



2013:
Autumn 2 15-11-13

Dear Parents/carers,

Happy Guru Nanak's Birthday! I wish you all the very best and happiness for you and your family should you be celebrating this event. You would have noticed that the builders hit a gas pipe this week and have struggled to work on this. I am informed by Mansell that there is no safety concern – but Junaida, Darren and I keep monitoring this with the contractors.

Thank you for your feedback about the school via Senior Leader presentation meetings this week. We will action what was agreed so that you can continue to know about your child's learning

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

The Trust and I –foundation has agreed our main school prayer. This is from Chaitanya and offers an inclusive approach. Please help your child learn this prayer and explain its meaning. Other prayers, like this, will be introduced for different events and aspects of our school day.



Avanti Court School Prayer

"Be more humble than a blade of grass; more tolerant than a tree. Offer respect to all and expect none in return. In so doing, chant the Holy Names of God always."

Blade of grass:
Showing respect for all living beings. Accept that we make mistakes. Know that we are equal.

Tree:
Strong roots, strength of character, and able to support. Accept difference. Tolerate difficult things in life knowing that God (Krishna) is there always)

God comes to us in different ways. Chaitanya taught us this and that remembering Him in all that we do helps us get closer to Him.

Safeguarding

Ethos Corner: Holy Cow!!

"Holy Cow!" We've all heard that expletive enough times, but what on earth is holy about a cow? To find that out, we need to go to India.

In the Indian villager's agrarian lifestyle, conserving natural resources is an integral part of daily existence. He uses nature's gifts directly to manufacture all his necessities, from his mud hut dwelling to his home-spun clothes. But the most important feature of village conservation is protecting cows. Each homestead keeps at least one cow, and the animal is considered the most useful of all domestic beasts. In fact both cow and bull are seen as indispensable in rural India, in other words to 90% of the country's population. Eating only grass, which costs nothing to produce, the cow in turn produces milk that provides nearly all the nutrients we need. One cow produces more milk than a whole family can drink in one day. What is not drunk is turned into yoghurt, cheese, butter and ghee (butterfat) - the latter being the basis for so many exquisite Indian sweetmeats and savouries.

Because cows supply milk, in Indian culture they are accepted as our mother, and therefore worthy of reverence. How many babies are raised on cows' milk?

In India it is well known that even the stool of the cow has antiseptic properties. Furthermore, in any Indian village you will see cow pats drying in the sun, ready to be used as fuel for cooking. Cow urine is prescribed in Ayurveda as a medicine, and when the cow finally dies she gives her skin for shoes and bags, and her horns for other implements.

There is a symbiotic relationship between men and cows. If we take good care of them, ensuring they are sheltered, fed and protected, they happily produce more than enough milk for their calves, and we can take the excess without harming them in any way.

Keeping the Building Safe

The Senior Leaders meet the building team weekly to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Builders have a induction before they go on site which includes our expectations and procedures for child safety. There is a strict and agreed process to enter the building that we use and builders do not access the site when children are on play time, unless accompanied by the foreman.

This is an ongoing aspect of the school to ensure your children are safe at school.



FOAC Winter Wonderland

Get ready for the next FOAC event! Our very own Avanti Winter Wonderland will be taking place next month and it promises to be lots of fun for all! We will have stalls, food, games, crafts, face painting and of course a santa's grotto...

Dates - Thurs 12th and Fri 13th December (same plan for both dates - you choose which date to attend!)

Time - 3.15 to 5pm both dates

Venue - School Gym Hall

Tickets - Adult -£2 and Children aged 3 and over - £1

Children are to be picked up as normal after school and then you make your way to the Gym Hall via the playground entrance.

Tickets can be bought from all FOAC Committee members and are available on a first come first served basis so hurry and buy your tickets - and don't forget to get your raffle tickets at the same time too - you have to be in it to win it!

Quote of the week: 'Even kings and emperors with heaps of wealth and vast dominion cannot compare with an ant filled with the love of God' - Guru Nanak Dev Ji