

# THE COURT

The Avanti Court Newsletter

## Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Last term Mark Evans, the Director of Education for Avanti Schools Trust, made a formal visit to monitor the work of the school. Mr Evans collated his views of the school in a letter, which I quote and include in this newsletter.

Have a good weekend, James Biddulph

Dear James...

*... I was particularly impressed by the ways in which you and your staff have developed processes for recording progress of Early Years, capturing key developmental events on stickers and putting them in children's folders/large format books. I found these books delightful. They show, already, evidence of real progress. Needless to say, we spent only a little time on a review of a few books. It would be good to see these again during a visit this term. We also discussed the Ethics and Philosophy course and the Christmas material in particular. We also touched on Collective Worship and its aims, structures and assessment. We are aware that this is a key, but potentially challenging, aspect of the whole Trust's work. Again, I would welcome a further discussion when we meet later this term....*

*... We spent some time, together with another member of your staff, in a Philosophy and Ethics session. This took the form of a workshop with a starter session from staff followed by pupils' working in groups and then presenting. All pupils were enthused and engaged and presented well. Staff engagement and awareness was good, with intervention as necessary and of an appropriate lightness. The session was very well paced...*

*... The school is making good progress under your leadership. The site is vibrant and the pupils engaged and happy with the service they are being offered. Staff are energetic and interactions between them and pupils are humane, focused and relaxed. All indications are that the school is very well regarded by parents and the wider community. I know that, under your leadership, this has been, quite rightly in my view, a key element of the school's work....*  
Mark Evans

## The children in reception need your help!

This term our topic is people who help us. Every week we will be looking at different services which support us in our local community. The children will be encouraged to junk model settings, scenes and costumes for our role play areas. This is where we need your help. If you have any clean and empty cardboard boxes please could you collect them and send them to school with your child as soon as possible.

Example of junk modelling materials:

- Cereal boxes
- kitchen rolls
- Small cake boxes
- Cartons
- Tubes
- Small bottles
- Yoghurt pots
- Old newspapers
- Old magazines

A big thank you to the parents that regularly donate junk modelling materials in reception. We always need a whole host of resources from junk modelling boxes and bottles to old spare clothes! Please keep on donating as the children consistently use the resources.

## Chicken Pox: the Facts!

Chickenpox is a mild and common childhood illness that most children catch at some point.

It causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They then crust over to form scabs, which eventually drop off. To prevent spreading the infection, keep children off nursery or school until all the spots have crusted over.

Chickenpox is most infectious from one to two days before the rash starts, until all the blisters have crusted over (usually five to six days after the start of the rash).

## Priorities for 2012-13

Some time ago parents and teachers met to explore the key priorities for our first year. I thought that it is important to share these objectives with you again so that you understand where we are aiming.

School Development Area	Key Issue/ Development Area
Achievement	A1 Ensure high standards in Reading, Speaking and Listening * A2 Ensure high standards in Writing * A3 Ensure high standards in Maths, particularly related to key facts & early calculation * A4 Establish a rigorous assessment and tracking process *(Related to age expectations (Rec & Year 1))
Teaching and Learning	T1 Develop Teaching & Learning & Assessment Policies, which align the ethos of the school with current 21 <sup>st</sup> century pedagogies. T2 Develop a personalised, localised curriculum T3 Ensure all teaching is at least Good (80% by Summer 2013) T4 Ensure all needs of children are identified and addressed so that all children are challenged and supported to achieve (SEN and G&T register established)
Behaviour and Safety	B1 Ensure all children are safe B2 Ensure school site is safe and building works are well planned and do not impact on children's learning and experiences. B3 Ensure attendance is 95%+ B4 Establish Good Behaviour B5 Develop reflective and spiritually aware learners who contribute positively to their school and community
Leadership and Management	L1 Ensure strong and purposeful leadership through the development of an effective Governing Body that challenges and supports the leadership of the school L2 Develop all accountability structures; including Appraisal and Professional Development  L3 Establish effective systems to ensure smooth running of school L4 Establish and develop the distinctive ethos and values of the school L5 Create strategic recruitment plan for 2013-14

## How do we ensure Good Teaching?

The Senior Leadership team as well as external partners (Local Authority, Wroxham Teaching and Learning Alliance, Avanti Schools Trust, Local schools) monitor the quality of teaching and how this impacts on learning.

- Lesson observations – the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher observe teachers and teaching assistants
- Book monitoring to see how children are progressing in their written and recorded learning
- Learning Walks – when the leadership team walk around the school and speak to children about their learning
- Pupil Conferences – the Head Teacher meets a group of different children each week to talk about their learning and to identify how they are improving and where they are not.
- Avanti Schools Trust visits
- Local Authority visits
- Local school support – moderation of our judgments of children's learning and assessments (we worked with Fullwood, an Outstanding local school, in comparing our children's assessment data with theirs)

**Pajama Day!** We did something silly for charity...yes we came to school in our pajamas, everyone paying £1. The money will pay for gifts for a school in Ghana. Mrs. Bana is visiting the school in half term – these are our first steps to connecting with our global community. Mrs. Bana will write an article for Avanti Life and our newsletter on her return.

**On Wednesday/Thursday was the Prophet Mohammed's (SAW) birthday. This is a very special and spiritual date in the Islamic calendar. The Prophet said, "Honour a believer for his religion. Think him superior for good conduct and wisdom." The Bhagavad Gita says find the spirit within the material body and respect the person you see, because ultimately we are spiritual entity, a spark of the Divine light of Krishna.**

