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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back for Spring term 2017! It's been a chilly start to the year, but it hasn't deterred the children outside; they are looking forward to experiencing how the playground developments will improve their break times. The first phase of improvements is almost complete, thanks to funding from the PTA. We look forward to introducing the Playground Leaders project to give children opportunities for developing early leadership skills and some new play equipment which will enhance playtimes and provide chances for extending skills.

This week also saw the start of our new Parent Toddler group, which is open to the community on Thursday afternoons from 1.45pm. It was lovely to see so many familiar and supportive faces, as well as inviting new families and children into our school. Each week our staff will lead activities such as art & craft, construction and story time and we will be joined by our guests 'Jo Jingles' and 'Full of Beans' who will provide fun sessions of music, dance and even Baby Yoga!

Staffing news:

We welcome Mrs Kathryn Murray-Weaver to our team, appointed as Lunchtime Welfare Supervisor. Kathryn will be based initially in the Dining hall, supporting the children's well-being and pastoral care over lunchtimes. Kathryn has extensive experience of working with children in this capacity and has previously worked in West Kirby Primary School.

Interviews were also held this week to recruit a Nursery Practitioner in the EYFS department. We are pleased to announce that Mrs Lyndsey Williamson has been offered the post and will join the team as soon as clearance checks are completed. Lyndsey has been volunteering at Avalon for over 12 months and we are delighted that she will now become part of the staff team on a part time basis.

Best wishes also go to Mrs Loughlin, who leaves at the end of the spring term to start her Maternity Leave. We will of course let you know, when we have any baby news!

As can be seen by the calendar dates, we have a lot of exciting events and activities planned alongside our curriculum this term. We thank all the parents and friends of the school who have offered to run a workshop session or deliver a short presentation to our children, particularly to support our PSHCEE curriculum. We hope that these experiences and opportunities will aim to develop the whole child and their specific talents and indeed enable us to reach further, together.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Callaway
Headteacher