



The Avenue School

Newsletter

SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

School Year 2017-2018

Term3 & 4

Pupils from classes 4A and 3B visited our local Asda to collect bananas that were kindly donated by Jacqueline Fieldsend , Community Life Champion for Asda.

Asda Tilehurst donated a banana for each student , class 4 A then gave out the bananas to each class or students came to our fruit stall to collect them.



7A

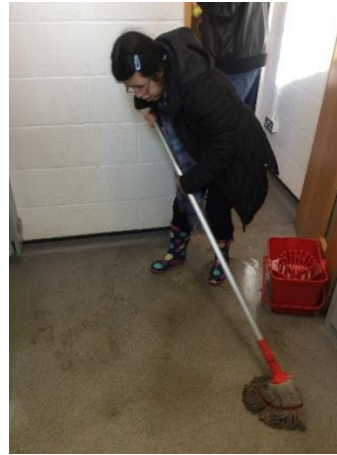
In 7A this term, we have had lots of fun learning in a range of activities including travel training and shopping. We have been to Ufton Court this term and we had a great experience. For our IPC-Footprints from the Past topic, we went to Oxford University Museum of Natural History and again we had a great time learning about dinosaurs and other animals from the past. The pictures speak volumes about our experience.



Finding items on the aisles and learning to pay for them



Enjoying Polybat and Boccia at Ufton Court



It is hands on time!





We then had the wonderful Breakfast Workshop from Newbury Show Ground team!



It is a milking competition. Who do you think won?





Time to grow our own wheat.



AVENUE SCHOOL VISIT TO UFTON ADVENTURE JANUARY 22-24TH, 2018

"One's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions."

Oliver Wendell-Holmes

Objectives for the visits:

Have Fun!

Enjoy being in the natural world.

Grow in confidence staying away from home.

Gain AQA accreditations in outdoor learning.

All the activities offered support these objectives and use the Ufton Ladders of Success as a framework.



Number of children

10 children and 11 accompanying staff – second of three visits

What activities did the children take part in?

Team building & problem solving – Low ropes – working towards AQA Awards in developing teamwork skills

Individual challenges- Archery and feeding the animals on the farm

Growing in confidence- Parachute games and Ballistic challenge – working together to fire wet sponges from catapults, evening campfire fun.

Have Fun– Outdoor fun in the Teepee tent and Beach time on the volleyball court, table tennis and bean bag fun. Going the extra mile – move around the grounds, playing games as we go. Frisbee fun leading to a game of frisbee golf.

Review and reflection

We discussed what had been fun, what was the best part of the visit? We talked about being in the natural environment and staying away from home.

We talked about the Ufton 4 R's:

- Resilience
- Readiness
- Reflection
- Responsibility

Children discussed with each other, school and Ufton staff what they have learned and to what extent they believe they have tried it, are getting it or have got it. This is the Ufton skills development approach. Each time a child comes to Ufton Adventure we make it a little bit harder, we might take something away or develop the complexity of a task, there is progression in each visit and new skills are learned.

'Tried it, Getting it, Got it'
The Ufton skills development approach

Learning outcomes

We focus on the development of the following skills through our outdoor education programmes. Pupils with PMLD have a focused curriculum in school which is supported at Ufton Adventure- the four main areas of the Ufton, "I can matrix" which are:

- Communication
- Cognition
- Independence skills
- Physical development

We actively promote:

- Thinking
- Questioning
- Predicting
- Contradicting
- Doubting

What did The Avenue staff observe?

"Children's social skills improved".

"They are building resilience by staying away from home"

"Team work has increased at school since the last visit".

"Having T and M being able to stay over was fantastic".

"They have all gained greater resilience through working in a different environment".

"Very anxious children have coped in a new environment, dealt with January weather".

They have overcome fears about staying away from home".



What did the Ufton team observe?

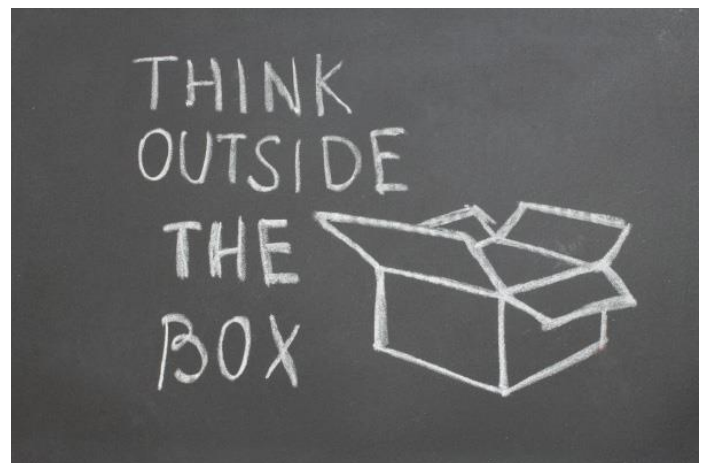
During the Avenue's visit we repeated several of the activities to add in elements of progression including low ropes and archery. After an introduction to archery on the outdoor range on the first day, we moved to the indoor range. This time, I introduced scoring and made each group responsible for watching their team mates arrows, tallying their scores and multiplying and adding the totals. Understanding scoring was the final element required for all of the students to achieve their Basic Archery skills AQA Awards! We shall be sending off for their certificates!



4B

In 4B this term, we have spent some time each day encouraging pupil led learning. We have offered our pupils a range of activities; from sensory, to encouraging physical development, turn taking games to taking imaginary journeys on buses and trains. Over the course of the term, we have seen pupils really embrace these activities, making clear choices about what they would like to do and interacting positively with adults





World Book Day

6B read *Burglar Bill* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. For our World Book Day Assembly, we dressed up as Burglar Bill and crept in between the houses on the stage to the Pink Panther theme tune.



Amir Iraj and Erik Donabidowicz introduced our performance by reading a section of our *Burglar Bill* book to the audience.

Out and About

6B have also been out walking in the local community, crossing the road safely and shopping for ingredients to make toasted cheese sandwiches.



Class A

We have been making sandwiches for our Teddy Bears Picnic as part of our topic, Bears. The children have been developing their independence skills by requesting the ingredients they need to make their sandwich. They have been learning how to spread butter evenly, grate cheese safely and cut their sandwiches into two pieces.

The children have all been making great progress in learning how to make a sandwich and learning about the ingredients we need to make one.

Teddy Bears Picnic





Having fun whilst learning at Bike Club



This term at Bike Club, we have been learning to use different sized bikes, balance, start and stop using the breaks correctly and changing gears.

We have also been learning about at traffic lights and road safety, but most of all to use our bikes safely to have FUN!!



This term 3B have been learning all about bears. They have made bear collages, been on a bear hunt and had a sensory journey through the woods for a teddy bears picnic.



1A

We have enjoyed learning through the topic Bears. Here we enjoyed exploring the sensory resources for our sensory story we are going on a polar bear hunt! We had a fun!



6A

This term 6A have been learning to play games with each other. We have worked in pairs, as a team and in small groups. We have been playing basketball in pairs, catching and throwing. We have played tennis, badminton and football. On windy day's we have flown a kite. It has been a great deal of fun. Sometimes we had time to go to the play area in a park and have fun together.



4A

In class 4A we have been learning how to make vegetable wraps. We have used a variety of ingredients and equipment. The young people have tried new vegetables and decided if they would like to use them in their own wrap. The young people have been amazing at following their own instructions.



Class C

Our IPC topic this term was 'Bears'. As part of our topic Class C have enjoyed holding teddy bears' picnics and making picnic food during cooking sessions, being involved in the preparation of sandwiches, wraps, vegetables and dips, and smoothies. The children have also enjoyed exploring the three bears' cottage role-play area during child-led learning sessions, stirring porridge and feeding teddies



School Council

School Council are currently working on a garden project for the student's, which will be amazing. They are going to be meeting local companies in order to raise funds through sponsorship. This will be a great opportunity for them to learn new skills, get out in the community and pass on their knowledge and experiences to the rest of the School.





7B's AMAZING ART PROJECT WITH KENDRICK SCHOOL



Kendrick School
Lead, inspire, make a difference



The Avenue School

Class 7B have had a lovely 2 weeks working with a group of Year 10 students from Kendrick School in Reading. They have learnt how to mould clay, the technique of scratch and slip to stick clay pieces together and how to glaze a finished product. 7B were given the opportunity to create and design a plaque entirely out of clay to then paint with colours of their choice. We had some amazing designs with students' names, animals and some really imaginative patterns! It was really messy but extremely sensory and great fun for all of 7B!



"Thank
you
Kendrick
School!" -

"I loved
getting messy!"
- Emily 7B



"I had to really
concentrate when
painting!" - Reece 7B

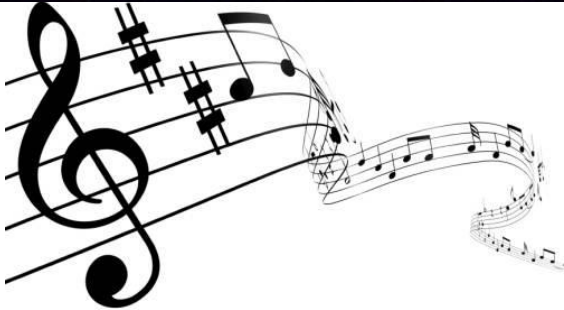


"I liked the feel of the
wet clay on my hands!" -
Bobby 7B



8A

Class 8A went to the Hexagon Theatre to a live orchestral performance with other special needs schools in the area. They caught the bus outside school to get to the town centre. They heard the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra play different pieces from films like Pirates of the Caribbean and Star Wars. It also included some classical music and pupils were acting in between performances. It was exciting to hear a professional orchestra.



4B

On Monday 12th March, 4B went on a trip to Dinton Pastures, we braved the rain and had a lovely walk around the lake looking at the ducks and geese and stopped for a picnic lunch.



Class C

Class C have been exploring musical instruments this term. We have been practicing using beaters to make loud and quiet sounds on percussion instruments, and using our hands and fingers to make loud and quiet sounds on the guitar. The children have also enjoyed exploring an ocean drum, watching the metal beads move around inside the drum to make a sound.



VISIT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

8B went to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. We had an amazing tour around the Parliament, but first we needed to pass the security check. Afterwards, we started our tour at the Queen's door. We visited the House of Commons and the House of Lords and we had a nice lunch and activities after our tour. We had lots of fun.





During World Book Day 2018, 8B collected the book tokens in exchange for books at the book stall next to the library. During the afternoon, we had an assembly in the square and everyone was dressing up.

It was fun and all school had a great day.



On Friday 23rd March, we were very lucky to have some firefighters from the Whitley Wood Fire Station visit and they brought two fire engines with them. Each class had the chance to go and try on the firefighters' outfits, the pupils especially like the helmet and heavy boots. Some of them even sat in the driver's seat and got the experience of what it would be like to steer one. Everyone had lots of fun and as a school we would like to say a big thankyou to Whitley Wood Fire Station and the crew who visited.





For our literacy project this term, 8A planned and carried out activities for Sports Relief week! We designed posters, tv adverts and invited our peers to join us for some fun activities each day! From hula hoops to dance offs and ending with a fun run/ walk around the sensory trail on Friday afternoon! We raised over £90! Well done 8A! Thank you to all the classes who joined us in making it a fun week!



On Wednesday afternoon, 8A were joined by four teacher training students from Reading University. We watched a video from the Sport Relief website that showed us how Sport Relief has helped disadvantaged youngsters in South Africa through a surfing project. 8A then worked with the students to design a training circuit to improve our balance, flexibility, strength and endurance. We then put all these skills together in a body board race!



**SPORT
RELIEF**



PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

A huge thank you to so many of you for taking the time to fill in this year's parent questionnaire! We are delighted with the responses! Over 95% of you feel that your child is happy at school. Below are some of the comments you gave us:

'The best school for my child'

'Keep it up Avenue School!

'Staff always happy to help'

'I'm always impressed by the care and gentleness you show [my child]'

'I'm very happy!'

'We think the school and the whole team there are absolutely fantastic. Thank you for everything you do for [our child]'

'At the moment I'm very happy with the leadership and management of the school'

'I can see a brighter future for The Avenue School'

'Good relationships with families'

'Very pleased to see after school clubs are starting!'

'Great support offered to parents – any issues dealt with quickly.'

'We love the home school diary'

'It's definitely the right school for my child'

'As a parent I am well informed of my child's progress'

These are some of things you would like to see us improve:

- More notice about events
- Holidays clubs / more after school clubs
- An online payment system
- Parenting courses
- More work experience links
- Parents Evening appointments in the evening
- An interactive/online learning journey
- Consistent home learning ideas / opportunities

I have already incorporated several of these ideas into my School Development Plan; other ideas we are hoping to explore through more informal working. I will keep you posted. Thank you very much again for your feedback – each and every stakeholder is valued in our school community and we will continue to carry out Parent Questionnaires annually. Of course, in the meantime, if there is anything you would like to talk through, my door is always open.

I hope you have a relaxing Easter break.

Kind regards,

Symon

Thank you to The Reading Maiden Erlegh Rotary Club for kindly donating Easter Eggs to all our pupils





Order Your School Uniform Online

Brigade Parents Direct to School

The Quick & Convenient Way to Order Your Crested & Non Crested School Uniform



***ORDER YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL UNIFORM WITH FREE DELIVERY INTO SCHOOL/ACADEMY ***

ORDERS ARE PLACED IN A QUEUE UNTIL THE 15th AND 30th OF EACH MONTH AND DELIVERED INTO SCHOOL UP TO 14 DAYS AFTER

PLEASE SUBMIT SCHOOL ADDRESS ONLY IN THE DELIVERY FIELDS & INCLUDE YOUR CHILD'S NAME INTO SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Log onto www.brigadeuniformdirect.uk.com enter your child's school name (delivery to school service) and select the school from the drop down list provided

****IMPORTANT INFORMATION—SUMMER HOLIDAY ORDERS****

Please note that the last order date for delivery into school before the summer break is 30th June

www.brigadeuniformdirect.uk.com

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
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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						
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May 2018							June 2018							July 2018							August 2018						
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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		

The Avenue School

Please make a note of these dates

EVENT	DATE
<i>Last day of Term 4</i>	Thursday 29 th March 2018 @1.15pm
<i>First Day of Term 5 for pupils</i>	Monday 16 th April 2018
<i>Communication Week</i>	23 rd April – 27 th April
<i>Rebound Festival Week</i>	30 th April -4 th May
<i>Macmillan's Dress Up and Dance day</i>	Thursday 14 th June
<i>The Avenue School Summer Festival</i>	Saturday 16 th June



The Avenue School Special Needs Academy, Conwy Close, Tilehurst, Reading. RG30 4BZ

Telephone: (0118) 9375554

email: admin@avenue.reading.sch.uk

Charity Number 1127969.