



# THE COURT

The Avanti Court Newsletter

Dear Parents/carers,

This will be the last Newsletter of the term and 2013! Reflecting back on the term, I remember Book Week, with our visiting artist and author, Emma Moore. I loved seeing the children constructing a boat out of real wood and using the correct tools. The children's interest in books is growing – their special potion created to make their Head Teacher disappear almost worked! – showing how teachers are making the children's learning fun, engaging and meaningful. There is much yet to do. We hope that we have acted respectfully on your views following our Parent survey and publish here what you said and what we now will do. For example, you asked for different feedback for home learning projects and with an idea from a parent and discussion with others in FOAC we have a new format.

Christmas is a happy time for many, even those who are not of the Christian faith. It is a time to reconcile, to show compassion, to think of others and to find hope, in difficult times. As Krishna told Arjuna on the battlefield, "forget all and remember me. Trust in me". My team and I wish you a very happy holiday and a year full of growth, learning and helping Avanti Court become the school we all want it to be. Using the words of someone inspired by the opportunities presented by Nelson Mandela's walk to freedom, Barack Obama says, "I never said this journey would be easy, sometimes our path is harder, but it leads to a better place. Yes, our road is longer, but we travel it together". I must make you aware of our attendance which at 95% is below National expectation. This could result in a poor judgement for the school when Ofsted come. I cannot authorise absence for holidays – choosing to do so puts your child and school in a difficult position. Have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January (or 8<sup>th</sup> Jan for Nursery children), Kind regards, James Biddulph, Head Teacher

We wish you a merry Christmas!



Happy Christmas from all of us! We loved our special prasadam Christmas lunch!

We made a potion and wrote instructions.... then we asked Mr B to drink...to disappear and he did for one whole day!

Our Pantomime Treat...Mother Goose...how we laughed!!

Facebook message from one happy parent...many thanks for this

**Avanti Court**  
1 hour ago

Today's assembly left a strong and resolute message in my child's heart. He understood that Nelson Mandela "was a brave man" that helped boys and girls become friends when before they had been forced to play separately. A powerful message about an inspirational man who continues to influences the world even after his passing. Brilliant work by Avanti Court.

Like Comment

# Parent Survey – the Results and our actions...Avanti Court – trying to be a listening school

<i>Positives</i>	<i>Areas for development</i>
<p><b>Positive comments:</b> "I am a very happy parent, my son has developed very well and will continue to do so with the schools potential."            "Leadership is amazing and of course a fantastic headship"            "Home learning projects are good, but the school takes long time to evaluate them"            "I strongly agree my child comes home with so much knowledge and information which sometimes us parents forget to provide in day to day routine"            "Excellent ethos"            "I am very happy with the way my child is learning &amp; behaving himself. He seems to be very happy"            "I have seen the class teachers managing the kids well and look after them and make sure they are not upset when they just newly started"            "We do have a HT and a Deputy HT responsible for making decisions"            "Home learning projects are very good"            "My daughter enjoys the school immensely, credit goes to teacher and school team, well done"            "Overall we are very happy, it is a well managed environment"            "Children are taught, but are they repeated and made sure children grasp the situation"            "In my opinion school is well led and managed by the management, school staff including non-teaching staff is devoted to having a common goal, making Avanti the best school in Redbridge"            "In my opinion the school performance in short space of time reflects that it is going to be every parents' choice for their child to get admission to"            "Avanti Court management should be praised for their commitment to make it one of the outstanding schools in the borough by devoting quality education to the pupils"</p>	<p><b>Areas to consider:</b> "I still firmly state that the parents should let the leadership do their work to their full potential and get involved when told to do so!"            "I am a parent who does not follow the Hindu Faith, but have chosen this school knowing it was an "inclusive school". I do however sometimes feel that children not of the faith cannot be heard as much"            "Children feel that the school classrooms are small and same as in Reception, I also feel the same"            "I feel we need more information on progress of our child, what grades they are at etc"            "I feel this is too early for this survey, only been 1 ½ months, in that time there's been classroom and teacher changes, some are still settling in"            "He used to look forward to going to nursery, but not once has he been enthusiastic, excited or looked forward to going to school"            " I am unhappy to hear that PE is not considered to be a mandatory weekly activity in Reception, I understand the children spend a lot of time outside however that is not a substitute for physical, structured education in my opinion"            "School are using inexperienced volunteers to teach kids, we doubt no teaching assistant in Year 2"            "If No budget in the school, why was it opened in the first place?"            "newsletters should be uploaded on the website"            "Sometimes I feel my child is not included in the wider scheme of things, I would like to see equal and fair consideration given"            "The staff need to be left alone to do their jobs...some parents too demanding and expect too much"</p>
<p>What you said...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Home learning feedback not detailed</li> <li>2. Communication via newsletter and facebook sometimes confusing</li> <li>3. PE sometimes missed</li> <li>4. Children lose their hats and gloves and coats</li> <li>5. Home Learning – we want more homework</li> <li>6. How is bullying dealt with?</li> </ol>	<p>What we are doing...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We have created a new format, co-designed with parents. You will receive this at the end of this term.</li> <li>2. We met with governors and parents about the newsletter and sent out a survey. Results of this published. Many wanted this emailed. We are looking into viability of having parent mail service – costly but would meet this demand. New look newsletter to start in January.</li> <li>3. We asked teachers and 2 said that they had to miss PE because of other school events happening in the hall. Agreement that these sessions would be made up during the week.</li> <li>4. We all have to teach children to be more responsible. Teachers not able to monitor every child throughout the day as if 1-1. Parents to label all items of clothing.</li> <li>5. Athletics offered at very low cost to all parents. This will give more variety to children though not compulsory.</li> <li>6. We will put all policies on the website for January 2014. These will explain our processes. To reassure you we state clearly that bullying in any form, between child and child, adult and adult is not tolerated and will be dealt with seriously and strictly.</li> </ol>

## Nursery Starting...

We welcome our new Nursery children on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Please be aware that there will be more parents bringing children to and from school. Nursery classroom will be next to the Reception classrooms until the building work is completed (sometime in January). I know that you will make our new parents feel welcomed and part of our school community.

*On behalf of all the children, staff and school community I would like to thank FOAC for their huge efforts to raise the profile of the school and funds. A special thanks to the exec team who have worked tirelessly.*

### ACCIDENTS


Sometimes children have little accidents and don't manage to reach the toilet. Could you donate items such as tracksuit bottoms, tights, socks and T-shirts, jumpers. Please could you donate them cleaned? This would be much appreciated...and I know the children would say this too...

### BAD WEATHER PLAN

**In the event of adverse weather conditions we ask that you always check the website and facebook. Should it be necessary to close the school (which we would do only in the most challenging of circumstances and a decision never taken lightly) please continue checking these forums for updates.**

### Farewell to Rohit Koorichh:

I would like to thank Rohit for his help in our finance department and wish him all the best in the future. With many thanks, James and the Team



Sacinandana Swami is a German born, Vaishnav spiritual leader, author and teacher. A beautifully kind and thoughtful man. His work uses the metaphor of a tree to understand the different aspects of life, urging us to water our spiritual roots so that we can serve others in the same way that a tree's leaves gives life giving oxygen back to the world. We hope you have time this holiday to rest and reflect.

The leaves and branches represent the service to others; how we offer kindness; how we live the values with the people in our lives. It is the life oxygen giving aspect of human life.

The trunk represents our society; our family and friends, the people and groups who support us, give us strength.

The roots represent our spiritual nurturing. How much time do we spend thinking quietly, meditating about our day, actually sitting and thinking of God, of our relationship with Him? Do we take care of ourselves spiritually?

# Safeguarding

## *Attendance Matters*

***Every day counts! We are concerned that too many parents are asking for extended holiday to visit family. Our priority must be children's education. We operate a zero tolerance attitude to requests – statutory aged children will be fined by the Local Authority***

***95% is our attendance this term and is below the National Expectation and will be criticized by Ofsted. Year 1 and Reception classes are 93% which would put the school into a poor Ofsted category.***

## Key Dates:

6<sup>th</sup> January 2014: Welcome back to school!!

Check term dates on our website

[www.avanti.org.uk/avanticourt](http://www.avanti.org.uk/avanticourt)

## **Ethos Corner: Bhagavad Gita**

The Bhagavad-gita offers an interesting perspective on world religions. It explains how the various traditions all stem from a divine source, and all offer the potential of spiritual elevation. The differences between them are primarily in culture, ritual and expression, while the central principles remain universal. Since the same message was taught in different times, places and circumstances, the externals had to be adapted – essentially, old wine in new bottles. While many can resonate with such an idea, there are also students and practitioners who would find such a stance difficult to digest. How can we reconcile fundamental differences on philosophical points? How can we overlook striking contradictions in the various historical and cultural accounts? Could this be a naive 'new age' attempt to avoid confrontation and create 'peace, love and unity'? Without a more detailed explanation, some may say it's a case of politically correct, but theologically wrong. How do we rationalise differences between paths that supposedly stem from the same source? (from Sutapamonk online)

***Junaida Bana, Deputy Head and Amy Sivadasan, Year Group Leader are the Designated Child Protection officers. Please contact them for any concern you have your ANY child. Child protection is EVERYONE'S responsibility and your reporting to us will always be handled sensitively with no recourse to you or your own child.***

## **MUMPS MEASLES AND RUBELLA**

Is your child protected against measles? Are you?

Measles is highly infectious and should not be regarded as a 'harmless' childhood disease. It's often associated with being an illness of the past and as a result people may be unaware that it is dangerous and can lead to death in severe cases.

Parents should ensure their children are fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) with two doses of the MMR vaccine.

If your child has not had two doses of MMR, whatever their age, contact your GP surgery and make an appointment as soon as possible.

Parents of unvaccinated children, as well as older teenagers and young adults, who may have missed MMR vaccination, should be aware it is never too late to get vaccinated.

If you are unsure if you or your child has had two doses of the vaccine, speak to your GP who will have a record. **See more at:**  
<http://www2.redbridge.gov.uk>

**A child educated only at school is an uneducated child. ~George Santayana**