

# The Avanti House Explorer

## Message from the Principal

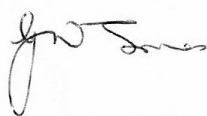
Dear Parents / Carers

As I write, people are already casting their votes for local council and European Parliament elections and there has already been much speculation about the result. I am not sure whether OFSTED would approve, but the children in the Primary phase appear to have the notion that I am now the Prime Minister. While this is pleasing in one sense, maybe OFSTED would suggest we need to have some revised input in our Citizenship lessons!

It is always a delight to visit the Primary team and their classes and this morning was no exception with two excellent pieces of recent news to share – the really positive comments from Val McGregor, senior DfE adviser, on the progress made in the Primary phase during the year and the added bonus of once again very positive feedback from the Early Years Foundation Stage Moderation by appointees from the local authority. It is quite a challenge with younger pupils to ensure progress is being made while also guaranteeing a stimulating environment in which the pupils have fun, are happy and enjoy their learning. Sincere thanks to Mrs Radia, Mrs Edwards and our Primary colleagues who seem to have got the balance just right. This half-term, the Reception classes have been enjoying the new outside play area while Year One have been having a strong focus on the phonics tests which occur next month. We also have a series of fun activities lined up with visits from the Happy Puzzle Company, a local Dentist and Dental Hygienist and the Theatre Company "Perform". Not forgetting others, the school has also agreed to raise funds for the "Big Hug" Charity.

There were equally strong comments from Val McGregor about work in the secondary phase and I particularly liked her comment on the pupils i.e. "These children are used to being listened to." Indeed they are! We have used members of the student council to help us in our interviews for new staff; they are very astute judges and there was strong agreement on which colleagues should be appointed. If all goes to plan today, we will have recruited seven of the eight staff needed for September and I am delighted to say that they will complement and enhance an already strong team of staff. As with our Primary pupils, the students in Years 7 and 8 have much to look forward to before the summer – visits from Glaxo, Smith, Kline and the Eden project, an Australian author and of course the South Bank performance and our production of "Oliver". With further good news on the permanent site, the school as a whole is set fair for an exciting and vibrant future.

Best wishes



Gareth Jones - Principal



At Avanti House, we want pupils' experiences of education to be enjoyable and engaging. We expect all members of the school community, parents, families and staff, to work collaboratively with high aspirations and expectations of everyone, consistent with our values and ethos.



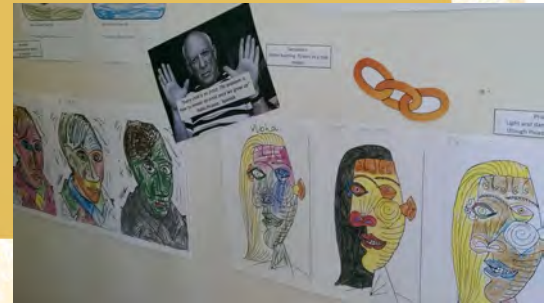
**Avanti House School**  
Telephone 020 8249 6830  
Common Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3JB  
[www.avanti.org.uk/avantihouse/](http://www.avanti.org.uk/avantihouse/)





### "We are an all through school"

This term the MFL department has produced some beautiful displays with a retrospective of what we have been developing in Spanish since the beginning of the year. It shows the dialog between our primary and secondary school pupils where the little ones even acted as mentors teaching about animals and colours. We often promote common themes and cultural aspects of the language in both phases following the "all through school" idea. We also make strong links with the National Curriculum in both phases guarantying a continuous education throughout the school years. Ms Martini



### Pictures displaying a selection of exciting activities happening in Primary!





## Avanti performers!

### Dance Assembly

Miss Onuphre led some of the year 7's and 8's in the most fantastic dance assembly. This assembly re-enforced this term's value of courage. It incorporated a case study, dance performances as well as reflection on courage. The atmosphere was electric and pupils as well as teachers were inspired by the assembly. Big thanks to Miss Onuphre as well as everyone who participated.



### All you Need Is Love

Rehearsals are now underway for the 'All You Need is Love' singing event that is going to take place at the South Bank Centre in July. Year 7 will be singing various genres of songs and collaborating with students from the other 3 Avanti Primary Schools. Year 7 have thoroughly enjoyed the singing so far and the energy has been admirable. Keep it up Year 7's! Tickets for the final performance at the South Bank Centre will be on sale in the Summer term. The event is will be an incredibly exciting experience for our youngsters.

### 'Oliver!'

Auditions took place in February and it proved very difficult to choose our roles! We now have main roles, chorus parts, singers, dancers cast and we are looking forward to the next half term when we will go full steam ahead with rehearsals. Please note that if your child is acting 'Oliver!', whatever their part, they will be expected to attend all rehearsals. We will be practising on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Tickets will be on sale after the May half term holiday



### Water 2's Bake Sale

On Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> April, Water 2 held a Bake sale to raise money. The baked treats were made at home, brought into school and sold by the students themselves at break time and lunch time in the courtyard.

The charity, which the whole class chose, to raise money for, was Cancer Research. This charity was chosen because Cancer affects a lot of people in the world and Water 2 thought that the money would go to an important cause.

Fundraising is important. The fact that Water 2 came up with this idea independently, indicates great maturity beyond their years. Fundraising is when money is raised for a certain cause. It is important to fundraise for charities because it allows people to help others in need. Fundraising is also very moral.

Fundraising links in with the school's values. Students have **empathy** for the people in need so they try to help in any way. **Self-discipline** makes the students give all the money raised to the charity. They have **respect** for the people battling their problems so they try to help them fight it. **Gratitude** also links in. Students are grateful for their health, home, safety and education but some people don't have one or all of these. This makes the students want to give them the same privileges.

Things Water 2 enjoyed about this was that it attracted a lot of attention, baking the treats was fun and selling the goodies was cool. They learnt that raising money for charity was very important and anyone can raise money for what they believe in.

Altogether, Water 2 raised nearly £70.00 for cancer research. Each and every student should be very proud of themselves and their contributions to the whole event. A very special thank you goes towards Miss S.Patel and Ms Hughes for organizing this event.

By Karishma Banga Water 2

## CONGRATULATIONS MISS SHARMA!

Miss Sharma has been appointed as Assistant Head of Year 8. She is delighted to be part of the pastoral team as well as continuing to teach English and History. We wish her all the best in her new role!





Have a good break!

Two weeks ago Avanti House visited the world renowned Lords Cricket Ground. We watched Middlesex vs Yorkshire in the LV County championship game and saw Joey Balance get a century. Also we got a chance to play some cricket on the Lords nursery ground (MCC Academy). Overall the experience was amazing, giving us a good opportunity to show off our skills.

Written by Nakul, Naman and Ashir



#### Vegetarianism Assembly

Neha Shah (Year 7) confidently prepared as well as delivered an insightful assembly on Vegetarianism. Our pupils learnt a great deal from the assembly. Well done Neha! We are looking forward to see more of our pupils follow Neha's example after half term—a number of which have already volunteered!



#### Anzac Day Assembly

Miss Bardsley led a thought provoking assembly on the history of Anzac day as well as how it is celebrated in Australia and New Zealand today.



#### Important Information

Parents need to ring before 8am if their child is unwell

In line with NHS guidance if a child has diarrhoea or vomiting, they should be off school for 48 hours after the last episode





### **Reach for the stars and champions.**

Some students were chosen to be part of an art group with Miss Devalia.



There are four groups, Reach for the stars 1, Reach of the stars 2, Champions 1 and Champions 2. The champions are creating an Avanti House garden behind the school while the reach of the stars group are creating a big mural to embellish our school.

Once a week for



one period we meet up in the art room to continue with our projects. In these

sessions we learn a lot apart from our art skills. For example:

By working as a group our team work skills improve.

We meet and talk with people who we wouldn't normally talk to.

It helps us improve our focus skills, but at the same time it is very fun.

## **SALTERS'** Festivals of Chemistry

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, four lucky pupils from Avanti House got the opportunity to go to Queen Mary University to participate in a challenge against many other London secondary schools. The day consisted of two chemistry challenges – one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We were very fortunate to work in the university science laboratory and use their equipment for our experiments. During our trip not only did we gain so much more knowledge on science but we made many new friends from different schools.

The first challenge was themed around forensic science; we had to find the culprit to a crime. The second challenge was very experimental and we had to use a lot of team work - we had to find out which solution was the most and least dense. To end our scientific journey we had an amazing chemistry demonstration in the lecture theatre involving supercooling substances using liquid nitrogen and dry ice. We learnt so much yet at the same time had lots of fun. Unfortunately, we did not win anything but still got certificates and other goodies for participating.

I would really like to thank my science teacher Miss S Patel for giving us such a great opportunity and taking her time to take us there.

By Shivali Vaya (7E2)

Miss S Patel would like to thank Mrs Priti Shah for kindly volunteering to accompany the students with me on the trip.



**Stop Press!**  
Don't forget we start back to school after the Spring holiday on Monday 2nd June 2014 at the usual time of 08:00