

The Avenue School

SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

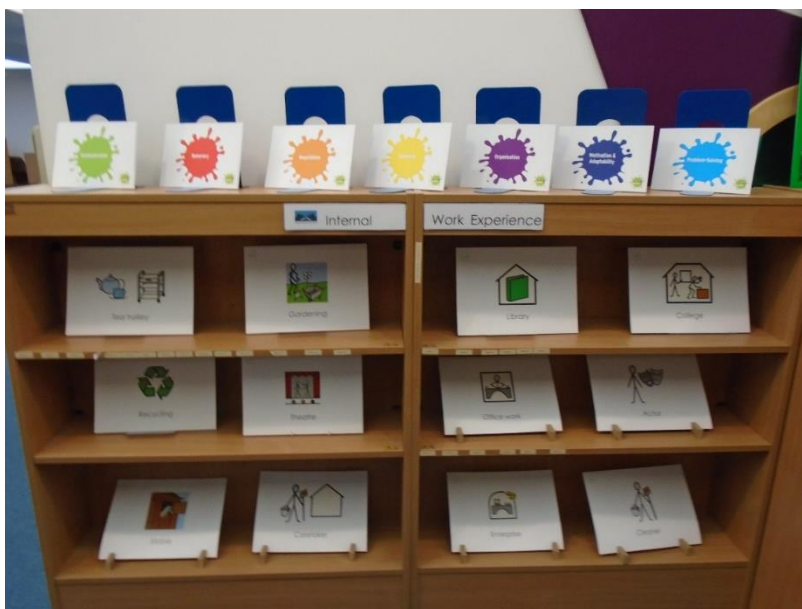
NEWSLETTER

School Year 2017-2018

Term 1

Career Corner

Unlock YOUR potential



Career Corner

This term we have launched a Careers Corner where students can see internal job adverts for 'work related learning' in school. These internal vacancies will give our students opportunity to try a range of roles and experiences to help them decide their career path. This term we have successfully placed 5 Library Assistants, who will also be attending two educational visits to Tilehurst and Central Reading libraries to explore the world of work and skills required to work in a public library.



**Career
Corner**

Adventures with Dove Class – Autumn Term

Our topic this term is 'How Are You?', and we have been exploring many different ways of expressing ourselves! Once a week, we join up with our friends in Magpie Class for Expressive Arts sessions. We have been exploring music and movement together, and learning how to make friends with new people. Our sessions are very noisy and exciting!



Jack has been working with Karthik every week. They have built a wonderful relationship – Jack will search out Karthik and they will sit together and explore a massage story. Jack likes to make lots of eye contact with Karthik and smiles with him!

Rupert has been pairing up with Khadija this term. Rupert has loved exploring the loudest instruments in the room! He laughs and giggles every time the group play loudly, and has been moving his arms in response to the music.



Spencer and Eniola have been working as a team this term. Spencer is helping Eniola explore some sensory playdough scented with eucalyptus oil. Eniola really enjoys this smell and asks Spencer for more by reaching out and making eye contact.



Barn Owl Class

Barn Owl Class have been doing lots of work on their physical skills this term, practicing sitting, standing, and exploring sports equipment in P.E lessons. Look at us hard at work!



Swan Class

Swan Class have a weekly session on the trampoline. This provides us with a really motivating and therapeutic way to work on physical development, as well as listening and attention skills, and communication. So far, we have been building our confidence on the trampoline and working on moving in different ways.



Cormorant Class



This term Cormorant Class were learning about Russia as part of the whole school European languages event.

Cormorant class used the schools green screen technology to put our pupils into Russian imagery. We used famous buildings, national dancing and traditional dress as our themes. We had a great deal of fun, modelling, copying poses and acting. There is a display in our classroom of all of the pupils and all of the pictures.

Horticulture and Outdoor learning

Horticulture not only provides us with an abundance of learning opportunities but wonderful health benefits too. Below are some of the activities we have been working on.

Nuthatch Class grew tomatoes from seed last summer, these plants did particularly well and have been cared for and tasted by young people across the school.



Lots of fun to be had by all. Horticulture engages the senses young people can touch and feel the soil, seeds and flowers, see the vibrant colours, hear the sound of nature and smell the amazing scents of the flowers.



Fine and gross motor skills



Scooping up the soil, placing the seeds in the pots and pouring the water, pushing mowers and digging all develop fine/gross motor control and strength. These skills are important and will support their learning within the classroom, such as improving their academic skills, for example writing, cutting and typing.

We're very lucky to have the use of a Pollytunnel so we will be growing throughout the autumn and winter months. So far, we have planted Turnips, beetroot and a range of flowers.

Scarecrow competition

Heron and Woodpecker class have been working very hard on a competition. We have been asked to design and make our own scarecrows. These will be collected from school and judged along with other schools. This has brought about wonderful team efforts and lots of laughs!



The young people have explored the garden learning about native creatures. Marley Mole is a favourite, and is teaching young people about where he lives and what he likes to eat.





HARVEST FESTIVAL

Students in Dove Class have been embracing the theme of Harvest by creating some Harvest Thanks Candles. Pupils spent time out in the autumn sunshine in our community collecting leaves, berries and flowers to decorate glass pots. Back in class, we used our fine motor skills to paint the jars with glue and stick on our preferred leaves. We then covered the whole lot in glitter (as all good art sessions should) and placed an LED candle inside them. From the outside you can see the beautiful colours autumn leaves create as the seasons change.

Barn Owl Class have been investigating seeds, using these to decorate pumpkins.



We also explored an autumn massage story about a seed growing into a tree



Kestrel & Finch

For our harvest festival celebration, we have made monoprints of shapes relating to fruits and vegetables harvested at the end of summer. Jess Kettell's gran also gave us some striking red leaves which we have made texture prints from and have included some real ones too in our display alongside Finch class.



"Harvest Time" poem

by
Harry Boothright

*As summer turns to autumn,
It's harvest time again.
Crops need picking quickly,
Before the winter rain.
It's harvest time.*

*Grandpa in his garden,
Picks tomatoes and broad beans.
We eat them for our dinner,
With all the other greens.
It's harvest time.*

*Tractors in the fields,
Working all the day.
Collecting every cabbage,
And bailing up the hay.
It's harvest time.*

*Berries in the hedgerows,
Apples on the tree.
Grandma puts them in a pie,
It's tasty for our tea.
It's harvest time.*

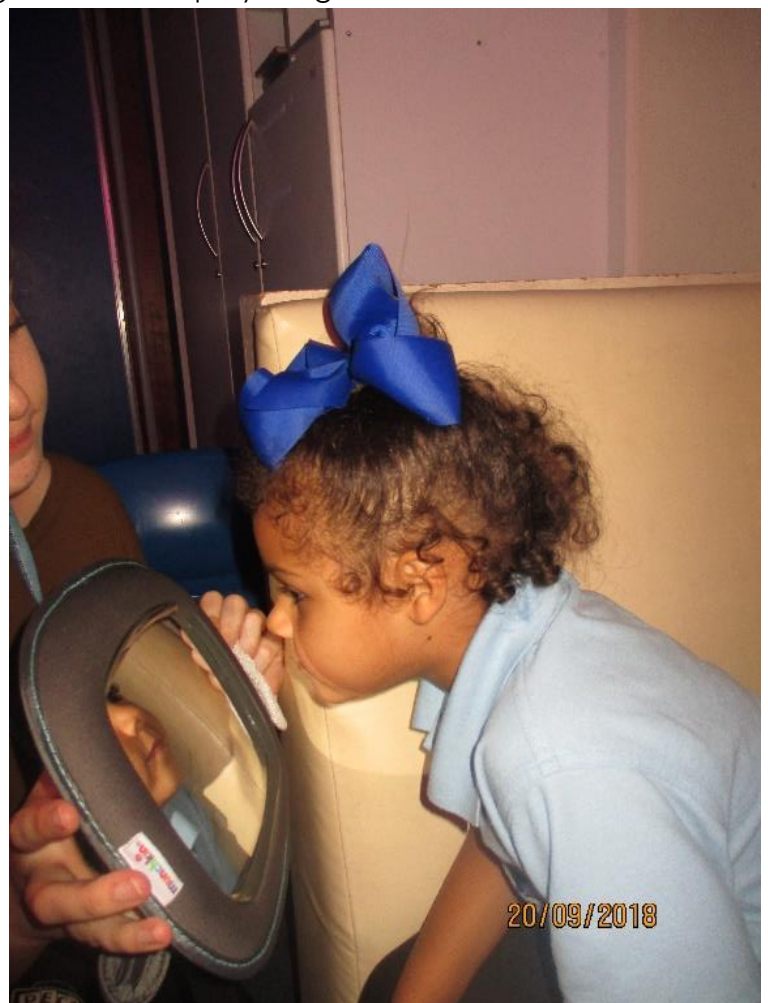
*Harvest time is lots of work,
But can be made fun too.
We thank our God for crops and plants,
That will feed me and you.
It's harvest time.*



Wren Class



This term Wren class have been exploring the IPC topic 'All about me'. We have been using mirrors to look at our reflections, as well as making paper plate faces and modelling faces out of playdough.





Nuthatch Class



Nuthatch class were excited to perform their class assembly this week about our topic 'Seeing the light'. They showed everyone all of the fantastic learning they have been doing like mixing paint to make light and dark colours, growing cress in a science investigation and making salt dough owls to go with their story 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'.



Dear parents/carers:

First, I would like to thank you for your support during this first term in Merlin Class. We have had a busy term and we are proud of how settled our new students Reece, Sharliyah, Erin and Bradley are.

During our first term, Merlin Class went to Henley to visit the River & Rowing Museum, and we had a lovely ride in a boat. We also went to Upton Court, and we helped to tidy up the Tudor Mansion. Afterwards, we had a fun afternoon playing different team games. We love Upton Court! Next term, we have already planned some exciting trips, such as going to the Vue Cinema to watch our favourite film - *The Greatest Showman*- and a visit to Windsor Castle at Christmas Time! By the way, everyone loved our performance at the Harvest Festival.

We learnt lots of new things: how to practice CPR, we started reading *The Boy in the Dress* by David Walliams in our Literacy lessons, in Maths we are using the Singapore maths scheme, we are preparing for Entry Level Science and Arts Awards, we are having music with Dominic, Drama, Food Technology and we are learning about photography... and we had a new dog in school called Diego!



We are looking forward to next term!

#wearemerlinclass: Tommy, Tom, Sebby, Joshua, Daniel, Yousuf, David, Sharliyah, Reece, Sam, Erin, Bradley.





EAGLES' AUTUMN TERM HIGHLIGHTS

This term has been great for us and we have had a lot of fun in and out of school. The following pictures are only snippets of what we have done.



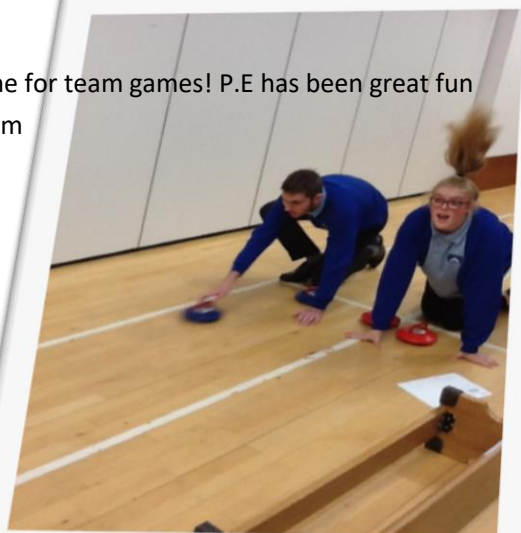
Ibi and Viviane doing shopping; reading a shopping list, finding items and paying for them



Libby using a fork to prepare a bed for planting; Ali enjoying his cooking session-Chop! Chop!



It is time for team games! P.E has been great fun this term



Libby having her hair done at College. Great confidence as she has a go. Go Libby! Go Libby!





Magpie Class visited Ufton Court for a day of 'Work ready skills'. In the morning we had a team briefing finding out about the structure of the day and what jobs we all needed to complete. The class then split into teams to clean and make the beds in each of the cabins. All pupils worked as a team and finished the day with strong independent skills. After all the hard work was done we all had fun playing Tag Rugby.





Starling Class

Our News

Starling Class are working on an ASDAN unit called Exploring Art. Last week we took our art outside and we weaved in and out of the fence.



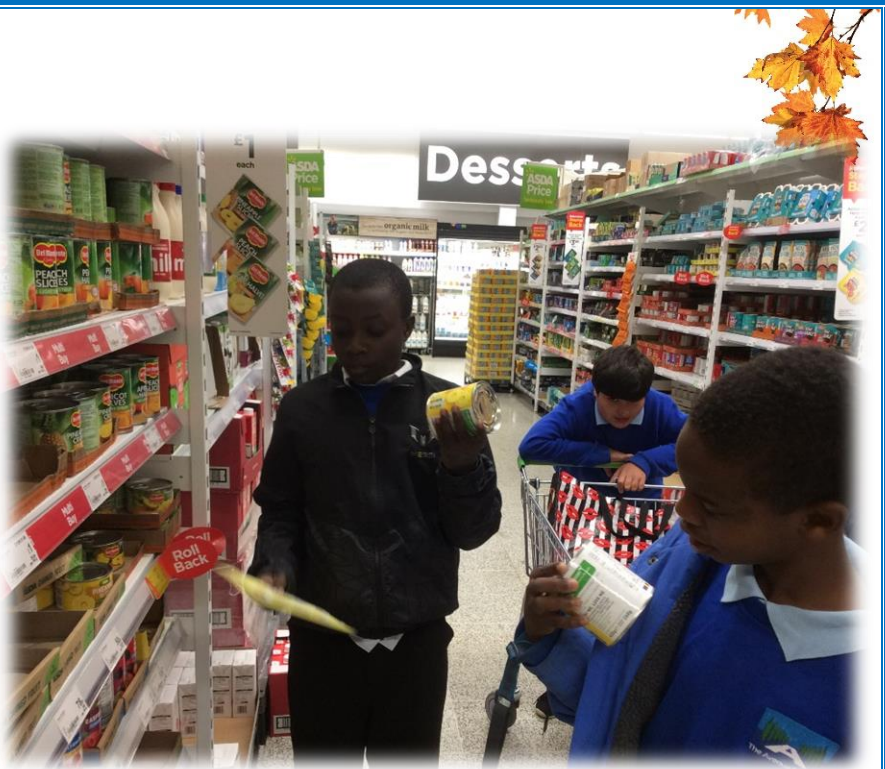
Heron Class

Heron Class have been following the ASDAN life skills challenge for our cookery lessons. We have been following step by step instructions to make some delicious meals. So far we have made fruit skewers, veggie wraps and most recently scrambled egg on toast!



Woodpecker Class

In Woodpecker Class, we are learning to make a simple hot lunch. First we need to do a shopping list, go shopping and then cook our own lunch. We have lots of fun when cooking and then eating. It tastes delicious.





Robin Class

In Robin Class we were getting ready for Harvest by joining in with autumnal activities. These included conker rolling, leaf rubbing and pine cone printing.

We also made raisin flapjack ready for our parents to taste at the Harvest assembly.



Kingfisher Class

We have had a great start to the academic year. This term it was all about getting to know our new friends in class and getting to know each other. We have had a great trip out to Dintons Pastures for our autumn walk, walking through the woods, rustling through the leaves and spending time in the park. We also had two birthday celebrations this term and we had fun celebrating. We especially loved the noisy balloons! This term we have also been participating in messy play and we are focusing on working on our core skills.





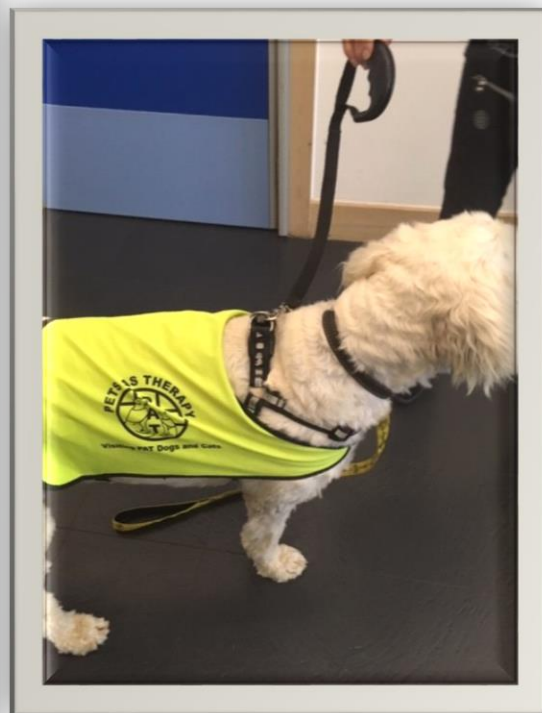
It is coming up to 4 years since our Animal Assisted Therapy Dog 'Gromit' has been visiting The Avenue School. Gromit and his owner Mandy are part of a charity organisation called Pets As Therapy. The charity strives to enhance health and wellbeing in the community through visits of trusted volunteers with their outside-assessed animals.

The aim of their visits to our school varies depending on the student. They have previously helped our pupils by providing a non-judgemental companionship when supporting them with anything from reading to eating issues.

The contact with the dog and child encourages physical interaction, which can really help put our students at ease. More recently, Gromit has helped to provide important sensory input for some students, as well as, in a couple of cases helping to tackle a fear of dogs.

We found Gromit and Mandy's support incredibly helpful and look forward to their continuing visits.

**PETS AS
THERAPY**



The Avenue School

School Terms & Holidays 2018 - 2019

September 2018							October 2018							November 2018							December 2018							
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January 2019							February 2019							March 2019							April 2019							
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May 2019							June 2019							July 2019							August 2019						
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Term 1 2018

Monday 3 September 2018 - Friday 19 October 2018

* Teachers' In Service Training days: Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 September (school closed for pupils)

Total days: 35

Term 2 2018

Monday 29 October 2018 - Thursday 20 December 2018

* Teachers' In Service Training days: Monday 29 October and Tuesday 30 October (school closed for pupils)

Total days: 39

Term 3 2019

Monday 7 January 2019 - Friday 15 February 2019

* Teachers' In Service Training day: Monday 7 January (school closed for pupils)

Total days: 30

Term 4 2019

Monday 25 February 2019 - Friday 5 April 2019

Total days: 30

Term 5 2019

Tuesday 23 April 2019 - Friday 24 May 2019

Total days: 23

Term 6 2019

Monday 3 June 2019 - Wednesday 24 July 2019

* Teachers' In Service Training day: Monday 3 June (school closed for pupils)

Total days: 38

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 2018/2019

Christmas	25-Dec-18	Good Friday	19-Apr-19	Spring Bank Holiday	27-May-19
Boxing Day	26-Dec-18	Easter Monday	22-Apr-19	August Bank Holiday	26-Aug-19
New Year	01-Jan-19	May Bank Holiday	06-May-19		



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

Please make a note of these dates

EVENT	DATE
<i>Last day of Term 1</i>	<i>Friday 19th October 2018</i>
<i>First Day of Term 2 for pupils</i>	<i>Wednesday 31st October 2018</i>
<i>Christmas Fayre</i>	<i>Friday 30th November 2018</i>
<i>Christmas Lunch</i>	<i>Wednesday 12th December 2018</i>
<i>Last day of Term 2</i>	<i>Thursday 20th December 2018</i>
<i>First day of Term 3 for pupils</i>	<i>Tuesday 8th January 2019</i>

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

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