



The Avenue Primary School,
7 The Avenue,
Warminster, Wilts, BA12 9AA
Tel: 01985 213383

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Newsletter 28th January 2021

A Message from Miss Thomas:

First of all, I would like to thank you all for everything you are doing with and for your children at the moment....

Those of you who are working with your child at home on their remote learning, you are doing a fantastic job. We know that this is incredibly challenging and that many of you will be doing this alongside looking after younger children or multiple children doing remote learning and that some of you will also be working at home yourselves as well. We also know that there will be days when it is very difficult and may seem impossible – rest assured you will not be the only parent feeling this, it is difficult for all. If you are having a difficult day, please let the teacher know and they will try to support. If you are at the point you need a break for a day, again, let the teacher know. Our children are so fortunate to have parents who support them so well and we are here to support you with that so do keep in touch.

Those of you who are critical workers and making the effort to keep your children at home whenever you can, thank you. Numbers in school are high, around 35% each day, so it really does help and is very much appreciated.

We are now over halfway through term 3 – there are just 10 school days from tomorrow (Friday) until we break for half term (last day of term is Thursday 11th February). Both children in school and at home are receiving the same curriculum and it is the curriculum they would have followed had this term gone ahead as normal. Ideally, children will complete all learning that is set so they do not fall behind but if you need to adapt, please contact your child's teacher about what to prioritise.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister announced that the earliest schools will return is 8th March. When we receive further information, I will let you know.

TD days 2020/2021

Friday 12th February 2021
Friday 2nd July 2021

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Last day of Term 3 11th February 2021
First day of Term 4 22nd February 2021

CONGRATULATIONS:

To the following children who have celebrated and are celebrating their birthday's during the last/next few days:

Sophie, Eroni and Autumn

Covid19 Update:

If your child is attending school, it is extremely important that you are vigilant to covid19 symptoms and let us know if anyone in your household displays symptoms. Below is a reminder:

If your child or any member of your household develops Covid19 symptoms all members of your household should isolate. You must book a test for the symptomatic person and phone or email the school office to let us know (01985 213383 or admin@avenue.wilts.sch.uk). You can arrange a test through <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by phoning 119.

The symptoms to look out for are:

- New, persistent cough
- High temperature
- Change to sense of taste or smell

If you do need to get a test for a member of your household, once you get the result, please let us know as follows:

- Negative result – phone or email the school office
- Positive result – email me (ct@avenue.wilts.sch.uk) as soon as you get the result, whatever time of day that is.

If we do get a positive case in school, we will work with the Public Health Team to identify close contacts and they will be asked to isolate.

If your child is not attending school and your household is affected by covid19, please also let us know so that we can contact you and discuss with you whether or not your household is well enough or in a position to continue with remote learning.

From this weekend, staff will begin regular testing which is aimed at identifying asymptomatic cases. More information will be sent out about this to those of you who have children currently attending school.

Free School Meals:

The Government voucher scheme started again this week. If you are not currently eligible for Free School Meals, please see the criteria below to check whether you may be eligible to apply:

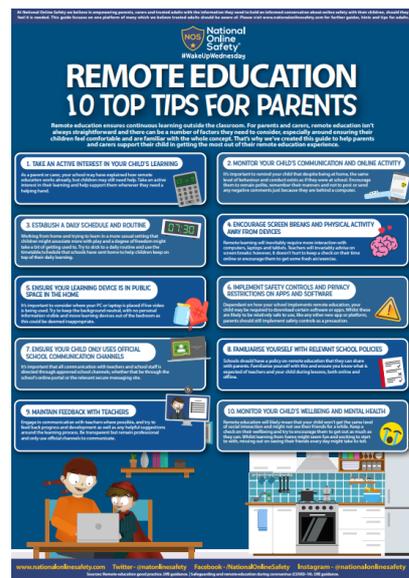
Free School Meals are available to eligible children that attend school within Wiltshire on a fulltime basis. This includes Nursery children of compulsory school age who attend school full-time. You must be in receipt of one of the benefits listed below to be eligible for Free School Meals for your child or children.

• Income Support

- Income-based **Job Seekers Allowance** (NOT contribution based JSA)
- Income-related **Employment and Support Allowance** (NOT contribution based ESA)
- Support under **Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999** - National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS)
- The guarantee element of **State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (you must NOT be entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190 (April 2012))
- **Working Tax Credit** 'run-on' - the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- **Universal Credit** (provided you have an annual net earned income of no If you think that you may qualify for Free School Meals please see the application form on our website.

Safeguarding Update:

During the current lockdown, many of our children are learning remotely. It is really important that you monitor your child's use of technology and make sure they are kept safe. To support with this I have attached 'Remote Education – 10 Top Tips for Parents' produced by nationalonlinesafety.com. Please spend a few minutes reading the information and if you need any support with this, do get in touch.



Staffing Update:

This term we have welcomed two new members of staff to the team. Mrs Lee and Mrs Stevens join us as our new Catering Assistants. Despite joining us at a very different time, they are both settling in well, getting to know the staff and children and getting the kitchen ready so we can start serving hot food soon – I will keep you updated when we have agreed a plan with Acorn (our caterers) for this.

Parent & Pupil Report:

My name is Mrs Leeson and I am fortunate to work in such a diverse, pastoral role in Parent and Pupil Support. I thought it important to explain a little about my role and how I can best support you and your child.

Perhaps you have concerns in regards to behaviour, nutrition, attendance and parenting in general. Or you feel you need support with family learning, finances and applying for benefits, Free School Meals or require Early Help. I am here to offer impartial advice and signpost to a wealth of other agencies when needed.

Importantly, due to Warminster being a Military town, I also have a particular focus on supporting Armed Forces Families – so Please do make contact if your loved one is due to deploy on exercise or tour. Importantly, I understand that family life can be challenging and am here to support you whenever needed, be that with a one off question or more challenging situation. Please feel free to email me on eln@avenue.wilts.sch.uk or ring the main office to arrange a telephone appointment – 01985 213383





Family and Community Learning



Working in Early Years Online Courses Starting January 2021

Health and Wellbeing
Tuesday 12 January

Explore child development and understand how to model healthy learning environments.

Outdoor Play
Thursday 21 January.

Explore how learning is developed through outdoor play.

Understanding SEN
Tuesday 2 February

Explore behaviour and learn methods to meet the needs of different children.

Safeguarding
Thursday 14 January

Be aware of safeguarding responsibilities when working with children.

Statutory Duties
Tuesday 26 January

Understand equality and diversity, and think about health and safety of children and adults.

Communication
Thursday 4 February

Explore how to communicate effectively.

Indoor Play
Tuesday 19 January

Explore how learning is developed through indoor play.

Record Keeping
Thursday 28 January

Explore what information we hold when working with children, and how this can be helpful when observing them.



Contact Details:

Email: familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk

Website: workwiltshire.co.uk/family-learning/

Call: 01225 770478

Courses are funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Learners must be 19+, have been resident in the EU/UK for three or more years or be a service family member, have less than 5 GCSE's A-C and or be in receipt of benefits or be unemployed. If you do not feel you fit within the criteria, we still may be able to help so please call if you have any questions.

Wiltshire Council

