

Developing deep roots to grow the strongest trees.

Head teacher Mrs. Helen Morrall
Deputy Head Mrs. Natalie De La Salle
Business Manager Mrs. Allison Munns
Bursar Mrs. Denise Cable

Chair of Governors Mr Stewart Miller
Vice Chair Mr Robert Ballard
Family Support Worker Miss Jodie Halford

The Avenue, Wellingborough
Northamptonshire, NN8 4ET

Telephone No 01933 276366

Email address: head@theavenue-inf.northants-ecl.gov.uk

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Dear parents and carers,

As we end this school year, I wanted to write to say a huge thank you for all your support during this year. We truly believe that working together, as a partnership, gives the best possible start to every child's education so your support is crucial to this. This year we are especially proud of our Continuous Provision approach to learning which is now embedded across the school. We have led training for other schools on this approach and we are so proud of leading the way / sharing our journey with others. However, and most importantly, we can see the massive benefits in terms of pupil outcomes and their motivation, collaboration and independence in their learning and in their joy at school. It has been lovely to read your feedback in our annual parent / carer survey where you share your own pride in your child's achievements and progress. Thank you to all those who have responded to the school survey so far- your feedback is very much appreciated. The survey will be open until next Thursday if you would still like to contribute.

Thank you for the good wishes, thanks, cards and gifts the staff have received- it is very kind of you. I am incredibly proud of The Avenue and the dedicated staff who all are committed to ensure every child achieves their potential both academically and personally.

Today we also said a sad goodbye to staff moving on- Mrs De La Salle and Miss Cooper. I am sure you will join me in wishing them well and thanking them for their hard work and contribution to The Avenue. Mrs De La Salle is moving on to be a headteacher and Miss Cooper to a new opportunity in a local school. Congratulations to them both. Although we are sad to lose them, we are grateful for the positive impact they have had on The Avenue and know that they will continue this in their new roles.

We wish the current Year 2 children all the very best for their new schools and their futures. They have all been so incredible across their time at The Avenue and we send them on their way knowing they are ready for their next step.

We look forward to welcoming back the new Year 1 and Year 2 children on Thursday 4th September. Please remember the slightly adjusted start and end of day times / arrangements due to our preparations for our build (see previous communication).

May we all wish you the happiest of Summer holidays.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Helen Morrall
Headteacher

Water Safety Advice for parents and carers

Whether it's sunny days at the beach or fun in the paddling pool, children are naturally drawn to water. But with excitement comes risk. This guide brings together 10 clear, practical tips to help parents and educators protect children around water – whether that's at home, on school trips or on holiday.

Backed by the Royal Life Saving Society UK, the advice includes knowing what beach flags mean, avoiding inflatables in open water, and learning to 'float and call' in an emergency. With a focus on prevention and supervision, this guide is a must-read for summer safety and beyond.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

- 1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS**
It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.
- 2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS**
When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.
- 3 STOP AND THINK**
Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.
- 4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE**
Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.
- 5 INFLATABLE SAFETY**
Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.
- 6 SUPERVISION IS KEY**
For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.
- 7 DON'T GO TOO FAR**
When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.
- 8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED**
For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.
- 9 FLOAT AND CALL 999**
If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.
- 10 TEACH WATER SAFETY**
Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart Schools', which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

Meet Our Expert
The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.

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