

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is a lengthy letter! Lots for you to read, digest and do! Please read it carefully. Thank you!

## HARVEST



Each year, at The Avenue, we celebrate Harvest Festival. We would like to invite you and other members of the family to celebrate this time of year with us. Year 1 and 2 will be holding their celebration at The



Everyday Champions Centre on St John's Street. Reception have already held their harvest tea. Please read on for details

## YEARS 1 AND 2 ONLY

We would like to invite you and your family to our Harvest Celebration at The Everyday Champions Centre, on St John's Street, on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October starting at 1.30 p.m. In assemblies and in class time for several weeks this term we have been talking and learning about what harvest is, how it is



celebrated and about the work of farmers around the world. We have learnt about how wheat starts as a seed and ends up as breakfast cereals and as part of bread, cakes and biscuits. In Celebration Assembly today we will have mentioned the Daylight Centre (a local charity providing cheap hot meals, a place to wash etc for those members of our immediate community who are finding life a challenge) and about how we could all help support it by bringing in any of the items listed further on in this letter. At the celebration the children will be



singing a variety of songs to do with food and will be sharing some of the work they have done about food. We hope to see our Y1 and Y2 families on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and hope that everyone will enjoy the celebration afternoon. At the end of the celebration the children can be taken straight home. Those children without parents or carers at the celebration will be taken back to school as usual.

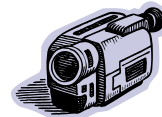
**The retiring collection at the end of the celebration will go to Cancer Research this year.**

## YOUNG BABIES AND TODDLERS

The children who are reading and speaking over the microphone sometimes have their voices drowned out by noises in the audience. In order that they have a fair chance to be heard by everyone (especially their watching families) we would ask that those of you who will be bringing babies and toddlers with you to please sit towards the back of the hall. This is so that it will be easy for you in case you need to take a crying or restless baby/child out to the entrance area to calm down. This would be **greatly** appreciated. Thank you very much.



## RECORDING THE EVENT



Photographs and video recordings may be taken as long as they remain strictly for you and your family's personal viewing only and are not sold or passed on to a third party and are not posted onto any social networking website unless they are solely of your child..



*Please could Y1 and Y2 packed lunches come in disposable containers and bags on that Friday? (Hot dinners will go ahead as usual.)*

*Book bags to be left at home by Y1 and Y2 children that day too please. Thank you.*



## **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE DAYLIGHT CENTRE**

Once again we have chosen to support The Daylight Centre. This local charitable organization provides hot meals for those people who are unable to provide a warm meal for themselves as well as providing an opportunity for washing clothes and taking baths. We would like to continue our support this year too. They would be very grateful to receive anything listed below.

We would be very pleased to start collecting these items from across the whole school starting on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October**. The Daylight Centre will collect all donations at the end of that week. We will display all the items in the library area of the school. Thank you very much.



### **LIST OF SUGGESTED HARVEST DONATIONS FROM THE DAYLIGHT CENTRE**

ALL DONATIONS OF FOOD AND CLEANING MATERIALS ARE WELCOMED BUT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PARTICULAR ARE WELCOMED THIS YEAR. THANK YOU.

Main Meal ingredients e.g.

**Meat Pies, Pie Fillers, Canned Meat, Corned Beef, Tinned Curries, Chilli con Carne, Hot Dogs**

Vegetables: **Tinned Carrots/Peas, Runner Beans, Mixed Veg, Potatoes.** (We don't need baked beans or tomatoes though, we have a vast quantity thanks!)

Desserts:

**Tinned Rice Pudding, steamed puddings, Tinned Custard, Tinned Fruit**

Sundries: **Evaporated Milk, Soups (tinned or packet), Gravy Stock Cubes, Cook in Sauces, Cooking Oil, Flour**

Food Parcel Use: **Pot noodles, Super Noodles, Pasta in sauce, Biscuits, Crackers, Crisp Breads, Long Life Semi Skimmed Milk**

Non-Food Items: (that help with our household costs)

Toilet Rolls,  
Freezer & Food Bags,  
Washing up Liquid,  
Toiletries,  
Cling Film,  
Tin Foil,  
Black Bags/Bin Liners



Tins with a £1 or £2 coin taped to the top enable the daylight Centre to buy fresh meat and vegetables when they are needed. Supermarket vouchers are also very welcome. If you would like to contribute in this way, please tape a coin securely to a tin you send in. Any support will be gratefully received by the Daylight Centre. Thank you.

## **LOST ITEMS**

Please look out for .....

- 1. Missing reversible, red, school waterproof/fleece jacket labelled BENJI GENT. He has his name inside it in 2 different places. Please, please can you double check your child's coat and if you find Benji's, return it to Y2 or the office. Thank you.**
- 2. Missing blue lined raincoat - no name but it belongs to JONATHAN MOYLE in Y1.**
- 3. Missing white school polo shirt with logo- SAHIL MIRZA in Reception.**

Please return to class or the school office if any items are found.  
Thank you very much.

## **Y3 APPLICATIONS ON LINE IN SCHOOL**

As our Year 2 parents and carers will know by now, all junior school applications have to be done online.

If you are a Y2 parent/carer and do not have access to a computer, or would like some help making your online application, please contact the school office for advice.

## PLEASE REMEMBER THAT MID TERM HOLIDAYS CAN NO LONGER BE AUTHORISED BY THE SCHOOL



Please be aware that our school governors have to abide by the government policy regarding mid-term holidays. We are no longer able to authorize holidays taken during term time even if children rarely have time off or if the holidays have been arranged as a surprise.

We will still consider granting a leave of absence from school for **exceptional** and religious circumstances. The government expectation is that all children will achieve at least 95% attendance every school year.



### COLLECTION FROM SCHOOL

At the end of the day we ask for your patience and understanding if the adult seeing your child out from school does not immediately recognize the person who has arrived to collect them at the end of the day. Our policy is to firstly find another school adult to identify the collecting adult and if they do not recognize them then we will phone one of the parents for clarification. We understand that this can take some minutes and can be rather embarrassing for the waiting collector but we do it to ensure that we are sending your child home with the right person. Each child in a class can have up to 4 authorized adults which may mean that the class teacher and teaching assistants need to be able to recognize about 120 different authorized adults! They try their best but with the best will in the world they will not always be able to remember every face that presents itself. From time to time they will have to do some double checking. It is most helpful if you can ring the school when there is a change to the person collecting your child at the end of the day and you can give a description, a name to help us to identify anyone that has not met the class teacher before **AND** the password. Many thanks.

### FREE SCHOOL DINNERS



Our free meal service is going very well and the majority of children seem to be enjoying them. As with any new service there is a bit of a learning curve for us to experience!

1. We are tracking those children who do not eat very much (or any!) food at lunchtimes and you will be contacted if this concerns your child. We may suggest that a packed lunch from home would be more appealing to your child if they are not eating the free meals at midday.
2. Some children are struggling to use knives and forks. We do our best but the hall staff cannot teach all the children who need help to use their utensils. Please could you help at home by helping your child to use a knife and fork? Thank you.
3. If you have decided that your child no longer wishes a free meal at lunchtime please, PLEASE, PLEASE could you cancel your order online? If you don't the school is still charged for every meal that is not cancelled. This service is not free to the school and costs us thousands of pounds each year. Please help us to save money by cancelling your order if your child does not take up the free meal offered. Many thanks.
4. VERY IMPORTANT!!! Some children suffer from food allergies or have a particular dietary requirement that we still do not know about. Please inform us if this applies to your child and please make sure that if your child is a vegetarian that you **definitely** order a vegetarian meal online.



Thank you for your support everyone and my grateful thanks to our patient and dedicated lunchtime staff who have risen to the challenges that this change has presented to them! We hope that your child will enjoy and benefit from our delicious lunchtime meals!

## SENSIBLE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR



We are enjoying an extremely mild but rather changeable autumn this year, which is lovely but also quite confusing for the children as they never know from one playtime to the next what outer clothing to wear! We do encourage them to wear coats, rainproof coats or just a jumper/cardy as the weather dictates. Some children still come to school with no coats however and this means that they are outside playing in the cold on those days it starts off mildly but changes midway through. To help your child be prepared for these changes, please send them in a warm, rainproof coat everyday from now on. We won't make them wear their coats if it is warm and sunny but we do insist they do so when it is cold. Your children are very active at play and lunchtimes so it is also very important that they wear shoes/trainers that fit well, provide good grip and don't have a heel. Those children with unsuitable footwear run the risk of losing shoes, twisting their ankles or of slipping, tripping and hurting themselves when they are running and climbing at these outdoor times. Please could you regularly check that your child's footwear is safe, comfortable and fits well. Thank you.



### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MUFTI DAY NEXT THURSDAY!!

On Thursday next week – 23<sup>rd</sup> October – all the children are invited to wear mufti for the day in exchange for a donation of a prize for the tombola stall that FOTAS are holding in the Swansgate Centre on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November. This is usually a very good fund raiser for the school so we would be very grateful indeed for your support. This year we would like to raise money for some new apparatus in the playground. Thank you everyone.

### MONEY IN ENVELOPES

Please could everyone make sure that any money you pass over to the school is of exactly the right amount and is in a **named** envelope? Thank you.  
(The staff in the school office are unable to give change because of the financial rules for schools.)



### FINALLY

*There is a lot to read and digest in this newsletter – plenty to reflect upon too. Happy reading! We are looking forward to seeing our Y1 and Y2 families at the Everyday Champions Church next Friday afternoon for our Harvest Celebration. I hope that we can collect lots of donations for the Daylight Centre next week after everyone raids their cupboards!*

*Best wishes from Gill Thomas and all the staff at The Avenue*

### WAYS TO CONTACT US

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## THE AVENUE INFANT SCHOOL - DATES FOR DIARIES



### AUTUMN 1 (TERM 1) 2014

Parent's evenings – last one tonight	~ Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October from 3.45 – 6.00
Diwali day in school	~ Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October
Individual and sibling photographs	~ Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
Y2 to visit the Hindu temple	~ Monday October 20 <sup>th</sup>
MUFTI day – tombola prize donation please	~ Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Y1 and Y2 Harvest celebration at Everyday Champions Church	~ Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	~ School closes for a week.

### AUTUMN 2 (TERM 2) 2014

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	~ School closed to pupils for staff training
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	~ School opens to pupils for Autumn Term 2
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December at 3.30	~ FOTAS Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December at 1.45	~ Christmas Celebration at the United Reformed Church
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	~ Christmas Activity Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	~ School closes for 2 weeks
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	~ School closed for staff training
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	~ School opens to pupils