



SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

School Year 2015-2016

Term 4

6A – Dragonfly Enterprises

Since December 6A have been working very hard on individual projects. Some of the students have set up enterprises where they are making products to sell or supplying a service. The projects are linked to the AQA Unit Award Scheme and are very bespoke to the individual students. Students have researched any resources they may need and been to town to purchase them. They have then put their enterprise into action...

Jakub and Asim have been running Dragonfly Diner. Every Wednesday they take sandwich orders from staff around the school. On a Thursday they sell the sandwiches, crisps, drinks and healthy snacks from their Café set up in the staff coffee area. They have been working hard on meeting and greeting customers, customer service and working with money. The Dragonfly Diner gets busier every week!!

Ali-Raza took in a delivery of shingle from a builder's merchant and cleans sweeps and generally tidies the sensory trail. He shifts bucket loads of shingle to replace what has disappeared over time!

Hina has been painting and decorating tyres to make amazing planters for our gardens. By stacking 2 or 3 together she has been making ones accessible for wheelchair users and has many orders to keep her busy next term!

Arooj went to Fabric land and chose material to make bibs to sell around the school. She produced different sized patterns and is backing them with towelling. Watch this space!!

Renell has resourced plant pots, bulbs and soil. He has very carefully planted the bulbs in the pots and decorated them ready to sell around the school.

Some of our students have combined their enterprise projects with Work Experience.



Mobeen has been helping Karen out every Thursday morning on the reception. He has been working on meeting and greeting people, taking in deliveries and helping any guests to the school. Karen has also been giving Mobeen lots of helpful jobs to do around the school.



Ali-Raza has secured a work experience placement at a local laundrette. Every Monday morning Ali-Raza spends the morning helping out with various tasks including loading and unloading the washing machine and tumble dryers, folding cloths, making up bundles and putting things away in the correct place. Ali-Raza has followed instructions perfectly and is a credit to The Avenue School. He is learning a great deal by working in the local community.



Finally Nicole has been helping to look after the school pets. Class A have an African snail and Nicole has cleaned him out, fed him and sprayed him with water, also learning how to touch him appropriately. She has also fed and cleaned out the school fish. Nicole has been to a local farm to feed the animals.

A special thank you to Paul at:

AVS, Mole Road, Sindlesham, RG41 5DJ

01189 794375

www.avs-cars.com

for supplying all the tyres to make our amazing planters.

And also the ladies at:

The Ironing Lady, 848 Oxford Road, Reading RG30 1EL

0118 942200

www.theironingladyltd.com

for giving Ali-Raza his work experience placement.

We are very proud of 6A this term for all their hard work with their individual projects and helping others around the school.

Travel Training in 6A

Since September 6A have been working towards their AQA Unit Award:

71846, 'Using a local bus service'. They had to complete these targets:

- Recognise the bus stop
- Recognise the bus number
- Show their bus pass or use money
- Move to the front of the bus getting ready to get off
- Push the button on the bus for the next bus stop
- Travel on their own

On Friday 18 March, 6A were able to travel on the number 33 to and from school into Reading Town Centre, with only two adults supporting the two pupils in wheelchairs. All the other pupils were travelling independently. We have worked on all these skills over the last six months.

We walk to two different bus stops so we can all practice stopping independently at the bus stops. We have all tried to stop the bus at the bus stop with our hands. Everyone can get on and let the driver know where we are going. All students can push the button and most of us are sitting completely on our own. A couple of us love to sit together upstairs, with no adult support. We do need to practice our indoor voices next term.

All of us are confident at using our bus passes independently when we get on and look after them when we are in Reading.

Everyone working in 6A is so proud of their improvements!



Arooj sitting with her head up, knowing exactly where she is at all times and when she needs to get off. If you know Arooj you will know how hard this is for her.



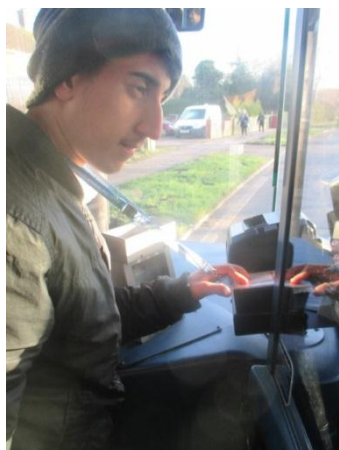
Asim using his cane independently, pressing the button to cross and waiting for the green man, while walking to the bus stop

Ali Raza stopping the bus at the bus stop

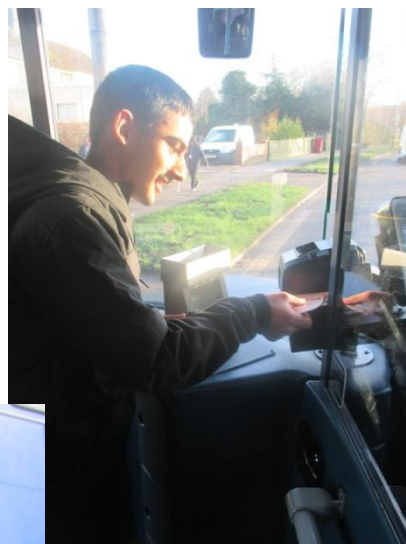


Hina is using her money to pay for a bus ticket, with support, and keeping hold of the receipt until the journey home.

Anyone who has worked with Hina will know how resistant Hina is to learning new skills. She wants to put the ticket in with the money, but has now learnt to pop it in her purse for later.



Everyone else using their bus passes



Boys on their own out in town!

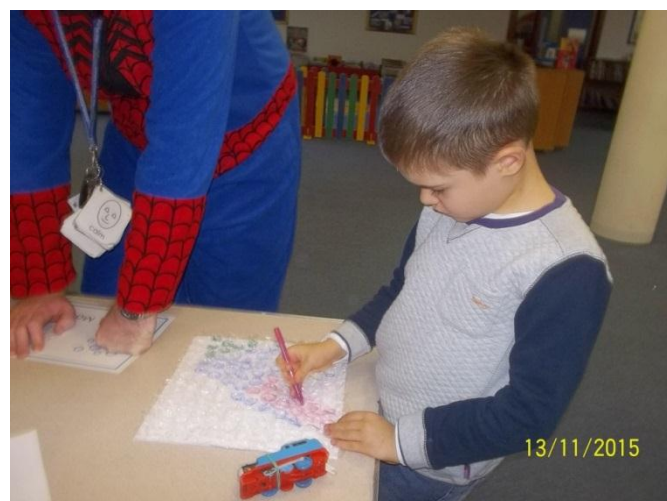
A massive thank you to Reading buses as they have been so helpful this year. Every week the bus driver gets off his chair and helps us. They have been asked to stop sometimes and wait at bus stops for long periods while we were learning to do these skills. They have always been kind, helpful and very understanding. The general public that we meet at the bus stops and on the bus have also been fantastic, very polite, friendly and sometimes helpful.



This progress for 6A is better than we had ever hoped for them, congratulations!!

Cultural Celebration Day

On 13th November 2015 we celebrated different cultures within our school. External volunteers from 'INSAAN' alongside parental volunteers joined us for the day to assist in running a range of workshops which included Henna, art, cooking and sensory experiences. The day culminated in a fashion show and disco. Thank you very much too all our wonderful volunteers for assisting to make the day a success!



4A's trip to the Royal Berkshire Radio

As part of our 'Media Magic' topic, pupils and staff from 4B went to visit the Royal Berkshire Hospital radio. The radio is run by volunteers who gladly welcomed us and told us some of the history of Hospital Radio. They then showed us how they put together their different shows and demonstrated the technical side of radio. We were able to explore some of the equipment and finally we saw a show go out live on air and we were able to help dedicate songs to various patients

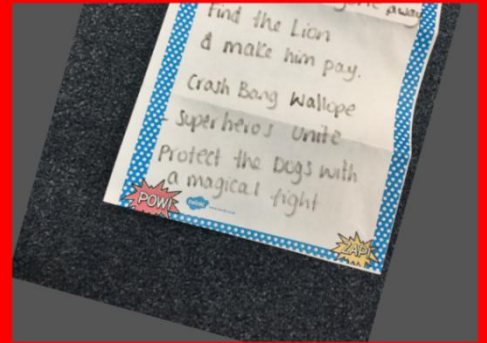
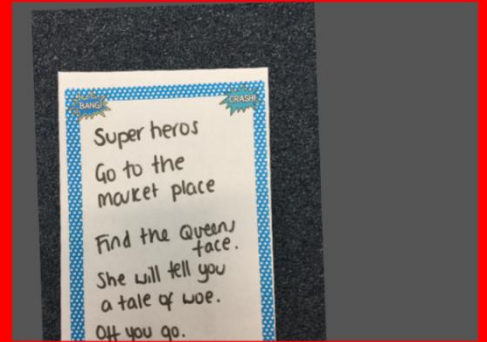






5B Super Sleuths

The Milepost One IPC topic this term has been Media Magic. We based a lot of our work around super heroes. We designed superheroes and their costumes. We also made models of our superheroes. We took them on a trip to Reading where they had to solve the mystery of 'Queen Victoria's Missing Dog'. Following clues that were hidden around Reading. 5B, fought the Lion in Forbury Gardens, rescued the dog and saved the day!



We were very privileged to welcome Bamboozle Theatre into the school on Monday 14 March. They performed 'Storm' which was based on Shakespeare's play 'The Tempest'. It was an intimate and interactive performance to six students at a time. The students were transported to a magical island where the characters learnt to share. Suggestions for the development of show were offered by the pupils and the performers skilfully wove them into a theatrical and musical performance which was both whimsical and delightful.



Thank you to all those parents who have replied by e-mail to the letter that went home we are busy trying to collect everyone's e-mail address to help communication and sharing of documents such as this termly newsletter. If you haven't already done so please send an email to

kemery@avenue.reading.sch.uk so that you can be added to the list.

Unless requested there will no longer be paper copies sent home

CHARITY STALL

The school reception charity stall has now raised £7605.00 for the school since it was set up in 2011. This school year we have banked £527.00

Thank you to everyone who has donated items to or bought items from the stall, your help to provide our pupils with those little extra items and experiences is much appreciated.



The Avenue School

Please make a note of these dates

EVENT	DATE
First Day Of Term 5	Monday 11 th April 2016
The Avenue School street party for the Queens 90 th Birthday	Thursday 21 st April 2016
Osmington Bay	Monday 9 th May 2016
Last day of term 5	Friday 27 th May 2016
First day of term 6	Tuesday 7 th June 2016



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Charity Number 1127969.

A National Support School