Shree Hanuman Chalisa & Bhajan

Saturday 5th November 2022 Avanti Fields School, Furrow View, off Colin Grundy Drive. Leicester. LE5 OBX

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Friends

Many of you will have already seen the posters and social media posts about our upcoming major event - Hanuman Chalisa & Bhajans on Saturday 5th November 2022.

It's arguably our biggest annual function in the PTFA Calendar and brings together the entire school community for an afternoon of devotion, fun and fund-raising.

We're looking forward to seeing you all there. The programme starts promptly at 1pm, and Prashad (lunch) will be served from 12.30pm onwards.

As always, your support and cooperation is crucial in making the event a success. With that in mind, we'd like to share a few points for guidance that will ensure all goes smoothly on the day.

ATTENDANCE - <u>Please click here to use the online form to register your attendance.</u>

While entry is FREE, we need to have names and guest numbers registered in advance due to school and PTFA policies and procedures. This also helps us in catering for the right amount of people on the day. Please use the main school entrance.

TIME – Please arrive by 12.45pm so that we are able to start the event promptly. Prashad (lunch) will be served in our dining area from 12.30pm onwards. The brilliant Vishwa Bhajan Mandal will be leading the musical recitals and ceremonial rituals on the day.

PRASHAD - The PTFA and its team of volunteers will be serving a delicious full meal, and you are all welcome to enjoy this Prashad from 12.30pm onwards. As Prashad is already being catered for, and keeping in line with our zero tolerance on food wastage, we humbly request you not to bring any additional Prashad items. Instead, you would be most welcome to donate any amount towards the cost of our Prashad.

TAKING PART AS YAJMAAN - As always, you will have an opportunity on the day to sit among a group at the front to serve a Laado Prashad to Shri Hanumanji during a Chalisa recital. Please see a PTFA volunteer in the main hall on the day to register your place. Any donation for this honour will be gladly accepted, with all funds raised going to the school.

YAMUNAJI LOTI CEREMONY, HANUMANJI ABHISHEK & YAGNA - This year, we are making the event even more special and memorable, by performing additional rituals and ceremonies. The following page gives a short description of the rituals and their significance.

To take part as Mukhya Yajmaan in any of these ceremonies<u>, please click here to complete the form and make your donation</u>, and for any further information you can get in touch with the PTFA on <u>avantifieldsptfa@gmail.com</u> As this is a fundraising event for the school and for our pupils, we are encouraging Mukhya Yajmaans to generously donate towards our initiative, whilst performing the honourable ceremonies. The suggested minimum donations are: Yamunaji Loti Mukhya Yajmaan - £51.00 Yamunaji Small Lotis - £21.00 (this can be provided or you may wish to bring your own) Hanumanji Abhishek - £101.00 per family (maximum 8 people) Hanumanji Yagna - £51.00

Please note for all of the above, Registering your name in advance is essential

SPONSORS & DONATIONS – Events such as this rely on the generosity of our supporters, so that we can raise as many funds as possible for our school projects and for our children. Before we give back to the school, the PTFA has to ensure all of its costs are covered (this does not include volunteer time and effort) such as catering for a full meal, decoration, logistics etc. Please get in touch with us if you and your family wish to contribute any amount towards this event. You can email us at <u>avantifieldsptfa@gmail.com</u> or <u>use this link</u>

VOLUNTEERS – It takes a huge amount of effort to organise events like this for our school community. And it's never possible without an army of volunteers and helpers. We always need people, even if for a small amount of time, to help us with setting up the venue on the evening before, assisting us on the day, clearing up, etc. Please do get in touch with us if you are able to spare some time for the school PTFA. Your time and effort will be hugely appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you at the event. Jai Bajrangbali!

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Loti Utsav:

In Her physical form, Yamunaji is the river which flows in central India, and in Her divine form, She resides in the realm of Shri Nath Ji. In the Loti Utsav, we pray to Yamunaji by filling vessels with the water of the Yamuna river, and worshiping this holy water, placing it before the form of Shri Nath Ji, and then carrying these vessels on our heads, back to our homes. The holy water of the Yamuna river represents devotion that we receive, and the blessings of Yamunaji, that we too can enter the divine fold of Shri Nath Ji, to take part in the union with Him called Raas.

Hanumanji Abhishek:

Hanumanji is known for his valour, intellect, devotion, and strength. Hanumanji is a central figure in the Ramayana, and helps Shri Ram in His journey throughout the epic. Hanumanji is an incarnation of Shivji, and Shivji is known to adore Abhishek, the ritualistic offerings to a form of the Deity. In the Hanumanji Abhishek, we pray to Hanumanji that we too can receive from Him great devotion, the ability to serve, and wisdom. The offerings made in an Abhishek are commonly the 5 nectars, or Panchamrit, Ghee, Milk, Curd, Honey, and Sugar.

Hanumanji Yagna:

The Hanumanji Yagna is of the Vedic fold. The fire is considered to be the priest of the Gods, and the way in which our offerings are received by them. After having worshipped Ganeshji, who represents our mind, we light a fire, and invoke the blessings of the Gods with Vedic Mantras. Hanumanji is the incarnation of Shivji, and in the Hindu texts, Shivji is the presiding deity of Earth. It is for this reason that all that we grow of Earth, or that is produced by the soil is offered into the fire, to worship His form, Hanumanji. In this fire, we use fire logs, cow dung cakes, Ghee, along with a variety of special herbs to invoke the blessings of Hanumanji. Fire is said to purify, and it with this hope that through devotion to Hanumanji and this special fire sacrifice, we too will become pure and receive Hanumanji's blessings along with His infinite qualities.