



Newsletter February 2017

Message from Mr Porter : Not the calm start we wanted after Christmas, coming back to school to find that the Yr5 and 6 mobile had been completely destroyed in an arson attack. However, the "community" that makes the Avenue such a great place pulled together and children were soon back in class and getting on with their learning. The "phoenix" has certainly been our theme this term.

The support we have received has been phenomenal – Consortium, Lyons Seafoods, National Westminster Bank customers, Morrisons Bucket Collection, Chimsar Karate, Warminster Stroke Club, Homeminster House, Peter Gough Warminster Trust, Expresso "Discovering Education", Center Parcs, Sue Tenty of Centre Stage Perform and White Horse Defas have all made donations of money or items. Our parents have held raffles, auctions and even a Fijian curry evening all to raise funds. Others have set up a FB giving page and of course, our own Friends of the Avenue have donated monies raised at the recent Movie Night. A couple of our children also held some fund raising activities – an amazing effort and a huge **THANK YOU** from us all. The Student Leadership Group are meeting under the watchful eye of Mrs Kilminster, to discuss how and where we could spend this money and we will keep you all informed.

As you will know, I will be moving to West Ashton Primary School for the next three terms. I will still be overseeing the Avenue, but the day to day management of the school will be ably handled by Miss Thomas who will be Acting Head, and Mrs Kilminster who will be Acting Deputy Head. However, please can I remind parents that it is important they discuss any issues/concerns with their child's class teacher in the first instance.

New Library opening: Following the fire, we have obviously had to make several changes at the Avenue, but none as exciting as the new home for the Library. The Library can now be found in the school reception area, which is a huge, light and sunny spot – perfect for enjoying a book !

Our Year 6s officially opened the new space last week and enjoyed the first visit. Amongst the highlights are the refurbished sofas, cushions and of course, the new books purchased to replace those lost in the fire. We still have more improvements to look forward to including new beanbags, a beautiful bright rug and of course.....even more books.

It is a lovely space for the whole school to enjoy and also creates a fantastic first impression for visitors who are welcome to sit and enjoy a book too. It is a perfect example of how we are determined to make beautiful things grow from our difficult start to 2017.



Reading: We are continuing to try and raise standards in reading and to foster a love of books. Research shows that children who are heard to read at home, perform better at the end of KS2 than those who don't. Every class has an expectation that children are heard read at home a certain number of times a week and that this is recorded in the home-school diary. Please see your child's class teacher if you are unsure. We would be grateful if you could try and find the time to read with your child – this gives them the best possible chance of success. Every term we reward all the children who have met their expectations and prizes are given.

Safer Internet Day: As part of Safer Internet Day 2017 the children at school have been finding out about ways to be safe and responsible when using technology and the internet. The theme this year was '**Be the change: unite for a better internet**'. As well as a whole school assembly there have been activities in class promoting safer internet use and stressing the importance of staying safe online.

The idea to participate in Safer Internet Day was discussed with our Student Leadership Group and they asked the question 'How much do our parents know about e-safety?' They thought it would be a good idea to promote e-safety through our school newsletter so look out for a regular '**top tip**' to staying safe on the internet over the coming months.

Poster Competition: An e-safety poster competition has also been launched inviting children to create a bright and clear poster which can be displayed in school to promote the safe use of the internet. The poster can either be created with pen and paper or digitally (in which please email it to admin@avenue.wilts.sch.uk). If emailing, please ensure you type "Poster Competition" in the subject heading of the email - and we will forward it to Mrs Norris. Otherwise, paper posters can be handed in to your class teacher. Entries need to be received by 24th February. Mr Curtis, (Governor for Computing) will be judging the entries and everyone who enters will receive 2 house points. The three winning designs will be displayed around the school and the winners will receive Amazon vouchers.

VIP Lunches: The following children had a VIP lunch with Mr Porter on Wednesday: Isabella Webster (USA); Elizabeth McCarthy (China); Mackenzie Campbell (India); Brooke Lappin (Australia); Fraiser Warren (UK); Kaira Simpson (Spain); Charley Hiscock (Italy); Keerthana Unnikrishnan (Russia); Madison Petty (Sweden) and Nathan Soneye (France). These children were picked by their class teacher for demonstrating exceptional effort and attitude and continually displaying our six school expectations – making them fantastic role models. Well done everyone!

Lunches: Why not take a look at the new hot lunch menu which starts after February Half Term. We have worked hard to get some of the children's favourites on it and our Student Leadership Group felt it was "*lush*", with pizza, bangers and mash, fish fingers, cottage pie and pasties to tempt you with.

Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017 is back: therefore please can we encourage you to start collecting the vouchers which are available in stores from 25th Jan to 2nd May. Could you also encourage family and friends to collect them on our behalf - the more we collect, the more sports and cooking equipment we will be able to order. Thank you.

House Points : Prasanta Thada-Magar and Leila Bevu (Yr 6) respectively became our third and fourth pupils to receive their **platinum** awards and **Max Purdue** (Yr2) became the first pupil in KS1 to achieve a gold award this year. **Immy Eglin** and **Isabella Webster** also received awards – the first to be awarded in Reception. Very well done to all of them.

Congratulations also, to the following children for achieving the following awards:

GOLD: Emmanuel Sanni, Freddie Merrett, Matthew Dean, William Murphy, Austin Turner, Emily Radford and Mason Lee Ellis. **SILVER:** Shae Augustine, Sophie Louise Houghton, Chase Davis, Ryan Kerrigan, Charlotte Lawrie, Victoria Machnac, Chase Wright, Chloe Nash and Mia Thomson. **BRONZE:** James Houghton, Jordan Nunn, Lily Warner, Riley Lister and Mackenzie Campbell.

Lost Property: we have lots of lost property in school (coats, shoes, jumpers and lunch boxes etc), none of which have names in. Please can you name all your child's belongings – even if you just write their name on the label with an indelible marker.

Anyone for Cricket? Warminster Cricket Club are holding new practice sessions for juniors from 3rd February. All sessions are run by fully qualified coaches in the indoor cricket academy at the main club ground in Sambourne Road, BA12 8LH. Everyone welcome (U11's, U13's and U15's). Contact Doug on 07773 730719 for information.

The Avenue Primary School will also be part of the Wiltshire Cricket "Chance to Shine" programme in June. There will also be a new after school cricket club starting on 5th June for Yrs 5 and 6. More details nearer the time.

Diary Dates

February

20th – Term 4 starts

22nd – West Wilts Dance Festival

27th – Hi 5 Netball Tournament

March

6th – 10th – Book Week & Book Fair

8th – Governors Meeting

9th – Bedtime Story Night

10th – Book Character dress up day

24th – Non Uniform Day (Red Nose Day)