



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

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Newsletter 11th February 2021

A Message from Miss Thomas:

Over the last fortnight, I have had the privilege of sitting in on some of the live Teams lessons across the school. I have been really impressed with what the teachers are offering and also with the way the children are engaging. A huge thank you to all of you for working so closely with the teachers and supporting your child to be ready for their live lessons. It is great to see the children sitting at appropriate work stations, being fully prepared with resources, using technology efficiently and responding well to questions and tasks from their teachers. I was also impressed by how the supporting adult prompted and supported the children during the session – it really did make me reflect on just how well the whole Avenue Community has pulled together to do the best we can for our children at this difficult time.

On Friday we have a TD day and this will be used for safeguarding training for the whole staff – as you know, this is something we take very seriously and it is important that all our staff are well-informed.

As we move into the half term break, I hope you all get to spend some quality family time together with a good break from school work. We look forward to welcoming the children back (either through their Teams sessions or in school for the children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable children) on Monday 22nd February.

Around 22nd February, we are expecting more information from the Government about whether or not more children will be able to attend school after 8th March. Once we have this information, I will write to you about what this means for your child.

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:

Alfie, Toby, Darcie, Ella-Rose, Alfie-James and Abigail

Covid19 Update:

Half Term:

If your child has been attending school this week and tests positive for covid19 during half term, please email me (ct@avenue.wilts.sch.uk) as soon as you get the result. This is because I will need to work with the Public Health Team to alert close contacts.

Term 4:

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.

Staff Testing:

All staff are now taking a Covid test every Sunday and Wednesday evening. This is to identify asymptomatic cases and help prevent the virus spreading within our school community. Staff have completed 3 tests to date and so far all have been negative. Should we have a positive we will inform you.

Face Coverings:

As you know, at The Avenue all staff and parents have been wearing face coverings at drop off and pick up for some time and, as a school, we have appreciated your support with this. Acorn Education Trust have now made it policy across all their schools. Below is a message from Sara Edwards (CEO):

Dear parents

I hope you, your family and friends are well.

As we prepare for the wider re-opening of our schools and consider all the latest information and guidance on Covid, to ensure our children, staff and parents remain safe, we have decided to make the wearing of face masks compulsory for all parents at school drop off and pick up. From Monday 22nd February it will be compulsory to wear a face mask whilst dropping off and picking up your child and if you enter the school office.

I am sure like us, you are looking forward to a return to some form of normal and cannot wait for all the children to return to school. We cannot wait to see them! As yet, we have no further details on the wider re-opening of schools apart from a potential date of March 8th, and we expect to learn more on February 22nd. Until then, all we can do is make sure we are doing everything we can to protect one another and keep all year bubbles open when they return. So, I am sure you will be happy to support the mandatory wearing of facemasks from February 22nd.

As always, thank you for all your support during these last few months. Take care.

Very best wishes

Sara Edwards

Free School Meals:

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

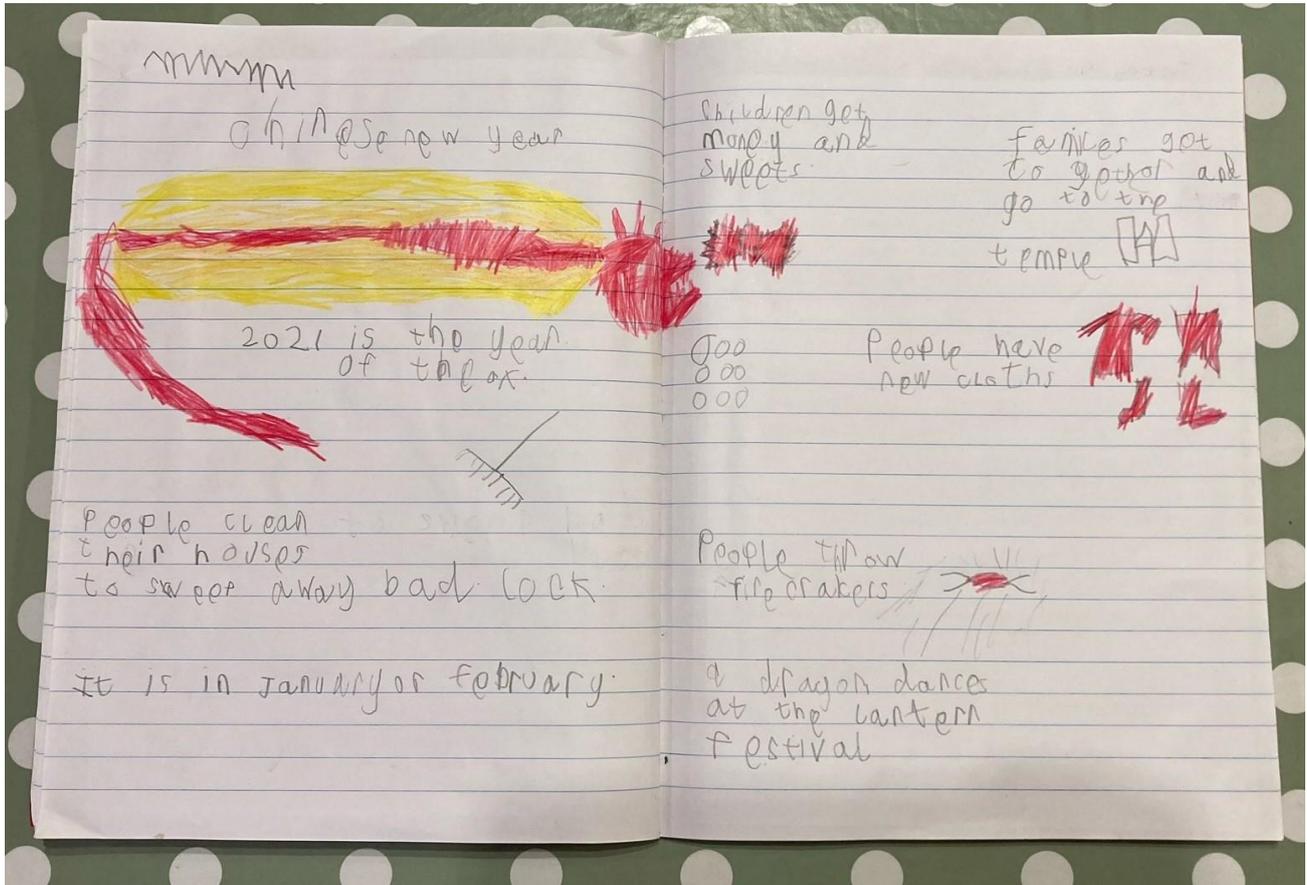
- Income-based **Job Seekers Allowance** (NOT contribution based JSA)
- Income-related **Employment and Support Allowance** (NOT contribution based ESA)
- Support under **Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999** - National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS)
- The guarantee element of **State Pension 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:

Online safety continues to be high priority for all our children. This link <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers> gives some useful information for parents and carers.

Celebrating Children's Work:

We have had wonderful work sent in this week from James who has created an information poster for the Chinese New Year and who has been finding out information about his zodiac animal.



Remote Learning:

Remote learning packs for after half term will be available from the front of school at the following times:

Friday 12th February 10am – 3pm

Monday 22nd February 9:30am – 4:15pm

Staff Update:

At the end of this week we say goodbye to Mrs Hirons. Mrs Hirons has been working with us for almost 2 years as part of the TA team, working mostly with the younger children. I would like to thank Mrs Hirons for everything she has contributed to The Avenue and wish her all the best for the future.

Parent & 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



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★
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spacedetectives@yahoo.com for more info



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STARFEST

15TH-20TH FEBRUARY 2021

ASTROTOURISM
WORKSHOPS

KIDS ACTIVITIES

STORYTELLING

MAKE ME AN
ASTRONAUT!

ASK AN
ASTRONOMER

STARGAZING

For more information or to book onto an event, see the Cranborne Chase AONB Facebook page  visit www.cranbornechase.org.uk or contact the office on: 01725 517417 | info@cranbornechase.org.uk



For further details on all the events and how to book, visit www.cranbornechase.org.uk or email info@cranbornechase.org.uk

'JukeBox' Music Club

A creative music-making opportunity!



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During February half term why not dive into some online creative music making with the JukeBox music ensemble?

We will be exploring 'Eliza's Aria' through many different styles of music from across the world, composing short melodies and recording a joint concert performance.

JukeBox Music Club inspires young musicians aged 8 – 18 of any level in all instruments to have fun improving and developing music skills.



www.jukeboxmusicclub.org.uk
info@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk