



ISSUE 3 AUGUST 2012
4 Weeks to go...

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are enjoying the summer break and the London Olympics! We are now in the 'sprint' stage of preparing the school, ready for children to start in September. Building works are coming on well, although you may not think so from the outside! In Phase 2 of our refurbishment we will be working on the remainder of the building as well as external landscaping. I hope to draw on your energy and experiences to help raise money for a new look playground.

The school will be open on 3rd September for parents/carers to bring in forms and documents. In the next coming weeks we will have a phone number and new email account. Your patience has been much appreciated.

With warm regards,

Mr. James Biddulph
Head Teacher



Junaida Bana - our new Deputy Head!

Junaida obtained her teaching degree in 1996 in Durban, South Africa. A passion for travel and experiencing different cultures, led her to teach in places such as Atlanta, USA as well as in the UK- Birmingham and Waltham Forest. Her last post was as Assistant Headteacher at Cranbrook Primary in Ilford.

Junaida's personal interests are reading, baking, travelling and listening to music. She is keen to bring these interests, especially nurturing the love of reading, to the children of *Avanti Court*.

"I am excited about working together with our Head teacher, James Biddulph, new staff members and our parents in building a new school community that would be a beacon of pride and excellence."

Everyone welcome...Everyone included

Key Dates:

6th September: Year 1 will start on Thursday

Reception: 6th to 14th September: Home Visits - teachers will visit homes to meet children and families prior to children coming to school.

Monday 17th September: Reception children start. Half day for the whole week

Monday 24th September: Full days for reception children

Friday 12th October: INSET school closed to children

Monday 12th November: Diwali Celebration (5-6.30pm)

Tuesday 13th November: Closed for Diwali

Week beginning 17th December: The Nativity Play (more information to follow after September)

Other dates will be added before start of term



Attendance

Matters! Unless children are very sick, they should be in school having fun and learning. We do not authorize extended school holidays. Help us help your child. In term time=in school!

Ready to Learn:

Between the ages of 3-6 your child learns faster and develops more rapidly than at any other time during his/her life. We believe this learning should be a pleasurable and rewarding experience, in which he/she explores, investigates, creates, practices, rehearses, repeats, revises and consolidates his/her developing knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes. The skills and ideas acquired during your child's year in Reception provide them with a firm foundation for their future development.

Tricks of the trade:

- Trust the staff! If your child is clingy, take the lead from the staff about when to leave, however difficult and leave with a smile. Show them confidence and they will be so.
- Be on time to collect your child. There is nothing more upsetting for a young child than being left waiting when everyone else has gone home.
- Health warning - evidence suggests that pressurising young children to learn about letters in too formal a way can be counter productive. Children need space and time to play and discover things for themselves. However, there are plenty of opportunities for developing necessary skills in everyday situations. Pushing children to learn could 'turn them off' from it altogether.
- **Spending quality time together:** Turning off the television or computer and spending time with your child creates valuable opportunities for learning. For example, potter around the garden together and talk about plant life, insects and animals. Simple kitchen tasks, like spreading the margarine on sandwiches or rolling and kneading chapatti dough. Playing games together teaches fair play and co-operative behaviour.

Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand.

Chinese proverb