

Issue: July 2017

The Avonmore newsletter



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NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

We are fast approaching the end of a very eventful year at Avonmore and we are sending out our Summer Term newsletter which includes some very important information about staffing arrangements for the new school year (please see 'Staff News' below).

As you will see from all of the photographs and class reports, we have enjoyed many exciting events this term, which have already been detailed in our weekly bulletins. We hope you have also been looking at Twitter to see all the exciting updates, especially the recent School Journey to the Isle of Wight! All of these events take a lot of organising – the Great Avonmore Get Together was a good example of this. What an amazing event that was (we are still receiving messages from as far away as France from our balloon release!) and I would like to thank everyone who has given their time and resources to provide such wonderful experiences for our children!

Our 'Noble Heroes of Avonmore' also deserves another mention. If you have not seen this amazing video yet, please go onto our website: [info/school video](#) and hear from our children just what an aspirational community we have become!

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all of you for making me so welcome at Avonmore (I know Miss Mallick would also like to say this to you). From my very first day, I felt part of a very special community where everyone cares for each other and where our children come first in every decision we make. We hope to speak to you all personally over the next two weeks and to wish you all the very best for the future.

Sadly, as well as Sonia Mallick and me, Avonmore will also be saying goodbye to a number of other staff. Lucy Riad, Maeve Hussein, Earl Manwaring, Ellen West and Jane Betsworth are all leaving Avonmore, after many years of being part of this school community. We would like to thank them all for the contributions they have made to making Avonmore the special place it is and to wish them well in their new ventures.

Do not forget - school opens again on Wednesday 6th September for the new school year!

Yours Sincerely

Marion Standing

Interim Headteacher

Staff News:

We are very pleased to announce to you the names of the new Head of School and Deputy Head of School who will be taking over the Leadership of Avonmore in September. **Maya Wittleton** (Head of School) and **Kate Webster** (Deputy Head of School) are both experienced school leaders who have previously worked at Fox and Ashburnham and supported Ashburnham on its journey to 'Outstanding' in 18 months. They bring a wealth of experience to their roles and I know you will all make them very welcome.

Ms Wittleton and Ms Webster will be visiting Avonmore on Thursday 13th July and are keen to meet everyone. They will be in the playground in the morning before school so please make sure you say hello to them! They will also meet all of the children in assembly that day. They have appointed a number of new staff members to join Avonmore so that the school will be fully staffed in September and their names and details are below.

Here are the class teacher arrangements for 2017/18:

Year Group	Class teacher
Nursery	Kerry McCarthy
Reception	Hannah Bird
Year 1	Michael Lo Duca
Year 2	Johanna Bourke
Year 3	Jodene Driscoll
Year 4	Touria Chaouki
Year 5	Morven Brown
Year 6	Victoria Henman
Out of class intervention teachers	Saadet LeSage Deborah Cole

Children will be meeting their new class teachers on Tuesday 18th July. In the meantime, here is some information on the new teachers;

Michael Lo Duca (Y1 teacher)

Michael is an American teacher who loves to teach and learn himself! He enjoys the outdoors, especially hiking or kayaking in nature. Michael loves to create a fun classroom where children are encouraged to explore and work as a team. He looks forward to meeting all of the wonderful Avonmore children which he has heard so many great things about.

Johanna Bourke (Y2 teacher)

Jo joins us from Fox Primary School, where she completed her teacher training through the University of Roehampton. After completing her degree in Sociology and Gender Studies at the University of Sydney, she wrote and performed comedy and children's theatre shows across Australia and the UK. In Australia, the UK and most recently at Fox, Jo facilitated drama, theatre and music workshops for primary aged children. Jo is passionate about literacy, music and science and enjoys helping children grow into enthusiastic and confident learners. Jo enjoys reading, going to the theatre and weekends in the countryside.

Morven Brown (Y5 teacher)

Morven has just graduated from the University of Roehampton with a BA in Primary Education, specialising in KS2 Maths education. In her spare time, she likes socialising with friends, going to yoga very early in the morning and going home to the Lake District for long walks with her family.

Victoria Henman (Y6 teacher)

Victoria studied at Durham University followed by the Courtauld Institute studying, respectively, Philosophy and History of Art. She worked in the city for three years, followed by 18 months at a start-up before venturing into teaching. Victoria gained her PGCE at Roehampton University. She has been teaching at Fox Primary in Year 6 and is thrilled to be heading up Year 6 at Avonmore. In her free time she plays football, likes to draw, swim and cycle.

Calendar for the next two weeks

Monday 10 th July	Year 6 trip to Chessington World of Adventures
Tuesday 11 th July	Year 4 and 5 to Bute House Music Festival
Wednesday 12 th July	Year 3 swimming
Thursday 13 th July	Open morning for Reception September 2017
Friday 14 th July	Year 4 trip to the Floating Classroom Outside Chance Workshop for Year 6
Tuesday 18 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Performance – 6pm

Thursday 20 th July	Leavers' Assembly – 9.10am Last day of term
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STARS OF THE WEEK



Nursery: Kimiya Zarein
 Year 1 : Milo Cornwall
 Year 3 : Kaiyan Harvey
 Year 5 : Oketa Hoti

Reception : Anastazija Zavacki
 Year 2 : Anoush Zaheri
 Year 4 : Egshiglen Zorigt
 Year 6 : Verity Matthews

ATTENDANCE				
OUR TARGET IS 96%				
CLASS	Attendance this week	Lates this week		
	Attendance since Sept	Lates since Sept		
Nursery	70.4%	10	92.2%	271
Reception	91.5%	2	93.3%	218
Year 1	98%	11	93.7%	282
Year 2	90.7%	4	95.9%	216
Year 3	95.9%	8	94.8%	222
Year 4	98.8%	7	95.4%	145
Year 5	94.7%	5	95.2%	242
Year 6	98%	2	96%	112
Whole school	93%	49	94.7%	1708

DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

Autumn Term	
Autumn Term Begins	Wednesday 6th September 2017
Autumn Half Term Break (week)	23rd – 27th October 2017
Autumn 2nd Half Term Begins	Monday 30th October 2017
Autumn Term Ends	Wednesday 20th December, 2017

Spring Term	
Spring Term Begins	Wednesday 3rd January 2018
Spring Half Term Break (week)	12th – 16th February 2018
Spring 2nd Half Term Begins	Monday 19th February 2018
Spring Term Ends	Thursday 29th March 2018

Summer Term	
Summer Term Begins	Tuesday 17th April 2018

May Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May 2018
INSET - School closed for polling	Thursday 3rd May 2018
Summer Half Term Break	28th May – 1st June 2018
Summer 2nd Half Term Begins	Monday 4th June 2018
Summer Term Ends	Friday 20th July 2018

Class News

Nursery



We had 5 caterpillars in the nursery and we watched as they ate, built cocoons and emerged. We released them after a few days this week after caring for them and feeding them a selection of fruit, flowers and sugar water!



The dinosaur jigsaw puzzle photo is the end result of a team effort 'working together' has been a focus this half term from Avonmore's Habits of Mind.

Reception



In Reception we have been working very hard on our writing. We retold the story of The Rainbow Fish as it has been our favourite story so far this term!

Year 1



Year 1 have been learning all about measure this term. We have been using non-standard units of measurement to estimate and measure the length of objects. We used our hands and feet to measure objects in



Year 2



We have been learning how to keep flowers and plants healthy and happy! Look how fabulously well the flowers are growing!



Year 3

We learned how to block print on paper using polystyrene tiles.

Year 4

Year 4 enjoyed their smoothie competition. It was a very close contest but the winner, after much tasting by the judges, was Mandela Team (Ben, Xander, Sara and Adam) with their delicious Sunset Smoothie.





Year 5

Year 5 had a tasty time at Wagamama and discovered that wagamamas means naughty children. They made and tried some delicious noodle dishes and behaved beautifully - not naughty but nice!

Year 6

Year 6 are working hard practising for their production of Romeo and Juliet. Do come along and watch on Thursday 18th June at 6pm.



School Journey

School journey had an amazing time last week in the Isle of Wight and even the rain could not spoil it. There were lots of exciting activities including the Nansen Hill Challenge (running up the highest hill on the Island without stopping). We also really enjoyed the tree climbing and getting very muddy and dirty. We loved the karaoke compered by Avonmore's very own Ant and Dec – Adonijah and Amani. Miss West and Mrs Farrell impressed us all as the Spice Girls. On our last night, we sat around the campfire singing and telling stories – some were very spooky!



By Hannah and Jasmine (Year 6)

And Finally...

This term we say good bye to our Year 6 children as they move on to their secondary schools. We have known some of them since they were three years old and it has been a joy to watch them grow and mature into such delightful children. We wish them all the best in their new schools!

Apollo stood on a high cliff.
"Come to the edge," he said.
"It's too high," they said.
"Come to the edge," he said.
"We'll fall," they said.
"Come to the edge," he said.
And they did.
And he pushed them. And they flew.



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