



AVANTI COURT

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Governors Reflect on 2015-16

Dear Avanti Court Community

We are sure everyone is looking forward to the summer break (we are) and hopefully we can finally have a period of sustained sunshine. We are taking this opportunity to reflect on the school's progress over the last year.

Conversion to an Academy

Following a period of consultation across various interested parties, the school formally converted to an academy on 1 Dec 2015. Many thanks to all those that were involved in the process, not only at the school, but also at the Avanti Schools Trust (AST). We now report to the Education Funding Authority via the Trust. However this does not mean we have lost touch with Redbridge, they continue support us in a number of ways such as input from their schools improvement officer and the educational welfare officer to name two. The school still engages with other local community schools to share best practices, showcasing our school, moderating assessments of pupil progress amongst other activities. It is important these connections remain and are developed further for a number of reasons.

Children, parents and staff will not have seen significant change to how the school operates on a day to day basis. The most significant area of impact has been it has opened a source of funds that we can bid for. We are happy to say the school was able to secure significant funding for the refurbishment of eight classes and a port cabin in what is currently known as the Dennis Wing. Most of this work will be done over the summer holidays with four classes scheduled to be ready for September and another four shortly after. The Port cabin will be used by staff to support their needs.

School Improvements Plan (SIP)

The school shared its SIP in autumn. As a reminder these focused on:

1. Teaching and learning
2. Curriculum & environment provides highly positive experience & rich learning opportunities
3. Highly effective governing body and senior leadership team
4. Behavior and attendance
5. Increase the proportion of pupils across the school who achieve age related expectations in maths, reading and writing.

The school is very focused on the SIP and the topics subject to various discussions within the school. Ms Walters reports on progress at GB meetings. Overall good progress has been made on these, examples of new initiatives include incorporating the international primary curriculum into study based on the national curriculum, the new outdoor play area for reception children, more clear and consistent marking of children's work as well as helping teachers teach better through lesson observations and feedback.

School trips also play an important part of the above and comparatively Avanti Court does more than other schools.

Academic results

Parents will have received their end of year report and we hope they have taken the opportunity to discuss matters as required for their child's development and progress.

It is important parents also have an overview of the school as a whole. The appendix shows some results for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Results from Redbridge or nationally for 2016 are not available yet.

Reception results continue to impress, year 1 and 2 are generally above or around redbridge and national results. The only blip was in phonics for year 2 but this is partly due to new children joining the school part way through the academic year.

School awards

The school has received a numbers of awards this year and we are of the understanding that staff are already at work for the coming year. This year's awards include:

1. London Borough of Redbridge – Reading award
2. Top Health and Safety award
3. Silver Travel Plan award
4. Basic Skills award
5. PSQM Science award- journal submitted (awaiting result)

Volunteers supporting the school

We know there are significant numbers of parents/adults involved in supporting the school in various activities such as:

1. School trips
2. Supporting events such as Diwali/Holi/Ratha Yatra/Christmas/Summer Fayre/Sports Day
3. Helping in the gardening/library
4. Sanskrit/Yoga instructors
5. Class reading
6. Developing the library area
7. Supporting class teachers with displays

We are most grateful for your efforts and help.

We understand FOAC had a bit of lull this year after some exciting events in the past. An activity body is important to developing an enriched experience of school life for our children/parents/staff and supporters and we hope parents come forward with fresh enthusiasm for next year.

Staffing

We all hear about the about various issues in the teaching profession on the news and across wider media, however as a school we were very successful in our recruitment drive for teachers early this year.

In September we will warmly welcome 7 new members of teaching staff to Avanti.

Mrs Sanghera has also been appointed as an additional Assistant Headteacher, which will add extra capacity to the Core Leadership Team. Mrs Makwana will still be a member of the Senior Leadership Team with the additional responsibility of the Philosophy, Religious and Ethics teaching across the school.

Specialist Yoga and Sanskrit teachers have also been appointed to ensure our pupils receive specialist teaching in both areas.

We have also recruited 2 additional Higher Learning Teaching Assistants to support teaching and learning across the school. An ICT Technician has been appointed to help develop the Computing Curriculum across key stages and additional Midday Supervisors have also been recruited to help support our lunchtime provision.

A number of new Teaching Assistants have been appointed to help drive standards and we have recruited an Assistant Site Keeper to assist the Site Manager.

Mrs Hirani will be leading English across Key Stage 1 in September and Mrs Dodia will lead PE across the school and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) in Key Stage 1.

Staff/parent/student surveys

The school carries out the above surveys from time to time to get an understanding of particular group's view on the school and life in it. These on the whole are positive and comments/suggestions will be taken into consideration. I would encourage all to take part in these surveys so a more complete picture can be obtained.

As ever if there is something you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to contact the school using the communication process outlined on the website.

Secondary School Update

AST has applied to set up a secondary school within Redbridge and had a meeting with the Dfe in June. We hope to hear within the next few months and will advise parents accordingly.

School Governors

Our Chair of Governors resigned in early 2016 and we would like to thank him for his contribution over many years to the school. While the position remains open, the Governing body is focused on carrying on business as usual with support from AST.

As governors we attend various GB and committee meetings discussing a wide range of matters but in addition to this we make visits to the school to evidence the information we are presented as well as understanding the school better.

In addition we are providing support to the school during interviews of potential staff, aspects of the refurbishment of the Dennis wing area to name a couple. One of our Governors was heavily involved in securing the Barkingside Football car park for morning drop offs. With additional children intake in September we would encourage parents to use this where possible and to support its operation.

One area we are continuing to look at is promoting the school more, should you be interested in helping on this please contact school.

Details of current GB members can be found on the school website as shown below:

<http://www.avanti.org.uk/avanti-court-forms/Governor-Information-for-ACPS-Website-May-2016-FINAL.pdf>

We are trying to help the community understand our roles better through articles appearing in the school newsletters. As a GB we will be reflecting on our efforts and contribution this year and seeing how we can improve for next year.

Closing thoughts

A lot has been achieved this year and this is supported by input we get from various sources.

After opening in September 2012 with about 120 children and 15 new members of staff, we will now start September 2017 with around 620 children plus nursery children and 70 staff. As the school continues to grow the challenge is to keep a strong community feel about it and that where support is need from all.

Finally we would like to thank all those involved at Avanti Court Primary school, children, staff, parents, volunteers, AST and professionals who visit our school to advise for their continued support. We hope the overall experience of the Avanti Court world, has been a happy and fulfilling as well as challenging and rewarding.

Enjoy the summer break and start the new term with renewed energy.

Avanti Court Governing Body

Appendix

Reception Assessment: % of Pupils achieving the Good level of Development

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Avanti Court	82%	81%	84%	82%
Redbridge	60%	64%	68%	Not available yet
National	52%	60%	66%	Not available yet

Phonics Data 2016 (Sch- school; LA – local authority redbridge, NA – national)



Year 2 data 2016

