 Support SLT
 Evidence Book

Complaints

Trish, Kelly and Dravit have been dealing with complaints from members of the public **every day** this week. These people say that Avanti Court parents are continuing to park and obstruct their drives and causing them to be late or their own children to be late. Time spent has been in the region of 30 minutes each dayx5 days=2.5 hours. This has stopped the admin team from organizing trips for your children, preparing new intake for Reception 2013 and Trish planning for her nurture group. The impact of parking irresponsibly or without care for others is on your children. You might not see it or realize this, but decisions made without thought of others ALWAYS will come back negatively. Please park in side roads further away from the school or local shopping centres, or Fullwood library and walk to school.

Key Dates:

27th April –
Ladies Pamper Event run by
FOAC 12.00pm – 4.00pm @
Avanti Court

1st May –
Year 1 School trip to Cutty's
Ark

Bank Holiday – 6th May

Nurture Groups:

Meenal Desmond and Trish Johnson are trained to run a Nurture group to support children who need that little extra support with their confidence or in feeling good about being in school. Children are chosen on a needs basis. The group is not appropriate for all children so if your child is not chosen it means we don't think they need this intervention. It doesn't mean they are missing out. If you have concerns about your child please talk with us. Speak to Junaida Bana or your child's class teacher

Communication:

How can you communicate with the school?

The Senior Leaders are in playground almost every morning and afternoon – come and talk with us

New Communication Box in the office (write your ideas remembering our ethos – Truthful, pleasing and beneficial to all)

Email us: avanticourt@avanti.org.uk

Class teachers readily available to talk at the end of the day (except Wednesday because of staff meeting and on the day they do a club)

Golden Book Achievers

These are children who have been nominated and chosen by other children because they have done something wonderful in the learning or improved in an area they found difficult! They are called out on Friday assembly and become the Golden Book Award winners! Well done to them...

Blue: Ema and Oviya

White: Kanimollie

Blanco: Shivani

Balta: Kushi

Shukla: Ria

Attendance and Safeguarding

Full school: 94.3%

Blue: 100%

White: 100%

Blanco: 100%

Balta: 87.88%

Shukla: 96.03%

Next Week's Menu

WEEK 3	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
MAIN DISH	Matar Paneer (Pea & Curd Cheese Curry) with Rice	Veg Tart	Macaroni Cheese	Margharita Pizza	Veg Pie
VEGETABLES	Winter Mixed Salad	Carrot and Sweetcorn	Broccoli	Sweetcorn or Green Beans	Peas
DESSERT	Ice Cream & Fruit	Rice Crispies	Jelly & Ice Cream	Chocolate Cookies	Rice Pudding (Jam)

Quote of the week: Words by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada.

'Krishna is very kind upon you because He has given you so many responsible tasks...So always think of the Lotus Feet of Sri Krsna and you will find no difficulties in executing the tasks allocated to you by Krsna.'