



16<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

Dear Avanti Court Community,

This is my annual letter to you as Chair of the School Stakeholder Committee (SSC) - previously known as the Local Governing Body.

Looking back, the academic year of 2020-2021 was both unusual and unpredictable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole school community for pulling together under the challenging circumstances that the Covid-pandemic has and continues to present.

Firstly, I would like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to our Principal Mrs Walters for leading the school through these challenging times with care, consistency and clarity. During the outbreak, adhering to fast changing government guidelines and information meant she had to make tough decisions, be adaptable and be vigilant.

With increasing uncertainty, Mrs Walters together with the support of her strong and rigorous Senior Leadership Team, worked hard to continue the provision of teaching and learning for all children, including those of key workers through lockdown. Throughout, the Principal has continued to put the wellbeing of pupils and staff as her top most priority and we thank Mrs Walters and the Senior Leadership Team for all their continued effort and commitment.

Nationally, moving to online schooling was a mammoth challenge. Avanti Court was quick to adapt even though the learning curve was steep. Teachers, children and parents were rapidly finding ways to navigate teaching and learning online. Team effort and collaboration was essential, and I recognise that this was a difficult challenge for parents and care givers alike. As a parent myself I appreciate how tough it was to balance the demands of health, family life, running a business, worries about loved ones and supporting children with their home learning. I thank all parents, care givers and especially the pupils for their patience, perseverance and resilience. The children of Avanti Court Primary are strong and determined.

It goes without saying that these have been the hardest of circumstances for the whole school community. I want to thank the hard work and sacrifices of every single staff member at Avanti Court. Their incredible teamwork and tireless effort meant that the children could keep learning

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albeit online. Eventually a phased return to school was possible, it was a step in the right direction and a new set of obstacles had to be overcome.

Classes operated in bubbles and life at school followed strict cleaning protocols in compliance with guidelines to ensure children and staff had a safe working environment. In addition, prompt action was taken by school to design and implement a robust Recovery Curriculum for all the children. The impact of this has meant children have had the opportunity to catch up on important lost learning during the outbreak. This all took meticulous planning and demanded even more collaboration and commitment from Mrs Walters and her team for which we are humbly thankful.

Personally, I missed being able to visit the school during the restrictions. Whilst there is no substitute for experiencing the unique atmosphere of a vibrant and bustling day at Avanti Court, technology enabled the SSC to continue working. Regardless of lockdowns and restrictions, the use of MS Teams enabled us to conduct visits and meetings and be able to talk to staff and children which seemed seamless, even though it was virtual. The children certainly were not fazed by it. I recall a small group of young pupils confidently explaining their understanding of online safety during one of these virtual meetings, I was very impressed. Therefore, I wish to thank the SSC members for their reliable dedication this past year and I look forward to welcoming two new members, Raj Chauhan and Anita Shah, who start their roles as parent SSC members in the Spring term.

## **Partnerships**

Avanti Court continues to support numerous schools both in and outside of Redbridge.

Our staff have supported other schools, often linking to the Avanti Way to support its initiative to 'Make the World a Better Place'.

- Cherie Vincent and Deborah Walters supported School 360 to develop pupil voice and a whole school value-based approach to learning.
- The Leadership Team have supported Avanti Meadows, preparing the school for its recent Ofsted Inspection.
- Shusma Makwana has supported schools in Redbridge to deepen children's understanding of faith and belief.
- Members of the Leadership Team have also been active members of Trust networks in EYFS and Assessment.
- SSC Chair has contributed actively to Trust networks across Trust schools, particularly in the Safeguarding arena.

## **Awards**

We are delighted that the school has achieved the following awards during the last year:

- PSQM Gilt Science Award-September 2021
- Rights Respecting Bronze Award-July 2021

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- Cherie Vincent was awarded Teacher of the Year by the Avanti Trust-July 2021
- Whole Kids Foundation Award - Avanti Court was awarded £2000 to create an edible garden-May 2021
- Kam Dodia was awarded the SEND National Qualification-2021
- Safety Mark Platinum Award-which demonstrates high levels of safety compliance-2021

We also have aspirational staff, some of whom are undertaking second degrees and/or masters degrees, as well as two teachers who are on the Chartered Teacher Accredited Programme. We are pleased that this demonstrates motivated teachers who are using their learning to deliver educational excellence.

## **Inspections/Reviews**

Visits by the Borough and the Trust continue to be positive. We continue to await a full Ofsted Inspection, which is due any time.

I am delighted to inform you that the school took part in a Challenge Partner review in the Summer term and was awarded Leading in all areas:

- Leadership at all Levels: **Leading**
- Quality of Provision and Outcomes AND Leading Quality of Provision and Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with additional needs: **Leading**
- Overall Peer Evaluation Estimate: **Leading**
- Avanti Court was also awarded an Area of Excellence: **How belief, values and ethos build responsible citizenship.**

## **Results and destinations**

Our Key Stage 1 phonics results in the summer of 2021 (unvalidated data) were high, with 94% of pupils achieving the expected standard.

End of year assessments in the EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 were strong at the end of 2020-2021. (These assessments were unvalidated due to the pandemic.)

## **Fundraising**

Part of our role as SSC is to support the regular fundraising efforts of the school. This is something we often rely on the school community to assist us with. You can help us in a variety of ways by:

- Making regular donations through our voluntary-contributions scheme on Charities Aid Foundation –see school website.
- Getting involved with our parent, teacher and friend’s association known as Friends of Avanti Court (FOAC).
- Donating to specific projects such as the school library.

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Clearly, despite the hurdles, the Avanti Court family has achieved success in numerous areas. Looking ahead, with this new academic year and term, I'm so happy that the children have been able to return to more normality in their school life.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish those of you who have just celebrated Diwali, a joyful and bright year ahead. I'm certain that as we approach Christmas and the end of Autumn term, there will be lots more to look forward to and celebrate, preferably not over Zoom!

My hope is that at Avanti Court we can continue to be a source of continuity and safety for the whole school community so that together we can create an environment for the children to reach their highest potential in all aspects of their lives.

Yours faithfully,

Darpna Tank  
Chair of Avanti Court Primary SSC

For and on behalf of the School Stakeholder Committee