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Newsletter 16th December 2020

A Message from Miss Thomas:

It certainly feels like Christmas around the school, despite the covid restrictions. Classrooms are looking festive and yesterday everyone enjoyed their Christmas lunch and class Christmas parties. There was a lovely atmosphere in every class when I visited the parties yesterday afternoon.

This morning Birch House have had their socially distanced winning house celebration as they received the highest number of house points since September. The children enjoyed hot chocolate and a biscuit whilst watching 'The Snowman'. Well done to Birch for all their hard work! All houses now start from zero and we will hold the next winning house celebration just before Easter.

Tomorrow we will finish the term with a Christmas Celebration Assembly where I will share the Christmas story, we will watch the Christmas video the children have been busy making (thanks to Miss Larcombe for organising this) and the usual weekly awards will be given out.

As we move into the Christmas break, I hope you all have a relaxing, enjoyable time with your families. Please think carefully about any household mixing you choose to do and be vigilant for any covid symptoms in your household. You should have received a letter last week about when you need to contact us about covid and there is a reminder in this newsletter below.

Thank you for all your support this term in these difficult times, as a staff team we do really appreciate it. Have a lovely Christmas and I look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

TD days 2020/2021

Monday 4th January 2021
Friday 12th February 2021
Friday 2nd July 2021

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17 th December	Last Day of Term 2
5 th January 2021	First Day of Term 3

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Aiden for achieving your half way to Bronze certificate. Jenson for your Bronze badge.
Lincoln for your Silver badge and Jasmin for your Platinum badge.

Well Done Everyone.

Covid19 Update:

Just a reminder of the information sent out in last week's letter. Please email me on ct@avenue.wilts.sch.uk if your child tests positive – we do need to inform any close contacts as soon as we know about a positive case.

First Week of the Christmas Break:

If during the first week of holidays anyone in your household or wider Christmas bubble develops symptoms, it is really important that you all self-isolate and book a test at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>, or by calling 119. If that test returns positive and your child attended school in the last week of term, 48hrs prior to the onset of symptoms, it is essential that you contact us so that we can track and trace your child's movement in school during their infectious period and their possible contacts. We would also need to inform you of the earliest return to school date for your child.

If this situation arises please contact me on ct@avenue.wilts.sch.uk at any time of day.

- The individual who tested positive will need to isolate for at least 10 days from the day after the first date of symptoms appearing
- All other household members must also stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble' – defined here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household>

Please note that if we are made aware of a positive case during the first week of the holidays and the pupil was present during the last week of term whilst they may have been infectious, we would need to contact all of the parents of close contacts to inform them that their child would need to **self-isolate for 10 days** from the last point of contact with the infected person. If we do contact you, it is likely to affect the return to school date in January 2021 for your child.

Second Week of the Christmas Break:

During the last week of the holiday, **26th December to 3rd January inclusive**, it is also important that we are made aware of any child who:

- tests positive
- is having to self-isolate if they have been identified by the Public Health Team as a close contact
- has had close contact with someone awaiting a test result

If your child is in this situation, they will not be able to return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021 along with the other children. In this instance please send an email to ct@avenue.wilts.sch.uk We will then contact you on **Monday 4th January** to discuss the situation and confirm the earliest return to school date for your child.

Free School Meals:

Free School Meals are available to eligible children that attend school within Wiltshire on a full-time 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 for you to complete.

Safeguarding Update:

I am sure many children will receive technology related gifts or be spending time online over the Christmas break. To support you with making sure your child is using technology safely, attached to this newsletter is '12 online safety tips for children with new devices' from the national online safety website (<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>)

Staffing Update:

This term there have been some changes to staffing – some staff have or are moving on and others have joined us...

Goodbyes:

Mrs Slow (TA) retires tomorrow. She has been a TA at The Avenue since 2004 and has supported many children and teachers across the school over the years. Most recently she has been working in Germany Class and I know she will be greatly missed by not only Germany Class but the whole school community. Huge thanks to Mrs Slow for all her contributions to The Avenue over the years - I wish her all the best and hope she enjoys her retirement.

Miss Ward, Brazil Class Teacher, will also leave us on Friday. Miss Ward has only been with us a short time, joining us in September from another Acorn school, but has worked really hard to settle the children in Brazil class into The Avenue. Miss Ward will move to Dilton Marsh Primary, also part of Acorn Education Trust, in January. Thanks to Miss Ward for all her work with us and I wish Miss Ward well with her new class.

Mrs Grant, our receptionist, left us last week after 2 years working as part of the admin team. Mrs Grant has moved on to a different admin based position at Kingdown. Thanks to her for all her hard work and I wish her well in her new role.

Mrs Hams and Miss Smith, both part of the cleaning and lunch teams, left us this term to begin their maternity leaves. We wish them well and hope to hear baby news in the new year!

Welcomes:

Mrs Clifford joined us this week as our new receptionist – I am sure many of you may have already spoken to her when contacting the school. She is currently getting to know us and how we work and I am sure she will be an asset to the admin team.

Mr Creese, Mrs Gallazi and Miss Godfrey have also joined us this term to form our new cleaning team who are now led by Mrs Stocker. They have settled in really well to Team Avenue and are working hard to keep the school clean.

Class Christmas Parties:

The children enjoyed their class Christmas parties yesterday and looked wonderful in their festive jumpers. Activities included making festive winter hats, place mats and playing party games, all whilst enjoying a Christmas packed lunch.

House Points:

Each week Year 6 collect house point totals from every class and convert them to points. House points are also awarded for Accelerated Reader and this is also converted to points. The total points are then collected week on week. From this, the House Point totals for the term were:

1st Birch – 77 points

2nd Sycamore – 76 points

3rd Willow – 73 points

4th Oak – 63 points

Be a Santa to A Senior:

Home Instead Senior Care are running a campaign to help alleviate loneliness and isolation that the older members of our community may be experiencing.

The “**Be A Santa to A Senior**” campaign aims to gather Christmas gifts donated from the public, and have them distributed to Seniors who do not have family, or may be alone over the Christmas period.

Part of the campaign is designed to bridge the gap between children and our the elders in our community and we are encouraging people to write a story or a poem, make a card or a craft, knit a scarf. Other suitable gifts include scarves, gloves, jigsaw puzzles, craft packs, etc. Home instead Senior Care will collect the gifts, wrap them and add a Christmas card with a motivational message.

The gifts are to be distributed by the Lions Club, Warminster Community Hospital, Dorothy House hospice and other charities that have identified adults at risk of isolation.

There is more information available here: [Be A Santa To A Senior](#).

Parent and Pupil Support

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

