

The Avenue School

# SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

School Year 2017-2018

Term 2

On Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> December Milepost 1 held their Christmas stage show - Stick Man. The children performed their roles with enthusiasm and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. The parents gave some very positive feedback and the staff were very proud of all involved.







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**Class C** have been exploring different tastes, textures, and scents.

The children have enjoyed drinking bubbly lemonade through curly straws, tasting salty popcorn and fruity pineapple, and smelling an array of spices. One of the most popular sessions involved pupils feeling cold ice cubes and tasting hot chocolate, using photo symbols to request 'more'!

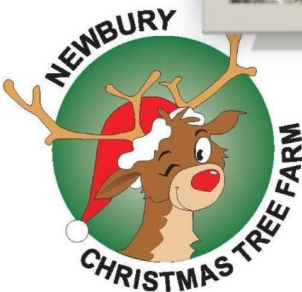
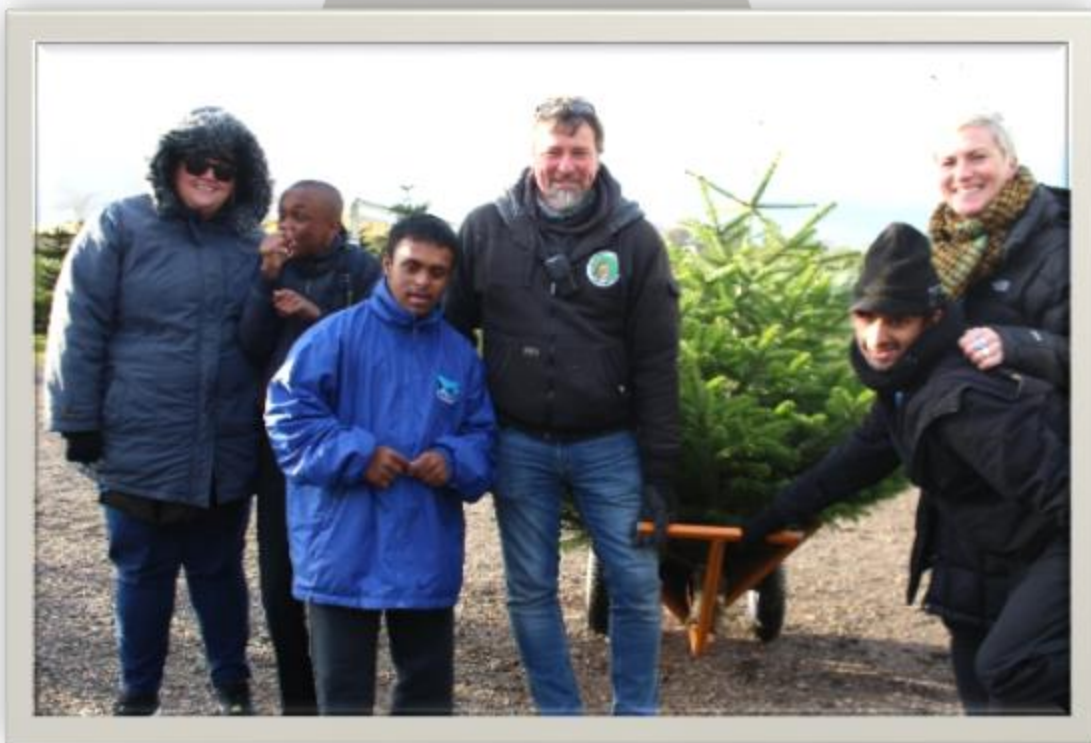


## 6A

This term 6A have had weekly activities off the school site. These have included learning about walking in a busy town centre, shopping in small and larger supermarkets, road safety and undertaking leisure activities in public areas. The leisure activities have been a great deal of fun for all, especially for pupils who were encouraged to play with each other.

We combined this learning when we went to collect the school's Christmas tree from a Christmas Tree Farm in Newbury. Pupils searched the farm for the right tree and then brought it back to school.

A big thank you to Jeff and his team at Newbury Christmas Tree farm for welcoming the Avenue School and donating our beautiful tree.



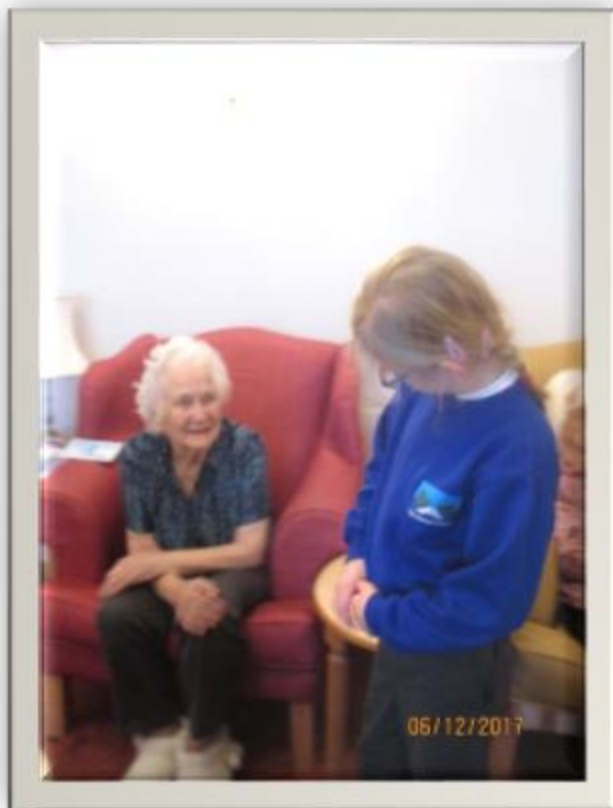
[newburychristmastreefarm@gmail.com](mailto:newburychristmastreefarm@gmail.com)

Newbury Christmas Tree Farm, Bagnor Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG20 8BN



## 2A

For our Christmas visit 2A decided to visit our friends at the Hollies Residential Care Home in Burghfield. The residents were really happy to receive cards and bags of truffles from the class. Many of the residents that we met at Easter remembered our children and a lovely time was had by all.



"THE HOLIDAY SEASON  
IS A PERFECT TIME  
TO REFLECT ON OUR BLESSINGS  
AND SEEK OUT WAYS TO  
MAKE LIFE BETTER  
FOR THOSE AROUND US."  
-TERRY MARSHALL



### Class 1B's Learning Through This Term's Topic: Food

This term, Class 1B have been exploring food through a variety of activities and learning opportunities. We have our daily breakfast sessions, in which we work on requesting different foods, as well as counting pieces of food and asking for 'lots' or 'a little' of what we want. We have also been exploring food through sensory play sessions, in which we are exposed to different scents, textures and tastes, as well as OT tasks. On Mondays we have food technology session, where we make pitta pizzas. We use PECS and/or speech to request what we need and are getting really good at making our pizzas with very little support now. Every Tuesday we have participated in our sensory story, 'The Gingerbread Man'. As the term has gone on we have learned to listen to the story as a group, predict what will happen next in the story and to explore the props with less support. On Thursdays we have been making fruit and vegetable print pictures during art session. We now use PECS and/or speech to request the resources that we need during these sessions. To end the term, we are exploring some Christmas foods when rehearsing for our Christmas performance. Yum!

Merry Christmas  
everyone!





## Equine Therapy

From the 27th September, every Wednesday afternoon, 4 students have been attending horse riding session at Riding for The Disabled in Hampstead Norreys. Each week, we have been improving on our listening, waiting and confidence skills. All 4 students (Jessica, Insaf, Sebby and Hafsah) now ride at the same time, for a full half an hour! We have objects to put into a basket hoop, to improve our stability, balance and concentration. The adults enjoy this session as much as the students! Jessica rides Ted, Insaf rides Murphy, Hafsah rides woody & Sebby rides Bungle

As from 6<sup>th</sup> December all 4 students have now experienced trotting. We had lots of giggles, and excited anticipation. The riding teacher has said that Insaf has one of the best sitting positions when trotting. Hafsah thinks it is hilarious to lay down backwards on Woody, and a couple of times she decided to lay forward! Sebby really enjoyed looking at himself in the mirror and he waited beautifully before and after. Jess used stirrups for the first time this week, she coped well and finished off with trotting, which involved lots of woahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!









## 'Christmas around the world'

The Milepost 2 and 3 Christmas Production theme this year was 'Christmas around the world'. 3A, 6A, 7A, 8A and 8B classes each presented a song, dance, story or performance relating to a different culture and country and their celebration of Christmas. The audience thoroughly enjoyed their visits to Spain, Germany, Madagascar, Russia and China, and got involved with the Christmas parade and carols in our finale. Many thanks to all who attended.







A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated to our Christmas Fayre, also a big thank you to you all for coming to support Dragonfly Enterprises. Our Christmas Fayre would not have been possible without you all!!

We raised another amazing **£1962.30**

One step closer to our outside gym equipment



## *Message from the Headteacher*

Dear parents, carers and families,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and relaxing festive break. I hope that you all have an opportunity to spend time surrounded by your loved ones, balanced with having some time to switch off.

I would also like to thank you all for your support throughout the year. Daily I see fantastic outcomes for our pupils, this often due to the wonderful teamwork between the school and yourselves.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

***Symon***

**Seasons Greetings**



# The Avenue School

## School Terms & Holidays 2017 - 2018

September 2017							October 2017							November 2017							December 2017						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2	3						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30	31																			

January 2018							February 2018							March 2018							April 2018						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4			1	2	3	4							1	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
																					30						

May 2018							June 2018							July 2018							August 2018						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3						1								
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
														30	31												

### Term 1 2017

**Monday 4 September 2017 - Friday 20 October 2017**

\* Teachers' In Service Training day: Monday 4 September (school closed for pupils)  
Total days: 35

### Term 2 2017

**Monday 30 October 2017 - Thursday 21 December 2017**

\* Teachers' In Service Training day: Monday 30 October and Tuesday 31 October (school closed for pupils)  
Total days 39

### Term 3 2018

**Wednesday 3 January 2018 - Friday 9 February 2018**

\* Teachers' In Service Training day: Wednesday 3 January (school closed for pupils)  
Total days: 28

### Term 4 2018

**Monday 19 February 2018 - Thursday 29 March 2018**

Total days: 29

### Term 5 2018

**Monday 16 April 2018 - Friday 25 May 2018**

Total days: 29

### Term 6 2018

**Monday 4 June 2018 - Friday 20 July 2018**

\* Teachers' In Service Training day: Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 June (school closed for pupils)  
Total days 35

Total days in school year: 195 (Including 6 in-service training days)

**Pupils should not attend school on any of the days that are shaded above.** Parents/Guardians please note that the school is normally closed for pupils on 5 days in the school year for Teachers In-Service Training days. In addition, we have allocated an extra day for Health and Safety Training. Please see above dates.

### Public Holidays in year 2017/2018

Christmas	25-Dec-17	Good Friday	30-Mar-18	Spring Bank Holiday	28-May-18
Boxing Day	26-Dec-17	Easter Monday	2-Apr-18	August Bank Holiday	27-Aug-18
New Year	1-Jan-18	May Bank Holiday	7-May-18		



<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Last Day of Term 2</b>	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2016 at 1.15pm
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
<b>First Day of Term 3</b>	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
<b>M and M Productions present Aladdin</b>	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
<b>Parents Evening</b>	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Last day of Term 3</b>	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
<b>First Day of Term 4</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
<b>Parents Evening</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2017

**The Avenue School SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY, Conwy Close, Tilehurst, Reading. RG30 4BZ**

**Telephone: (0118) 9375554**

**email: [admin@avenue.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@avenue.reading.sch.uk)**

**Charity Number 1127969.**

**A National Support School**

 wishing you  
a very merry  
**christmas**