



17th December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Re – New Term

As we come to the end of this term and 2021, we can look back at the challenges that we have faced during the last few months and feel proud at the way we have supported one another. We are more aware than ever of the impact that the pandemic can have on our lives, with significantly more disruption this term to staff, pupils and members of the community. This disruption has been an ever-present feature of my time as Principal of Avanti Hall, and I am always grateful for your understanding when things have had to be changed to accommodate guidance to ensure that we can maintain a safe environment for our learners and staff.

This term we say farewell to Mr Wood, Miss Cook, Miss Ball and Miss Kelly as they start their new adventures in the New Year. We hope that they will continue to be familiar faces at Avanti Hall as I know they have had a great impact on your child's learning.

We have recently welcomed Nadine Humphries to our business support team as our receptionist and Tracy Watkins as our new Business Support Manager. In January we will also be welcoming Mary Hewin, Jody Stevenson and Sarah Rowe as Learning Support Assistants. Mrs Hewin will be based in our secondary phase, with Mrs Stevenson joining Year 5 and Miss Rowe continuing as our Reception Class LSA.

This week we have interviewed for some key positions within the school. We are delighted to welcome some fabulous new teachers who will bring with them a wealth of experience, both as classroom practitioners and extracurricular leaders. In the primary phase, we will welcome Freya Ballentyne who will be with us after February half term, joining Mrs Wood in Year 6 and offering further support within other primary classes. Until February, we are delighted that Miss English will be supporting the Year 6 class as teacher with Mrs Wood. We will also welcome Rob Sandover after Easter to teach Fir class. Mr Sandover is currently at Rydon Primary School in Kingsteignton and leads both the boys and girls football teams there. Mr Underwood will take over teaching responsibilities for Year 4 to ensure that they are well supported until Mr Sandover takes up his post.

Within the secondary phase, we welcome Matthew Lennon as our new Subject lead for science. We have also increased our middle leaders within school and we can now share that Mrs Torr will be taking up post as Head of Humanities, with Miss Lewis becoming the Subject Leader of English.

Finally, our Senior Leadership team will be expanding, with Mrs Wood joining the team as Assistant Principal, Head of Primary, and we are also welcoming Mr Evans, who will take up post as our new Deputy Principal from January. As we have grown significantly in pupil numbers over the last six months, we have developed our staffing models to ensure that we can offer your child the best education possible within our wonderful setting. These new posts are an important part of this development and will ensure that every child continues to be met with the care and attention they deserve on a daily basis.

We are excited by the wealth of experience and talent that these new members of our team will bring to Avanti Hall in the New Year and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 5th of January 2022 for the start of the new term.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful and relaxing break.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Arnold', is written on a light gray grid background. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'P' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Phil Arnold