



## Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers and children,

The festival of Diwali is now an important event in Avanti Court's learning and spiritual calendar. Unfortunately because of the building programme we do not have the hall to host an event like we did last year. But hold your breath and watch this space...when we have the hall back (hopefully in late March/April) we will be hosting a Diwali meets Holi celebration event, with the same excitement and enjoyment as last year. FOAC are already planning and if you want to be involved please contact Dimple.

Your views really matter to us and after half term we will ask you to complete a parent survey and log on to the Ofsted survey. These are some of the opportunities for you to give feedback, which we hope is constructive, so that together we can improve the school. Obviously we cannot action every request or idea, but we always consider them, to know how we can best serve the children and parents to make the educational experience a positive one. Junaida, my Deputy, and I aim to be in the playground every day – please come and talk with us with any ideas you have. I have answered some of your questions in this newsletter.

This edition of the newsletter intends to give you information about the strategic work of the school. Overleaf are the objectives in our school development plan, which was created by parents, pupils, teachers and governors. This is our focus for the next 2 years. Much to build on our first year's success. Have a Happy Diwali and a safe half term break. See you on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

With warm wishes,

James Biddulph, Head Teacher

### HAPPY DIWALI

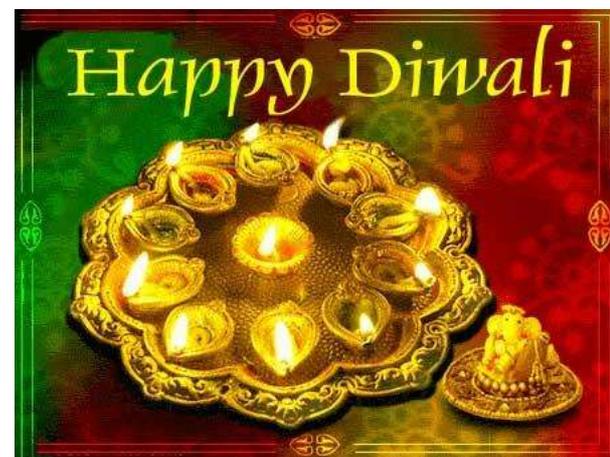
*Once upon a time there was a great warrior, Prince Rama, who had a beautiful wife named Sita. Lakshman was his brother*

*There was also a terrible demon king, Ravana. He had twenty arms and ten heads, and was feared throughout the land. He wanted to make Sita his wife, and one day he kidnapped her and took her away in his chariot. Clever Sita left a trail of her jewellery for Rama to follow.*

*Rama followed the trail of glittering jewellery until he met the monkey king, Hanuman, who became his friend and agreed to help find Sita. Messages were sent to all the monkeys in the world, and through them to all the bears, who set out to find Sita.*

*After a very long search, Hanuman found Sita imprisoned on an island. Rama's army of monkeys and bears couldn't reach the island, so they began to build a bridge. Soon all the animals of the world, large and small, came to help. When the bridge was built, they rushed across it and fought a mighty battle.*

*When Rama killed the evil Ravana with a magic arrow, the whole world rejoiced. Rama and Sita began their long journey back to their land, and everybody lit oil lamps to guide them on their way and welcome them back. Ever since, people light lamps at Diwali to remember that light triumphs over dark and good triumphs over evil.*



# School Priorities for 2013-15

School Development Area	Key Issue/ Development Area
Achievement	<p><b>Ensure high standards are achieved with all children, individuals and groups make at least good progress:</b></p> <p><b>A1 To develop a love of reading in every learner:</b> Ensure high standards in outstanding progress in Reading</p> <p><b>A2 To develop articulate and engaged learners (orally and in written formats; appropriate to their age):</b> Ensure high standards and outstanding progress in Writing including Speaking and Listening</p> <p><b>A3 To develop confident Mathematicians and problem solvers:</b> Ensure high standards in Maths</p> <p><b>A4 To know that every child is successful:</b> Develop our rigorous assessment and tracking process so that all teachers use data effectively to raise standards</p>
Teaching and Learning	<p><b>Improve the quality of teaching so that it is consistently good and outstanding:</b></p> <p><b>T1 Develop passionate, skilled &amp; inspirational teachers:</b> improve teaching through coaching, class-based research and peer support</p> <p><b>T2 Provide irresistible learning opportunities to excite, enrich and challenge every child so that they strive to improve, enquire and learn creatively:</b> Develop a personalised, localised curriculum year on year to reflect the growing school (2013: Year 1, 2; 2014: Year 3; 2015: Year 4) + implement the new NC</p> <p><b>T3 Give children the best start in formal education with an exciting, caring, enriched and challenging EYFS provision:</b> Raise the quality of EYFS and Nursery provision both indoor and outdoor</p> <p><b>T4 Understand children's needs and ensure support/challenge given at the right time for maximum impact:</b> improve differentiation and challenge</p> <p><b>T5 To empower learners to improve their knowledge and skills:</b> Ensure Assessment and feedback, including marking, impacts on children's learning, progress and outcomes</p>
Behaviour and Safety	<p><b>Maintain excellent behaviour so that children are consistently living the values and expectations of the school and are active participants in the school's work:</b></p> <p><b>B1</b> Ensure all safeguarding systems and procedures are in place and monitored effectively</p> <p><b>B2</b> Improve attendance to be above 95%</p> <p><b>B3</b> Develop behaviour management, tracking and monitoring systems</p> <p><b>B4</b> Develop reflective and spiritually aware learners who contribute positively to their school and community</p>
Leadership and Management	<p><b>Ensure strong and purposeful leadership through the development of an effective Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body that challenges and supports the leadership of the school:</b></p> <p><b>LM1</b> Review and improve all accountability structures; including Appraisal and Professional Development</p> <p><b>LM2</b> Develop partnerships with local schools, teaching schools, Universities and business to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise profile of the school</li> <li>• Share resources, including skills and access to CPD</li> </ul> <p><b>LM3</b> Create annual strategic leadership/staff structure and recruitment strategy</p> <p><b>LM4</b> Develop Governors' understanding of the workings of the school</p>
Capital works and building	<p><b>Improve the quality of the learning environment:</b></p> <p><b>CW1</b> To strategically plan for the refurbishment of the building year on year</p> <p><b>CW2</b> To secure the safety of the building</p> <p><b>CW3</b> To develop the external landscape and play areas to provide an enriched learning environment</p>

As a **legally designated** Hindu based school, one of our main objectives is to **maintain the distinctive nature** of the school, our **ethos**, our **values**, our **religious traditions and festivals** as well as helping children learn about **other religious traditions** so that they become **positive and engaged British citizens**. We hope that everyone wants their children involved in learning about others' and as our staff model, to celebrate everyone's festival – with our dominant Hindu festivals (Diwali, Holi, Gaura Purnima, Ratha Yatra, Nrsingadev, Janmashthmi etc) ever present.

Parents are legally entitled to withdraw their children from collective worship and Religious Education and must do so in writing. We hope, however, to have created a curriculum that is distinctive and inclusive and that no one will want to withdraw their child from any aspects of learning.

# Learning@The Court



*"We do music and sing...I played the triangle and it made a bright sound"*



**Learning through fun...  
Learning about different religions...  
Our Hindu ethos...  
Everyone welcome...everyone included...  
Hare Krishna!**

**Year 1 Friday Family Mornings will start next half term on a trial basis. Detail to follow.**

The reason why we didn't have a day off for Diwali this year is because it falls on a Sunday and despite consulting with faith groups and parents no one responded to say that the day after Diwali is also important to take off. We apologize and hope people respond to the consultation for next year's term dates.

Thank you for those parents who attended our Head Teacher/Parent coffee morning today. Your views are important to help us improve the school. We will run some evening year group sessions for more focused discussion.

**Action:**

- Teachers will share how they respond in Reading Records re Home Learning projects to ensure consistency
- We've checked that PE is timetabled effectively with other slots available should the school day change (like an event in school)
- Sanskrit is taught from Year 2. Spanish from Year 1
- Governor meetings will start soon

Many companies and sports groups come to school to promote their activities. The school is not able to check all their credentials. Parents must make sure themselves that they are happy with the safeguarding procedures for each group. A leaflet about football is going out today – if you like what you see please check out and research them before you sign up.

Assessment week has just finished. Children in Year 1 and 2 wrote stories independently, did Maths and Reading assessments. This will give a picture how far they have developed since the Summer assessments and also give teachers data to plan how to support continued progress. Assessment is on going in Reception with a formal assessment period in early December. You will be reported to following analysis of data and at parents' consultation evenings.

**Key Dates:**

4<sup>th</sup> November: Children back in school  
Start of Book Week  
8<sup>th</sup> November: Dress up as an animal  
Come and buy the book we are focusing on (the author will be signing)  
14<sup>th</sup> November: Parent consultations 1.30-5.30  
15<sup>th</sup> November: Children in Need day – bring a teddy and £1  
15<sup>th</sup> November: Maths Calculation Workshop

Check term dates on our website

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

**MUSIC LESSONS**

*Several parents have asked if the school can arrange music lessons at school. We would like to know the type of instruments your children would like to learn. Please tell your class teacher AT PARENTS CONSULTATION which is on 14<sup>th</sup> November.*

*With our Hindu ethos, music and performance are important and we hope to develop these as the months and years go on...*

**BOOK WEEK STARTS ON 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER. THE DAY WILL START WITH STORY TELLING, DRAMA AND CHARACTER BUILDING. AND REMEMBER DRESSING AS ANIMALS ON 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER!**

**PARKING:** a polite request to parents to park safely and not near the school gates or on zig-zag lines. Help us ensure our children's safety please!

**Quote of the week:** *May you all attain full inner illumination! May the supreme light of lights enlighten your understanding! May you all attain the inexhaustible spiritual wealth of the Self! May you all prosper gloriously on the material but especially on the spiritual planes! (anon)*