



# THE COURT

## The Avanti Court Newsletter

### Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers and children,

Learning is so difficult. But each difficult journey starts with the first step, according to Zen Buddhist philosophy. Our steps this week have been bold. Parent workshops have started to explore what we mean by learning; some 40 parents attended. Our staff had a really exciting session led by Jane Wheeler about Compassionate Communication, on which our Behaviour Management system is based. And our children have been making kites to celebrate Thai Pongol, an Indian festival for harvest and to be grateful for the food we are given. It is always delightful to see children in my office, showing me their learning outcomes, talking about what they have done.

Snow is on the way. I will **only** close the school if we have no basic services or if the health and safety of parents, children and staff is compromised. Please check the school website and our facebook page (see link overleaf). Have a safe weekend – if there is enough snow, I hope your Snow Men and Women are happy and snow fights full of fun!

With warm wishes, James Biddulph, Head Teacher

Senior Leaders' Meeting interrupted for urgent survey about our favourite toys. Questions asked, the children were off researching their topic about toys.

**Behaviour Management:** Compassionate Communication – an interactive workshop with Jane Wheeler. We will be running parent workshops so that you learn about our behaviour system which will help how we all communicate



**Avanti Life: have you read the second edition of the trust magazine? It's all about Avanti Court and your children's experiences** Follow the link on our website [www.avanti.org.uk/avanticourt](http://www.avanti.org.uk/avanticourt)

Spring 2013: 18-01-13

Learners Unite!

### Cold Weather Plan:

As you know, a cold weather is predicted which may include snow. If we think it necessary to close the school for health and safety reasons we will post a notice on our website under NEWS and also on the Avanti Schools Trust facebook [www.facebook.com/avantischoolstrust](http://www.facebook.com/avantischoolstrust)

Check the lunch menu on line – next week is Menu 1

[www.avanticourt.org.uk](http://www.avanticourt.org.uk) follow link to Avanti Life and then Lunch

# 37 parent view

**survey online.** The average parent engagement with this OFSTED online survey is 4-6 ...so 37 is good. But we want every parent to contribute. What a statement to our community if we have 110 – one for each child. Please login and complete the survey – and if you put disagree or strongly disagree with any statement please come and talk to us so we know what we need to do to improve.



*Budding artists in Balta paint an almost life size painting of Mr Biddulph. This is part of their topic "People Who Help Us"*

Uniform supplier found in Walthamstow. Uniform will be available after Half Term or maybe sooner.

### School Ambassadors:

We are introducing school ambassadors at Avanti Court which is part of our strategy to empower children to lead aspects of their school and contribute to decisions about the school. The Ambassador system is the 'Democracy' strand of the pupil voice strategy. Other roles will include Prefects in Year 6 – employed to help in the school, Ecology Teams (The Green Team), monitors, Peer mediators and play helpers...and who knows what else. Reception children are chosen to be an Ambassador but from Year 1 children have to submit a written application and are voted in by their friends in class.

### Key Dates:

31<sup>st</sup> January: Year 1 trip

18<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> February: Half Term

25<sup>th</sup> February: Shakespeare Week

15<sup>th</sup> March: Reports to Parents

21<sup>st</sup> March: Parent Consultations with teachers

22<sup>nd</sup> March: Passover Festival

25<sup>th</sup> March: Holi & Gaura Purnima Festival

28<sup>th</sup> March: Easter Break close at 1.30

