



Dear Parents/Carers,

25th July 2013

A Final Word

Thank you for your good wishes and kind reflections about the school and its success in our first year. I am pleased that we have achieved so much but we are excited and driven to do more for our young learners as we enter our second year. Our key areas for development, devised with the support and input of staff, parents, pupils and governors can be seen on our website. Together we can achieve so much.

Welcome: I'd like to welcome our new staff to the Avanti Court Team. Leanne Christian, Vidya Kesavan, Esther Dudli, Yamuna Kanbi are our new teachers and Kinjal Chokshi and Max Hines are our new Teaching Assistants. We also have 8 parents who have enrolled on TA Level 3 course and will be volunteering their time each week as part of their course. They are our TA Associates. Dravit Koorichh has resigned as Business Manager and is now an Associate Teacher as he trains this year as a class teacher – he will also work as support in Year 2.

Ofsted: we will be expecting an inspection next year. Ofsted inspectors will want to discuss your views – it would be incredible to have a large group attend a meeting with them when they visit!

Building Works: as you know we have building works from 1st August until March 2014. This is divided into two phases; the first is refurbishing 5 classrooms in preparation for 1st September, the second involves improving the infrastructure, the administration area and making the building suitable for 4 forms of entry (eventually). Phase 3 will be an ongoing programme to refurbish the building annually.

Cypad: We will be continuing with ISS lunch provider until our kitchen is developed. Our food will then be provided by the Trust's catering company. There are lunch options from September and also a new way to pay – online, easier and better for you to manage lunch payment. Cash and cheque payment is also possible. Please refer to our website to find out more.

Parent Governor: there is a vacancy for 1 parent governor position to start early next term. Being a governor is a huge responsibility but also a rewarding privilege. Have a look at this webpage for a brief overview http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/school_governor/ If you are interested please speak with me. You will need two nominations to stand. If only one person stands this person is accepted as the parent governor. If more than one stands a ballot is taken. We will be doing this in September. Please see the website for more information.

Birthdays: many parents offer to bring in sweets to celebrate their child's birthday. We do not allow this but encourage you to send fruit or better still a gift. This year we asked for a book to add to our library. Next year we would like you to send a board game (twister, connect 4 etc) to add to the class games resources. This is not compulsory but would be a useful addition.

Attendance: 11 children came on a trip to Valentine's Park – for picnic, play and ice-creams. This was a treat out of their normal school life to celebrate their outstanding attendance this year. Children with 100% all year are also awarded Gold Certificates. Attendance really does matter and we maintain our zero tolerance stance. We will also fine families who take children on extended holidays and will, if necessary, support court action. Children are entitled to a

good education with 190 days in school.

Home Learning: you should have received your child's home learning briefing sheet. Please also remember to read TO your child as often as possible. If your child doesn't always want to read, it's important to encourage them by showing how much fun it can be. The more you read to them, the better their reading will become. I would expect children being read to, reading together (sharing a page each) and being heard reading even in Year 6...so start practicing now! Maths facts also need to be learnt off by heart because it makes calculation much easier. Please make it fun!

You can go via our website links to other educational sites to support your child's learning (follow LINKS on our home page)

School Start: please enter the playground as usual on Wednesday 4th September at 8.30am. Children will line up in their new classes and will be received by their teachers. We may need to change how children enter the school to accommodate building works and ensure safety and smooth entry. We will keep you informed via newsletters, facebook and notes home.

Uniform: the school was lenient about uniform because of the price of our original supplier. From next year we will expect all children to be dressed smartly in their new uniform. Shoes must be brown or black. Jewelry should not be worn at school. Children should not wear makeup or nail polish. We want children to be proud of their school and feel part of the school community.

Sherpa: after school child care will be provided from end of September when the Reception children have started full time. Please consult our website for more information.

Houses: please see a message from the Trust. Well done!

I hope you all have a happy and restful break. As our term is focused on Gratitude, I'd like to thank you all for your faith in us, your challenging questions, your support and enthusiasm for believing that the ethos and vision is important.

We have so much yet to do but our first steps have been happy, with high expectations of everyone (adult and child) and some great achievement and progress (ratified by external moderators and in line with local outstanding schools). I've collected many happy memories – Beegu, Shakespeare week, the festivals, Diwali, the Talent show at the Summer Fayre, trips, bread making, the reception wedding planner role play, the writing (how wonderful the writing is!), the golden phone calls home, the farm coming to school...the list goes on as I sit and type. I hope your list is long...and that the children take away these memorable experiences as they move to their next phase of learning.

With kind regards,

James Biddulph
Head Teacher