



Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

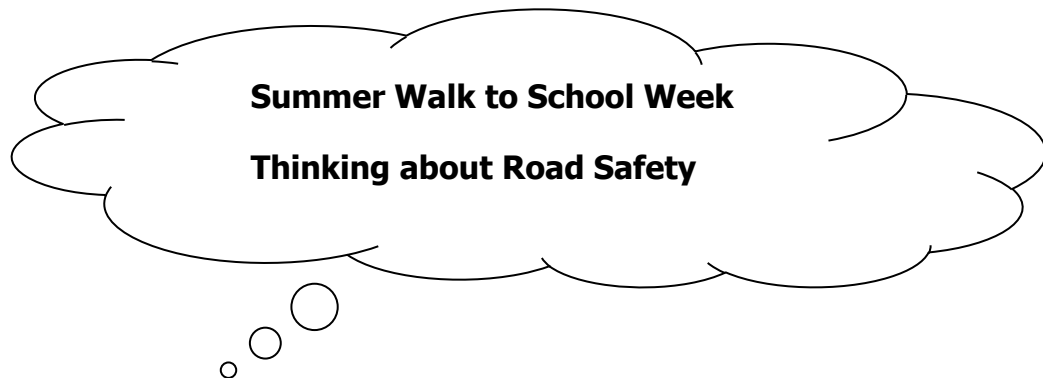
Dear Parents and Carers,

We are immensely proud of our Year 6 children who remained calm and focused throughout a challenging week of the SATs tests. A few of the children were feeling ill but managed to come into school. The school team thought the papers were difficult with some tricky three step questions. Nevertheless, the children showed excellent commitment, attitude and perseverance and resilience to complete them. They certainly deserved a relaxing and enjoyable mufti Friday, playing games, making popcorn and watching a movie. Well done everyone!

Now, it is our Year 2 children's turn this week. Lots of preparation has already taken place and I would like to thank all the parents who came in during the week to boost their child's confidence.

I would like to thank the school team who have splendidly supported the children during the testing period.

Finally, it's great to have Mrs Hongu and Mrs Gerrald return, after their period of absence. They will be working part time and will return full time by the the second part of the summer term.



## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

This week we continue to focus our thoughts upon walking safely.

A generation ago, **70% of us walked to school** – now it's less than half.

We want to reverse this decline. We want children to be energised and empowered, and to make walking to school their natural choice.

Parents can help this week by making a bigger effort to walk, cycle or scooter with their children.



## HAPPIER CHILDREN

It's been proven that children who do some form of exercise, especially a walk before school, do better in class because they arrive refreshed, fit and ready to learn.

## LESS CONGESTION

During morning peak traffic times, one in five cars on the road are taking children to school, contributing to congestion, air pollution and carbon emissions.

## CLEANER AIR

The school run alone is responsible for generating two million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Imagine what we could achieve if we began converting some of these rides to strides?

**This week will also coincide with reminding the children of our FOKAS event**



<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	A new set of letters sent via email. Please register for the event by completing the slip and bring £1.00 to school office Please pick up a paper copy from the office if you require one
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	FOKAS Committee to deliver a presentation. They will give out prizes for the Lord Krishna's Jewel Hunt at 1.40pm
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	Deadline to return sponsor registration slips and £1.00 (please return this to the school office)
<b>29/05/17 to 05/06/17</b>	Kindly collect all your sponsor money from friends and family
<b>06/06/17</b>	Please return all sponsored forms and money to the school office (please ensure your <b>child's name and class</b> is clearly written on a sealed envelope with their collection and amount) The class who collects the most will be given a special prize
<b>09/06/17</b>	SPONSORED WALK – please volunteer to help further details will follow

## HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME WITH ENGLISH

### Mr Thorne Does Phonics

"Mr Thorne does phonics" is a series of videos to help you and your child understand phonics.

Phonics will help your child with their spellings, reading and writing.

These videos will help you as parents and carers to support your child to say the sounds correctly.

Type - Mr Thorne - into YouTube to watch the tutorials.

Click on each image to open the link in YouTube.



**PARENT, PUPIL SURVEY FINDINGS:** I thought it would be helpful for you to see the overview of findings from our recent questionnaires. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and a joy to read. They have also given us some ideas to make our school even better, some of which we have acted upon already.

**The Parent's Survey has been put into a power point and can be viewed on the website. However, you can view the table of results here.**

**Questionnaire Findings for Pupils on Learning & Teaching March 2017**  
To the nearest %

	Classes Reception, Year 1, 2			Year Groups 3, 4, 5, 6		
	Nearly all lessons	Some lessons	Very few lessons	Nearly all lessons	Some lessons	Very few lessons
1. Lessons are interesting and often fun.	54	46	0	83	17	0
2. I learn something new in lessons.	90	10	0	63	33	4
3. The teacher always expects me to work hard and give my best.	95	5	0	92	8	0
4. The teacher gives me encouragement and the confidence that I can do it.	95	5	0	87	13	0
5. I am encouraged to ask questions and show curiosity.	97	3	0	79	19	2
6. I find it easy to ask the teacher when I need help.	92	8	0	79	18	3
7. If I'm stuck, the teacher spends time helping me over the difficulty.	94	6	0	86	11	3
8. I am trusted and encouraged to do things for myself.	96	4	0	89	9	2
9. I am often involved in reviewing my own work and in setting my own targets.	53	30	17	63	33	4
10. I know what I need to do to make progress in my work.	66	34	0	96	4	0

**Our next step actions:**

- ✓ **Qun 9.** Teachers will give more time to the children to respond and comment on the teachers marking and feedback in their learning.
- ✓ **Qun 10.** Teachers will make sure that the children understand clearly what they need to focus upon so that they can make quicker gains in their learning.
- ✓ **Qun 2.** Teachers in Key stage 2 will make sure that children are stretched and challenged in their learning, since some children feel that they are not learning something new in some lessons.

**Questionnaire Findings for Pupils on School Life March 2017**  
To the nearest %

	Classes Reception, Year 1, 2			Year Groups 3, 4, 5, 6		
	Agree	Disagree	Do Not Know	Agree	Disagree	Do Not Know
1. The school is a safe and happy place.	100	0	0	100	0	0
2. Pupils in the school behave well.	95	5	0	67	4	29
3. Older pupils help younger ones.	90	8	2	87	0	13
4. We get praised and rewarded for good work and behaviour.	100	0	0	100	0	0
5. The school deals quickly and effectively with any bullying.	93	0	7	90	0	10
6. There is an adult in the school I feel I could talk to if I had a personal problem.	100	0	0	98	2	0
7. Every pupil in the school is treated fairly and equally.	97	1	2	87	2	11
8. All pupils have a chance to take part in a range of activities in the school.	100	0	0	99	0	1
9. I feel that the school listens to what I have to say.	95	0	5	96	0	4
10. There are places for pupils to go and interesting things to do outside lessons.	98	0	2	98	2	0

**Our next step actions:**

- ✓ **Qun 2.** We will ensure that all children understand and are following our behaviour for learning policy and 'Good to be Green' code of conduct.
- ✓ **Qun 5 and 11.** We will ensure our children understand what Bullying is and how to stop it. We will make sure all children believe that they are being treated fairly and equally.
- ✓ **Qun 3.** We will set up more opportunities whereby older children and younger children are helping and spending time together. This is a powerful way to help and grow learning, independence and respect for one another.  
We have started this by Key Stage 1 children spending lunchtime twice a week in Key Stage 2 playground. In this way, younger children can play with older children. We have paired classes up, whereby each week older children listen and read with a buddy from a Key stage 1 class. We also have some of our older children who mentor our younger children; focusing on 'emotions' which is one of our ethos.

	<b>PARENT/ CARER VIEWS 103 Responses</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
1	My child likes this school.	55%	42%	3%	0%	0%
2	My child makes good progress at this school.	25%	66%	8%	0%	1%
3	My child's lessons are not disrupted by bad behaviour.	19%	51%	11%	2%	19%
4	The school deals with cases of bullying or harassment effectively.	11%	40%	11%	1%	38%
5	My child is taught well at this school	21%	71%	5%	0%	3%
6	I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on	15%	66%	16%	3%	1%
7	I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem or complaint	23%	53%	13%	4%	7%
8	The school expects my child to work hard and do his or her best.	35%	58%	3%	0%	5%
9	There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable	20%	67%	9%	1%	3%
10	The school helps me to support my child's learning.	22%	60%	11%	1%	6%
11	The school explains how I can help my child at home.	22%	56%	13%	3%	6%
12	The school seeks the views of parent and carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns.	15%	58%	13%	4%	11%
13	I would recommend this school to another parent.	42%	45%	3%	1%	10%
14	The school provides appropriate homework.	19%	57%	17%	2%	5%
15	The school encourages my child to become mature and independent	24%	68%	4%	0%	4%

**Questionnaire Findings for Parents** - Please see the school website and view the power point presentation for detailed findings.

### **Our next step actions:**

#### ✓ Qun 4.

#### **The school deals with cases of bullying or harassment effectively?**

We received 38 responses of "don't know".

I would like to gently remind you that we have a clear policy in place to deal with Behaviour for Learning and Bullying

We have an Anti - Bullying Policy and statement across the school. This is child friendly and is visible around the school.

100% of our children say that they feel happy and safe at school.

This is because we adhere to a consistent approach.

## **OUR ANTI BULLYING STATEMENT**

**At Krishna Avanti Primary School we will ensure that every child enjoys an atmosphere that is caring and protective.**

- A bully is someone who hurts other people. They may hit, pinch, kick or push you.
- A bully is someone who threatens other people. They may take things away from you or damage your belongings. They may even take your friends away from you.
- A bully is someone who makes fun of other people. They may tell lies about you; they may tease, name call or make you feel uncomfortable.
- A bully is someone who is afraid to stand up for what is right. They are usually unhappy people. By doing something about your bullying problem you could be helping them too and you may stop them from bullying other people.
- We will help bullies change their behaviour to a positive and caring nature.



**'Cyber Bullying' is bullying through the use of communication technology like mobile phones, emails or websites. This can be:**

- Sending threatening or hurtful text messages or emails.
- Making upsetting comments about someone on a website or on a social networking site.
- Making or sharing embarrassing videos of someone on the mobile telephone or email.

### **We are here to help you**

- We know what it is to be a bully.
- We know what it feels like to be bullied.
- You are not alone.
- Tell your class teacher, a friend and your parents. It won't stop until you do. It is not telling tales and you won't get into trouble.
- If you can't talk about it, write a note. You will be listened to and things will change.
- We can make it stop.
- We can make you a happier person.





## Questionnaire Findings for Parents

### What I like most about the school

- Character building, the teaching of the values and ethics will help my child to become a great individual
- Teaching discipline, good manners
- The spiritual learning, PRE, collective worship, prayers and vegetarian hot meals
- The welcoming atmosphere for new parents and the integration of the British schooling system with devotional and alternative lessons in sanskrit and yoga
- Homework, varied teaching methods
- My daughter enjoys coming to school. She loves the teachers
- Level of communication between teachers and parents – approachable friendly staff
- Happy, friendly environment
- My child loves the school and is very happy to be there. He is learning a lot and has become more independent. He adores his teachers



### What I would like to change about the school – the responses are from individual parents

- Introducing more after school clubs and particularly instruments and giving an option of paying for vegetarian snacks for after school kids, as fruits are not enough for the long day. **School Council will hold a consultation with Govinda's about this matter. We must be mindful of children who have specific allergies and cannot be around certain foods. Even the smell of it can create a severe reaction.**
- Perhaps more straight forward communication  
**Since my appointment, I have been producing weekly school newsletters and the office team have regularly updated the website. Many of you have commented how valuable you have found the newsletter, parent mail and the website.**
- Effective communication throughout the school team – admin and teachers to be aware of what is going on in the school.
- Communication – sometimes meetings are changed and it's at short notice.  
**We apologise. We will continue to look at better ways of working with parents.**
- I don't get emails – I have mentioned it for 4 years! **Please let me know, so that we can finally resolve this for you.**
- The rubbish at the entrance of the school needs to be cleared away. **The planning application has been revised and has been approved. Thank you to everybody who supported the school by writing letters. Further information will be given in due course.**
- Holiday periods – increase holiday times.
- Start of the day time to change. This will allow my child to have a proper breakfast **I am afraid this is impossible. We follow the Avanti School Trust Policy and the DfE Policies**

- Less screen based homework
- Not having homework set during holiday times, so that children can relax and pursue non-academic activities
- Education City is good but Matheletics is better for older children
- I would prefer homework everyday
- More variety of trips

**Homework is always an area in which parental opinions are divided. Some want none; some want more. Our home learning system has been carefully designed, with a range of aims in mind. We want it to complement the work children are doing in school, whilst remaining as accessible to as many parents as possible. We want it to help parents support their children's learning, without being too onerous. Time to play is a crucial part of childhood and is central to how children learn. I assure you all our pupils work very hard in school.**

- Free swimming lessons to start. **We have investigated this matter in the past. We use to attend swimming lessons two years ago. A consultation was carried out whereby a decision was made that it was costly for the coach travel and extra teachers to supervise. Furthermore, a whole morning or afternoon was taken out of the school day to go swimming. The pressures on the curriculum meant that we do not have time in the core day to offer swimming. For these reasons, the majority of parents in the consultation agreed to take their child swimming out of school time. The money from the coach travel is now spent on vital school resources to enhance your child's learning.**
- Lunch menu has too much paneer dishes. **The School Council held a meeting with Govinda's Catering in March and has reduced the number of Paneer dishes, even though it's a popular choice for many pupils.**
- Make sure teachers do not leave in mid- year academic year. **Unfortunately, this is difficult to stop due to their terms and conditions of employment and the personal choices made by colleagues. However, we shall endeavour to grow and strengthen our existing school team.**



**Thank you to all parents who took time to complete the survey. Your comments are genuinely valuable to us. They help us understand the range of opinions within the parent body and provide valuable ideas for improvement. We do a survey annually. If you did not complete one this time, it would be great if you could do so next year.**

**Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to meet with the Senior Leadership team or myself if you want to discuss any school matters.**



**LATENESS = LOST LEARNING (Figures below are calculated over a school year)**



5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!

**Not being punctual to school reduces your child's chance of success.** Your child's progress could drop across ALL subjects!  
Your child will be missing learning opportunities if they are not in school or are late to school. We work closely with our Education Welfare Officer at Harrow Council and unauthorised absences could result in fixed penalty fine. Please work with us to provide your child with the best chances of learning, by ensuring they are in school every day and on time.

**Attendance week ending 12<sup>th</sup> May was 96.5% for the school. The current school attendance for the academic year to date is 96.7%. Your support would be appreciated for us to reach our academic target of 97%.**

**24 children were late from the w/c 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017**



**Staying Hydrated at School,**

Staying Hydrated at School - We encourage children to regularly drink water during the day to ensure they stay hydrated and this becomes particularly important during the summer term. Please be reminded that all children must bring their own water bottle to school each day. Ensure that they are taken home, washed thoroughly and brought back the next day.

**Sherpa Kids** - After careful consideration, John Geers (club leader) has decided to no longer host Sherpa Kids at KAPS. Therefore, come the Autumn Term (September 2017) this club will no longer be available and parents will have to look for an alternative arrangement. We are looking at options of hosting a new club and will inform parents if this does take effect.

Parents may wish to note that the government has introduced an additional 30 hours per week of free childcare over 38 weeks. Although this is aimed at children between the ages of 2-4 years, there are other childcare options that parents may be eligible to apply for and parents can check whether they are eligible for a range of government childcare offers, including 30 hours, via Childcare Choices at: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> or the Childcare Calculator at: <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

If parents are eligible for 30 hours per week of free childcare (over 38 weeks) or other childcare options they may wish to visit Harrow Council website that has a list of registered child-minders. For ease of reference I've attached the necessary link below. This will allow working parents to make the necessary arrangements for the collection of their children. [http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200214/childcare\\_options/265/registered\\_childminders\\_in\\_harrow](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200214/childcare_options/265/registered_childminders_in_harrow)

**PMX - Parentmail** - <https://pmx.parentmail.co.uk> - We have moved across to the new parent-mail PMX system and parents have been sent a number of emails for registration. If you are experiencing problems in registering, please do email Mrs Natha [bhakti.natha@avanti.org.uk](mailto:bhakti.natha@avanti.org.uk) or come in to see her in the school office between 8.15am-10.30am – Mrs Natha would be happy to assist.

**Pupil Premium - funding to support vulnerable learners** - The Pupil Premium is funding from the Department for Education which is additional to the main school funding. It is allocated according to the number of pupils on-roll who are eligible for free school meals (FSM), a smaller amount is allocated according to the number of children of service families, and an allocation for each pupil who has been 'Looked After' (in care) for 6 months or more. Funds are allocated, for example, to support parents in purchasing school uniform, to support children's achievement and their participation in extra- curricular activities including school trips. Please visit the school's website [www.avanti.org.uk/kapsharrow](http://www.avanti.org.uk/kapsharrow) to find out if you are eligible.

**2017/18 Academic Year School Calendar/Term Dates** - Please see link below for the school term dates 2017-2018 academic year. Can parents please note that any holidays or travel arrangements should only be booked during the school holiday period. There are sufficient holidays within academic year for you to make travel arrangements.

We would also like to highlight that the Christmas period is only two weeks. The school monitors attendance closely to ensure that all our children can achieve their full potential and would be grateful for your support.


[Please click here to download the 2017/18 academic year school calendar for Krishna Avanti Primary school.](#)  
Wishing you a good week ahead.

Yours sincerely,  
Bindu Rai, Principal

**DIARY DATES : Set out on the next page**

**Please kindly note the additions**



15/05/17	Year 2 SATs Testing period commences
19/05/17	Year 5 and Year 6 Residential Trip
22/05/17	Shakespeare Enrichment Week. A separate letter will be sent home.
25/05/17	Pupils break up for half term
26/05/17	Training day for school staff only
<b>29/05/17 – 04/05/17 Half Term Holiday</b>	
05/06/17	Pupils return to school
05/06/17	Shakespeare Enrichment Week continues – performance on the Amphitheatre, weather permitting.
05/06/17	Parent Consultation Evening 1
06/06/17	Parent Consultation Evening 2
07/06/17	Snana Yatra
08/06/17	Judging of Book corner/ Bay Competition by School Council representatives
09/06/17	FOKAS Sponsored Walk – Please send in your registration form and £1.00 to the school office by 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2017. We would like volunteer help for the event. Further details will be sent out.
12/06/17	INTERFAITH WEEK led by Year 6
15/06/17	Empty Classroom Day learning
19/06/17	Refugee Week
21/06/17	Rath Yatra celebrations
23/06/17	Year 6 Junior Citizen morning Trip
28/06/17	Sports Day choice 1 weather permitting TBC
29/06/17	Sports Day choice 2 weather permitting TBC
09/07/17	SUNDAY FOKAS SUMMER FAIR – save the date, support and help out.
12/07/17	Sports Day choice 3 weather permitting TBC
14/07/17	Year 6 Leavers day trip out - TBA
14/07/17	Annual Pupil Reports go home
17/07/17	Parent Open Evening – a chance to wander around the classrooms to view the learning that has been showcased. A chance to talk to your child's current class teacher and to meet your child's new teachers
20/07/17	Year 6 Leavers Graduation and Performance
24/07/17	Children spend time with their new teacher
25/07/17	 Celebration and Goodbye assembly. Break up for the summer holiday