



## Newsletter

Jan 2018

### Message from Miss Thomas:

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

We've had a successful start to the term. Both children and staff returned refreshed after the Christmas break and the children have settled back into their learning well. When dropping into lessons, it's been great to see the children really focussed on their lessons and keen to improve. Each department has a new topic: EYFS are basing their learning around pirates, KS1's topic is 'Once Upon a time...', Resource Base are doing "Scrumdiddleumptions", Y3/4 are basing their learning on 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and Y5/6 learning is based on 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo. I have seen a good variety of exciting activities happening in classrooms – do try to ask your children about what they have been learning in school!

**Attendance:** I have received some feedback that there is some confusion around attendance and the letters some parents have recently received, so I would like to take the opportunity to clarify the situation. The Government, states that if a child's attendance falls below 90%, then the child is 'persistently absent' and this is a cause for concern – it does not matter whether the absences have been authorised or not.

Schools have a duty to follow up on persistent absence and keep clear records of how this is being addressed. Our procedure is that I review every child's attendance at the end of each term and track the attendance of children who have fallen below 90%. If your child falls into this category, I will write to you in the first instance and continue to monitor. If your child's attendance continues to be below 90% the following term, you will be invited in for a SAM (School Attendance Meeting).

If you are invited to a SAM, it is really important you attend so that we can work with you to identify why attendance has dropped. For the vast majority of children, there will be very good reasons for this and we will work together to evidence this and address any issues that may be affecting attendance. However, if you chose not to attend, the meeting will be held in your absence and, should your child's attendance continue to be below 90%, we will have no choice but to contact the Education Welfare Officer.

**Sickness:** Please could we also be clear that our school policy is that should a pupil have been sick or had diarrhoea, then they **must be 48 hours clear from the last bout**, so that we can try and prevent the spread to other pupils and staff. Our staff are only following school policy and it applies to all pupils, regardless of their attendance or what type of sickness. Thank you for your support and understanding.

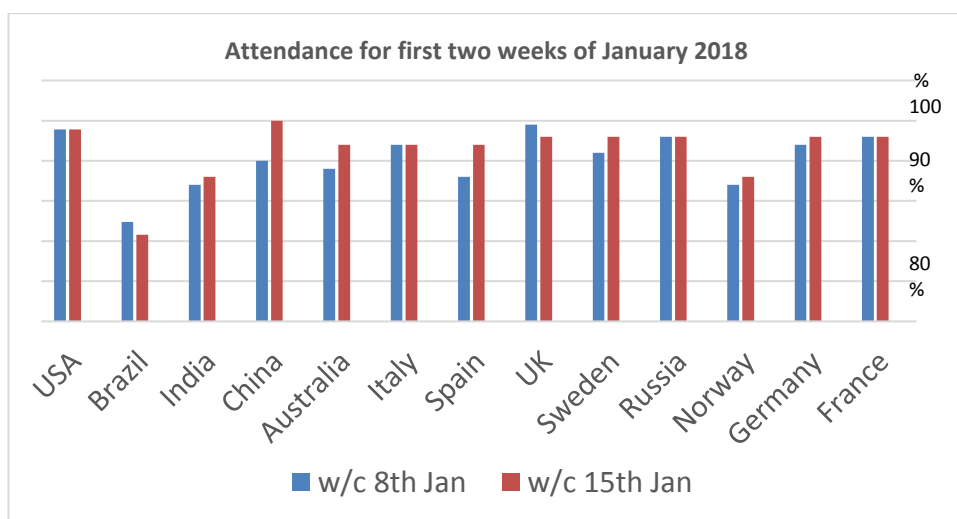
**Bakers for a day:** At the end of last term, a chef visited France class to do some Christmas baking. Phil Clark, Sodexo Chef of the Year 2017 and former Avenue pupil, spent the morning helping make Christmas biscuits which looked like Christmas puddings. We all enjoyed being chefs for the morning and would like to thank him for giving up his time to share his job with us.



**The Tudors:** Tudor Houses were designed and made by Year 3 & 4 at the end of last term . They made a fabulous end to our Tudor Topic!



**Class Attendance:** Each week we award a trophy to the class with the best attendance (see chart below). USA class had the best average attendance over the last 2 weeks with 98.9%, followed by UK class with 98.2%.



**Website:** Please remember to check the website for dates of all forthcoming events and trips that are taking place in 2018.

**Vacancies:** We have vacancies for Mid Day Supervisors / Play leaders – please contact the school office for further details.

- Diary Dates**
- January 2018**
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Gifted & Talented to KD
  - 25<sup>th</sup> – Acorn Directors visit
  - 29<sup>th</sup> – Sweden/India Assembly
- February**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Friends Disco
  - 5<sup>th</sup> – Australia Class Assembly
  - 6<sup>th</sup> - Safer Internet Day
  - 7<sup>th</sup> – Wiltshire Dance Festival
  - 8<sup>th</sup> – Academy Council Mtg
  - 8<sup>th</sup> – end of term 3
  - 9<sup>th</sup> – TD Day – no school
- HALF TERM**
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Term 4 starts
  - 20<sup>th</sup> – Swimming for Y5 & RB



**School Uniform:** There's been an improvement in school uniform this term – thank you to parents who have addressed this with their children. However, there are still some children coming to school in boots. Our uniform is black school shoes. I understand that it is often cold and wet at this time of year but if you feel your child needs to wear boots to walk to school please could they change into school shoes when they come into school.

**Hot Dinners:** There will be a new hot dinners menu after February half term and you will be able to order from these from 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2018. Orders will need to be placed by the **5th February** in order for **your child to have a hot dinner after half term** (w/c 19<sup>th</sup> February).

**House Points:** Congratulations to these children for achieving the following awards:  
**PLATINUM:** Merelita Macaca, Max Purdue, Jack Savva and Caelen Gibson. **GOLD:** Brooke Cheffey, Alfie Curtis, Blake Eggleton and Liam Reid **SILVER:** Riley-James Lyal Chilman, Dylan Hornal, Imogen Rallings and Sophia Stanworth **BRONZE:** Alvina Gurung, Isobel Norris, Jack Bailey, Caitlyn Dench, Jacob Warren and Riley Bannister.