



Dear Parents/carers,

We are promoting Walk on Wednesdays initiative from next week. Several activities are planned so that children are aware of developing healthy lifestyles. Even if you drive your child to school, please park some distance away and walk the rest of the way so that your child can win the monthly badge.

Thank you to those who attended parents consultations – apologies that some meetings were delayed. Unlike many other schools we give three written reports a year as well as three parent consultations. If you would like to discuss anything in particular please arrange an appointment with your child’s class teacher or Mrs Sivadasan the year group leader.

In Year 1 and 2 we have set Targets with children – you have these in your report and we would like you to work on these with your child at home. We have heard many positive feedback about our plans for developing the ethos of the school and if you would like to find out more please attend our Senior Leader Presentations which are happening next week (see Green box). I must also bring your attention to the red box below – Ms Christian and Mrs Bana attended an e-safety course this week and learnt about the considerable dangers of using the Internet – you will be shocked by what technology can do and how people are using it to contact children. I strongly advise you sign up

Have a wonderful weekend, Kind regards, James Biddulph, Head Teacher

Walk on Wednesdays

Each class will be competing for the WoW Golden Boot award certificate. The certificate. The class with the most walkers at the end of the month will be the proud owners of the WoW Golden Boot award certificate!

We want everyone to make a special effort to walk for at least part of the journey to school on Wednesdays.

We want 100 per cent of pupils and teachers walking on Wednesdays. Wednesdays.

WoW

If you walk already, well done! If you ‘park and stride’- try to walk a little bit further. If you come by bus get off a few stops earlier and walk the rest of the way. If you come by car leave it at home or make an effort to park and stride. We want to achieve 100 per cent of pupils and teachers taking part in WoW.

Spotty Teddy Day...

Check out facebook for pictures of children with their teddy bears...all in the name of charity

Family Fridays start next Friday for Year 1 and Year 2 – see the letter from Mrs Sivadasan

Senior Leader Presentations will be held next week attended by the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher & representatives from the governing body. These sessions are for parents to ask questions about the ethos, curriculum, learning and about our future plans.

Venue: Lunchrooms
Year 1: 19th Nov 8.30am-9.00am
Year 2 20th Nov 8.30am-9.00am
Reception 25th Nov 8.30am-9.00am

IS YOUR CHILD REALLY SAFE??

Do you know if your child is safe on the Internet? Really? Does your child have access to online gaming, mobile phone and iPads? Or any other electronic device. **DANGER DANGER DANGER!!!** Attend this important workshop – Friday 22nd November 830-930am – Book your place with Kelly in the office and **BE INFORMED!**

Attendance and Lates: there are too many children being brought in late to school. This is detrimental to their day because they miss out on the important routines. Whilst we understand that travel is difficult and mornings can be busy, registration is from 8.30. Staff have been told to be on time and collect children so that not even a minute is spared! The Education Welfare Officer will be running a late gate soon and names recorded each day will be reported to Governors and the Local Authority. **Attendance also needs to improve for a large group of children – we are getting requests for extended holidays of up to 3 months!!** The message...education is not that important. Do you want your children to have choices in life? Being late and poor attendance will reduce their life chances...help us help your child and bring them to school every day and on time. Thanks, the Avanti Court Team

Safeguarding

Anti-Bullying: already we can see from the survey that some parents do not know how we deal with bullying. Here are some links to define bullying...

<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

<http://www.bullying.co.uk>



Sometimes children say that they have been bullied when someone pushed them over during a game or a one incident. We lead assemblies to engage children in discussion about bullying. We also include this in our Philosophy and Ethics curriculum, linked again with our values and ethos.

Staff are trained to deal with issues related to bullying. We tell children all the time that we will always listen to them and explain that they must always find an adult or friend that they trust. We log any incidences of bullying on our computer management system and Junaida generates a report each term for governors. We will always contact parents so that you know what is happening and can support your child in either changing their behaviour or learning to be confident to address bullying by speaking out.

The message is DON'T BE QUIET. SHOUT OUT! Always let someone know. And we have to build trusting relationships so that children know we will always listen to them and take them seriously.

There was a recent article on BBC about sibling bullying and how this damages as much as bullying at school.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-24867267> (see facebook for this as well)

g research reporter diary

ow your Cats Ear from your Dog Violet?

hings we see when walking that we

otherwise would never see, whether it be a fox, a flower, a bird or a tree that we never noticed before.

We want you to take a

photo and/or draw a picture of what you see

when you walk to school and tell us some

information about it.

**Best entry wins! –collected by
(6th December 2013)**

More prizes! Every day class teachers will be using a tracker system online to record how your child comes to school each day. If your child walks to school for more than once a week for a whole month then they will earn themselves a special badge as well as obtaining that crucial class golden boot certificate!

Next week we will be looking at Guru Nanak's Birthday as a Religious festival. Some of our teachers will be teaching us about the festival.

Ethos Corner: Who was Chaitanya?

Sri (Saint) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (great soul) was a form of Krishna who came to earth to spread an important message with love, compassion and inclusive spirituality at its heart. He was incredibly intelligent and soon won the respect of other great minds in East India some 500 years ago. He was born in a time of political and religious turmoil (not unlike our own times) and said that the purpose of life was to find Krishna (which means All Attractive in the same way that God means Almighty) through a loving personal relationship with Him. He also taught how to connect with the Divine through singing, dancing and chanting (Maha Mantra). The main words for the singing and chanting are: *Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare*. His most dedicated devotee was Haridas, a Muslim man who gave his whole life to chanting the names of God (Maha Mantra), showing us all that the message is inclusive. And his message reminds us that we identify with each other as spiritual beings not our colour, ethnicity, religion, political views, gender etc.

Key Dates:

14th November: Parent consultations 1.30-5.30

15th November: Children in Need day – bring a teddy and £1

15th November: Maths Calculation Workshop

17th December; Winter Festival of Light and Nativity

Check term dates on our website

www.avanti.org.uk/avanticourt

Quotes of the week: St Francis of Assisi reminds me a lot of Chaitanya and his message...another example of inclusivity.
“Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that have received--only what you have given.”

“Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.”
Such simplicity in words and yet so difficult to achieve...and more joyful when we can.