

Developing deep roots to grow the strongest trees.

Head teacher Mrs. Helen Morrall
Deputy Head teacher Mr Jamie Pell
Business Manager Mrs. Allison Munns
Bursar Mrs Denise Cable

Chair of Governors Mr Stewart Miller
Vice Chair Mrs Emma Russell
Family Support Worker Mrs Nina Fowle

The Avenue, Wellingborough Telephone No 01933 276366
Northamptonshire, NN8 4ET

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

Tuesday 14th September 2021

NEWSLETTER 2

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are all well on this wet September day. It really feels like Autumn today. I am so delighted to say the children are all continuing to settle in well and the school is alive with the buzz of learning. This letter contains some important information about this term and some key dates for you (see below).

PLAYTIMES

As many of you know, over the last few months we have been working on developing our playtimes to improve the range of play opportunities on offer. We have added a huge number of resources to our playground, including a mud pit for digging this week. We are already seeing the positive impact of these changes with many children showing more sustained and involved play and the more varied types of play happening. Please remember, your children may get a bit messier, be exposed to more challenges and have greater freedoms to play where, with whom and how they like. The children are also working hard on their team tidying skills, an important responsibility on the playground, so each playtime tidied at the end. This will continue to improve as our storage is developed.

Thank you so much for ensuring the children do not touch / use the playtime resources / equipment before and after school - this really helps us be ready for the day. Keep a look out on our social media pages (Facebook and Twitter) for photos of the brilliant play going on.

SOCIAL MEDIA COMPETITION

Don't forget, we have a **weekly raffle draw** throughout September (the first being drawn tomorrow) where any new followers on Facebook or Twitter in the past week have the chance to win a hamper of prizes. If you don't yet follow our **Facebook** page (The Avenue Infant School) and / or **Twitter** (@TheAvenueInfant), I would recommend it as an excellent way of having an insight into school life as well as useful reminders of events.

YEAR 3 PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2022 - YEAR 2 PARENTS:

You are now able to apply online for your child's Junior School place. Please use this link below:

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/primary-school-places>

Applications need to be in before 5pm on 15th January 2022. **PLEASE NOTE, EVERY YEAR 2 CHILD AT THIS SCHOOL MUST APPLY FOR A YEAR 3 PLACE OR THEY MAY NOT GET THEIR PREFERRED SCHOOL.**

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO IS DUE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2022?

Applications for Reception school places are now open and close on 15th January via the same link above. Please contact the school if you have any questions about this process.

PUPIL PREMIUM

Pupil Premium is additional funding available to the school to be spent on YOUR CHILD if one of the conditions below are relevant.

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit Only (with income up to £16,190) with no element of Working Tax Credit
- National Asylum Seekers Support
- Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Universal Credit (income dependant)

In our school this support provides an annual voucher to spend on school uniform or school enrichment clubs, free Breakfast club places, fully funded trips, additional teaching time with a teacher or teaching assistant every week working on individualised targets and additional resources, such as books, for home. Please look at the North Northants council website (searching for Pupil Premium) or follow this link to check your child's eligibility: <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/Pages/pupil-premium.aspx>

The application takes only a couple of minutes and is worth applying if you are unsure whether your child may be eligible. **If you would like some support with the application process or would like to use a school computer, please see a member of the office staff who will be happy to help you.**

PARENT / CARER ENRICHMENT CONTRIBUTION

Parents and carers are invited to contribute toward the 'lovely extras' of school life that the school budget cannot always provide. These experiences can really enrich the children's learning and ignite their interest in a topic, as well as providing them with new life experiences and knowledge.

Some examples have been:

- Special **visitors** to launch year group topics - eg. Drama workshop on The Great Fire of London, Hands on Owl experience, theatre companies
- Purchasing **ingredients** for cooking experiences
- End of term **treats** for snacks on whole school activity days

The **suggested voluntary contribution is £15 for a school year** -this can be paid in one lump sum in September or in termly instalments if preferred via School Money. Thank you.

EVENTS THIS TERM

Our usual settling in **parents evenings** will be held on **Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th October** (see dates below). We are currently planning that these will be face-to-face appointments with your child's teacher in school. We will let you know when booking is open for these appointments.

In the last week of this half term we will be restarting our year group **Celebrations of Learning** for parents and carers. At the end of each term, each year group invite parents / carers into school at the end of the day to share some work they have been focusing on for the term or perform something they have been rehearsing. When held previously, attendance for these events was high and feedback was positive so we are delighted to be able to offer these lovely celebrations once again. Please note, there will be some Covid measures in place for these events - more information to follow. For dates see below.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Morrall
Headteacher

See below for this term's dates for your diary.....

CUT OUT AND KEEP FOR REFERENCE

AUTUMN TERM 1

Deadline for Reception online lunch orders for week commencing 20 th September	~	Wednesday 15 th September
Reception pupils in part time sessions including lunchtimes 9.30 -12.30	~	Monday 20 th September
Reception children in full time 8.50 – 3.10pm	~	Monday 27 th September
Parents evenings	~	Tuesday 12 th & Thursday 14 th October
Year 2 Celebration of Learning	~	Monday 18 th October 2.45pm
Reception Celebration of Learning	~	Tuesday 19 th October 2.45pm
Year 1 Celebration of Learning	~	Thursday 21 st October 2.45pm
School closes for half term break	~	Friday 22 nd October 3.15pm
School <u>closed</u> to pupils for staff training	~	Monday 1 st November
School <u>opens</u> to pupils for Autumn Term 2	~	Tuesday 2 nd November 8.50am