

The Avenue School

# SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER

School Year 2018-2019

Term 3

### Destinations Fair 2019

Colleges, charities, community projects and information providers gathered in the square for our annual Destinations Fair. Parents of all secondary aged pupils were invited to explore options for their young people upon leaving school. The event was well attended, with parents and exhibitors making connections and learning about the needs of their young people.



Donna Hopkins from Our House, and Shawn Curcher from Reading College discussed the courses and opportunities for our pupil

'We are really pleased we attended, we've had some great chats with parents. We would be happy to return next year'

Exhibitor: Talentino!

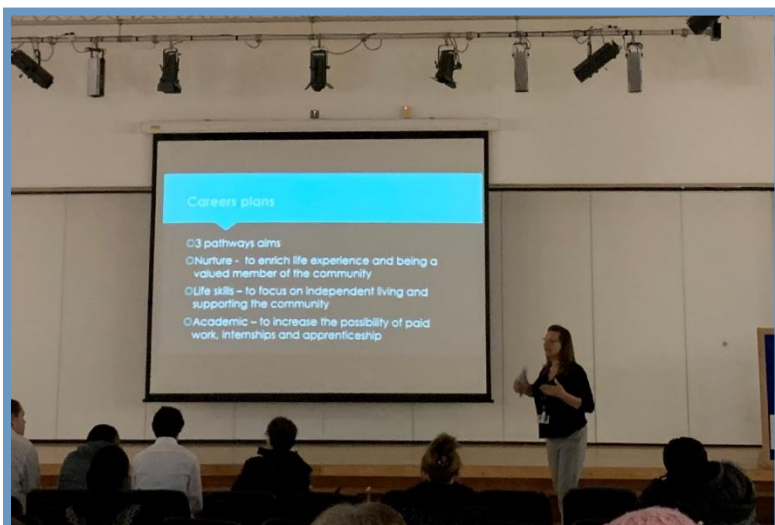
I've really enjoyed the event, its opened my eyes about what is out there for my son'

Parent



Parents in discussion with Dimensions—a charity supporting those with learning disabilities.

Parents in discussion with Dimensions – a charity supporting those with learning disabilities.



I really enjoyed it. There were lots of good things there'

Pupil

Carers and Work Related Learning Lead Helen Bardsley, discussing the importance of employee encounters to parents.

Thank you staff, parents and pupils supporting this event. In future, The Avenue School will be teaming up with Brookfields School and Addington School to deliver a twice yearly destinations event held across all 3 schools over a 2 year cycle.

## Our exhibitors





## Wren Class

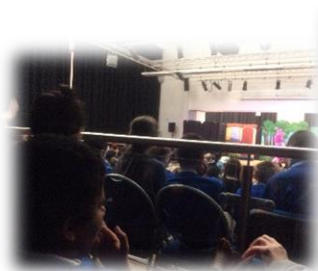
During a free flow session, the students in Wren Class choose the activities that they would like to explore.





## Swan Class

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January M&M Productions came to perform Jack And The Beanstalk to The Avenue School. Swan Class came prepared with snacks, cushions, and fiddle toys to be part of this colourful experience. All of the pupils managed the noise, lights and bustle of The Square really well. Some couldn't help moving along to the music! Well done Swan Class and thank you to M&M Productions.







Every Thursday a few classes enjoy a trip to Camp Mohawk, a day-centre that provides a range of activities, facilities and natural spaces for the children to explore and enjoy. We spend the morning there and arrive back just in time for lunch! Swan Class particularly enjoy the inside areas such as the TV room, soft play, sensory room and the art room, probably because it's a little too cold outside at the moment! We have learnt to share our space and resources since visiting Camp Mohawk and also have become much more aware of our bodies and attempting activities that might be out of our comfort zone.



## Swift Class



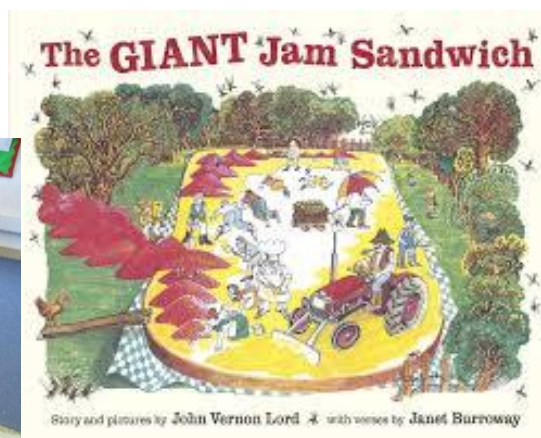
On Friday afternoons in Swift Class we have been exploring our creativeness through Music, Dance and Art. Everyone has enjoyed having a platform to perform and show off their musical skills (including some of the adults!) and has built confidence in terms of standing up in front of a group – which can be very scary! In Art, we have explored different types of painting and have even begun creating self-portraits of ourselves. We have been learning dance routines to songs to finish the week – one of our favourites is 'The Time Warp'.







## Goldcrest Class



'This term we have been reading The Jam Sandwich story and have made their very own sandwiches during their cooking lesson.'



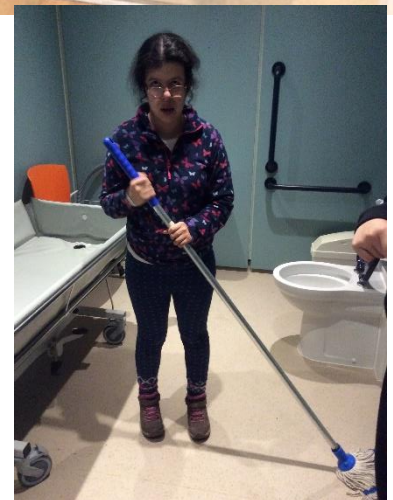
## Kestrel Class



### WORK AND SOCIALS!



Kestrels worked hard at Ufton Court preparing cabins and the dining area for visiting groups for work related learning. They have found time to do a sociable ASDAN unit on going for a drink with a chosen person too. What a productive January 2019





## Finch Class

Finch class enjoyed the performance by M&M of Jack and the Beanstalk, they made delicious pizzas in food Technology Sessions, enjoyed a visit to Prospect Park and Pets at Home for a pet care session.





## Dove Class



This term Dove Class 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.

## Heron Class

Heron class chose to celebrate Emily's life by going to Hollywood Bowl and Pizza Hut in Bracknell.





## Cormorant Class

Pupils in Cormorant class have been learning a new Life Skills topic this term about how to change their bed sheets.

All pupils have been learning how to remove a pillow case, bed sheet and duvet cover. We have had a great deal of fun in getting the duvet cover back onto the duvet, a task that many of us can struggle with. We are hoping our pupils will become more independent with their household tasks in the future.



## Eagle Class

This term has been very exciting for Eagles class. At the beginning of the term, we had an opportunity to visit the Reading Jewish Assembly (Synagogue) and we had a great time learning about the Torah and Jewish practices.



This term Eagle Class have also started their work experience at Ufton Court and it has been wonderful doing a wide range of jobs



We have also had opportunities of meeting local leaders particularly the Reading West Councillor Ellie Emberson, who talked to us about local job opportunities. It has been a wonderful Term.





## Starling Class

Starling Class have been out and about in the community

Our visit to the local park



Robert Burn's Day is celebrated every year in Scotland on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. Starling Class joined in with a ceilidh in The Square and enjoyed the dancing.





## Nuthatch Class

In January Nuthatch class went to Ufton Court for a residential trip. They had lots of fun doing many different activities like building cards from wood, feeding the farm animals and playing hide and seek in the woods at night time! A particular favourite was making their own fires, using sparks and cotton wool. When the fire was properly going they enjoyed roasting marshmallows.





## Barn Owl

Barn Owl Class have been privileged to work with musicians from Berkshire Maestros and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra this term, joining together for an hour every Wednesday to develop an original composition based on the students' ideas.

It has been wonderful to see our young people grow in confidence each week as they begin to anticipate and respond to the 'hello' song, with some of our pupils taking a short solo slot during our piece by the third session.







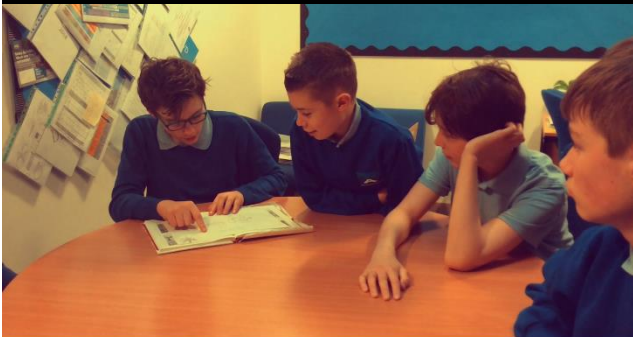


## Merlin Class

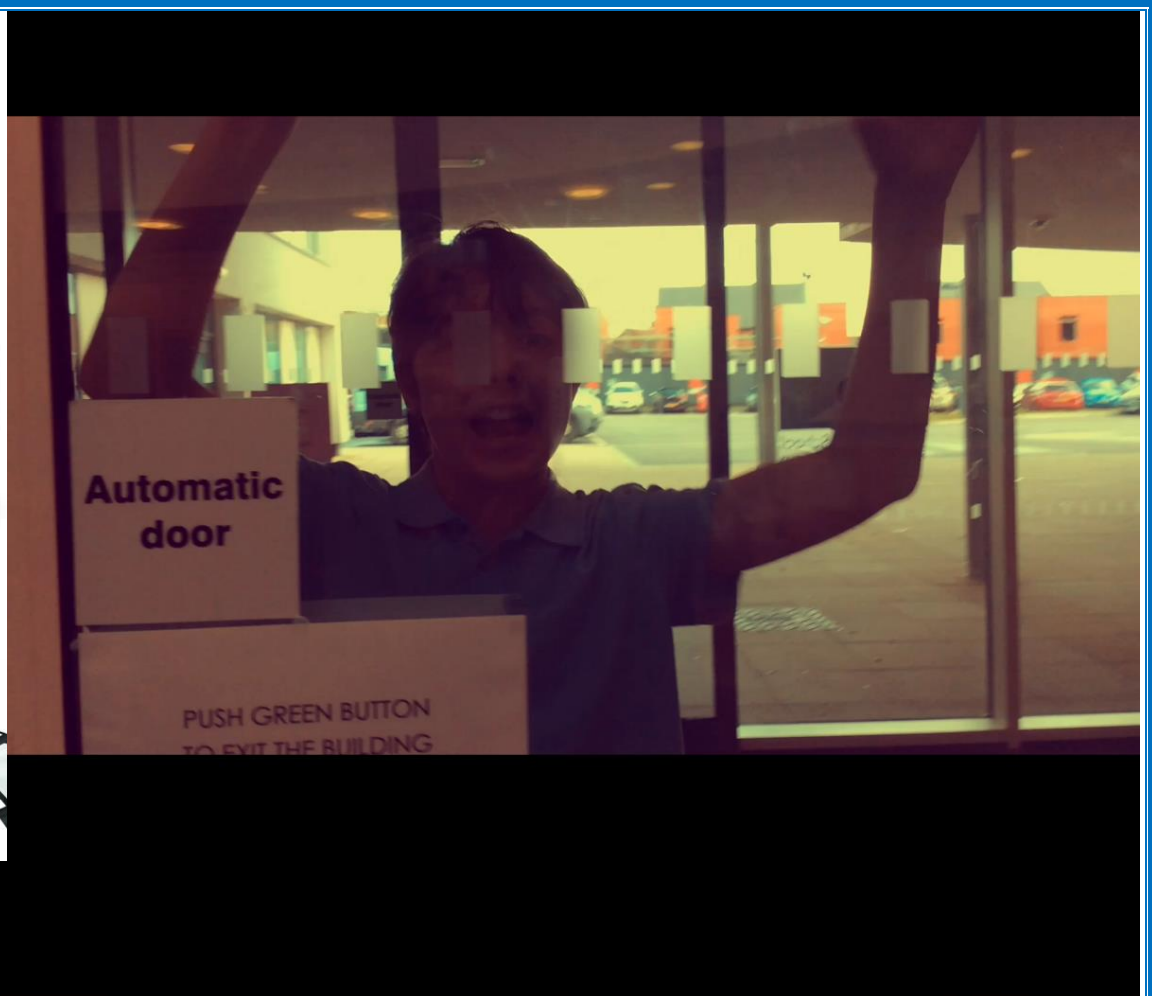
Students in Merlin Class worked hard during this academic term to finish our production "The Dark Untold Secret of Abbey Ruins" and we would like to release some still pictures for you. Students were in charge of all the different aspects to create a film: developing ideas, characters, planning scenes and creating the story board.

Our story starts when Elliot (Sam), a young boy from Reading who discovers an old book during his holidays in Barcelona. He brings the book back to the UK and shares the news with his friends. Students must follow the clues to solve the mystery of who is buried in The Abbey Ruins, but teachers will try to get first into Abbey.

# THE DARK UNTOLD SECRET OF ABBEY RUINS









## Music workshops with Berkshire Maestros and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

During this term, Barn Owl, Starling and Merlin Class enjoyed 4 fantastic workshops with Berkshire Maestros and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. During this project, pupils devised original pieces of music and song based on Aaron Copland's Hoe Down. Following this in-school project, 11 students from The Avenue School were invited to reprise their performance at the Royal Albert Hall on the 11th of March.



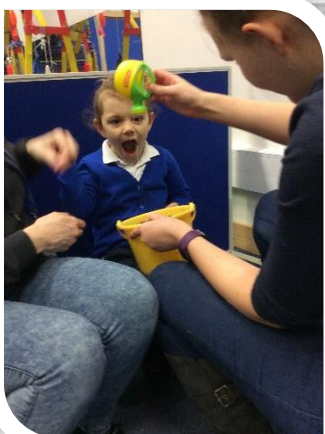


## Kingfisher Class

This term, Kingfisher Class had been learning about Changes. We have been having lots of fun investigating physical changes during sensory play and getting messy! We have explored changes in colour when mixing paint together, what happens to the texture of porridge oats and spaghetti when we cook them and what shapes we can make with playdough.

We took part in the sensory story Jasper's Beanstalk, where we experienced planting a seed and exploring what happened to the seed over time. As we recapped on this story, some of the students told us what props we need in order to plant the seeds. As part of the topic, we went on a school trip to the Lookout Discovery Centre in Bracknell which we all thoroughly enjoyed! We had lots of fun investigating and discovering lots of cause and effect activities. These included what music we turn on when we place our hands under coloured lights, how to get a ball move through a track using different pipes and mechanisms, how to make a beach ball float in the air, how to make a disc stay spinning on a turn table and which taps to turn on to guide a boat through the stream.

We have also been welcoming a new pupil who had been visiting Kingfisher class this term and we are looking forward to having them join us in the class after half term.







## Sparrow Swimming Sessions

Most of us in 1B go swimming with Katie every week in our school Hydrotherapy Pool. We are now really familiar with the sessions and really look forward to these times. We get really excited when it is swimming day! We are following the Rockhopper Series; a programme made up of nine awards that introduce learners to the joy of water. The Rockhopper Series develops water confidence and swimming skills, as well as increasing water safety awareness. All of us are making really good progress and have achieved award one, with some of us achieving award 2.



## RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch



Some of our young people took part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch. We sat really quietly watching our wildlife and making a tally of our birds. We will be looking at ways of getting more birds into our garden next year!



## Magpie Class



This term Magpie Class have been working with John from 'Nocturn Dance' alongside Dove Class. Each week we are investigating a huge box and discovering what could be inside. We then use our bodies to help discover how we can use the items inside the box and how we can connect to other people. We are having so much fun in the sessions working together with other pupils and staff.





## Progress in the Therapeutic Horticulture Garden

We are very pleased to share with you that the first stage

of our garden development is completed. Over a few weeks we have had a section of the garden landscaped and fenced off to create an Avenue Pupil Allotment. The area is at the very beginning of its journey and over the next few months we hope to have two Polytunnels, raised beds, seating and plenty of growing across the school.



Our Landscape Gardner Dan just getting started.



First Stage complete, with a light dusting of snow.

23/01/2019

The young people asked a lot of questions about the machines.





## The School Council Meets.....



### Cllr Ellie Emberson and Cllr Rachel Eden

Ellie and Rachel came together to speak to our students about how they became Councillors for Reading and what they do as Councillors. Ellie gave us an insight on what it is like being the youngest voted in Councillor as she is only 20 years old. They were really enjoyable to listen to and were really happy to have future links with The Avenue School.



### Alok Sharma MP

We were so pleased that Alok Sharma agreed to come to The Avenue to speak to our School Councillors and friends from Merlin, Magies, Kestrels and Eagle Class. Alok was happy to answer all the questions our students posed to him in a fun and informative way. The students kept him on his toes, asking questions ranging from 'how he became an MP?' to 'what school do your daughters go to?'. We even had a visit from Diego the Dog.



*Eagles class are going to be running a Tuck shop from 10am – 11am each day.*

*They will be selling a selection of biscuits, cookies, flapjacks and drinks. Prices from only 20p!*

***Tuck shop items are all school compliant so remember to treat yourself next term!***



Please use sQuid to top up for dinners on a regular basis, trips, food tech donations and Afterschool Club



# Career Education - Work Related Learning

Through our school's personal approach each student will discover their own strengths and preferences in the world of work, volunteering and community.

## Discovery & Determination

We deliver Careers and Work Related Learning across all of our 3 pathways, Nurture, Life Skill & Work Experience & Academic. Our aims are:

**Nurture & Engagement-** Through an individual approach and working as a team our curriculum focuses on the development of communication, social & emotional, physical development and contributing to the wider community



**The Practical and Life Skills –** To participate as an individual or group on work related skills & to engage with practical skills that are needed in adult life that enable individual access to social, cultural and leisure activities.

**Work Experience and Academic** -To participate as a group on life skills required for independent living and work related skills. Students experience a range of internal and external work placements.



Each of our students from year 7 to year 14 will have a work related and career plan for their year group. These plans are designed to be progressive and bridge the gap between education, independence and supported employment.

**Our career programme provides**

Multiple opportunities to get to know the world of work, understand what work is, explore their options and build on real experiences and Employer encounters annually for every year group



Every plan is available in adult and student's accessible versions on our website.

We aim to engage Students, Parents and Employers to achieve the eight Gatsby Bench Marks.

### Gatsby Bench Marks of Good Career Guidance

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance



We engage with external providers to assist us in delivering the eight Gatsby Bench Marks. The Avenue school works with:



Talentino to deliver careers at every level programme.



Careers and Enterprise Company help us to deliver the Strategy and we will be part of their national network.



Adviza for individual careers advice and plans for students in year 11 and 13

### Avenue School Careers Strategy December 2018

#### Avenue Students can expect their careers Journey to include:

- Individual work related learning & work experience linked to their pathway
- Access to the careers programme on our website
- Every student can expect to have an employer encounter every year from year 7 – 14
- All students will have access to their own careers record & take part in evaluations of internal and external work placements
- By the age of 16 each student will have 2 meaningful encounters or experiences of their future destinations or further education
- Careers programme to be update annually next review December 2019

#### Avenue School Responsibilities

We are responsible for the continuous improvement of our careers provision  
Our careers provision will be published on our website by December 2018 for Students, Parents, Staff and Governors  
We have a named Governor for careers  
We purchase careers activities from 'Quality Award' organisations



#### The Avenue School GATSBY BENCHMARKS

The Avenue school will meet all benchmarks by the end of 2020 using the Compass evaluation system and will report progress termly

#### The Avenue school will:

- Work hard to raise aspirations
- Engage and work with families
- Provide student centred career development for all students from year 7– 14
- Use best practise from transition reviews and EHCP's
- Provide authentic employer encounters
- Support career decision based on student aspirations, ability and needs

#### Advice and Guidance

- Careers guidance delivered by the Avenue School will be defined as 'the full range of activities under the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks'
- Personal guidance will be provided by trained staff within the school and sourced externally (Talentino & CDI )
- Helen Bardsley has the career plans for 2018/2019 including internal and external work placements and encounters.
- All students will have the opportunity to experience different types of work and volunteering to help make careers choices
- Annual careers programme by year group and pathway are published on our website

Helen Bardsley contact details Email [hbardsley@avenue.reading.sck.uk](mailto:hbardsley@avenue.reading.sck.uk) Telephone 01189375554



# The Avenue School

## School Terms & Holidays 2018 - 2019

September 2018							October 2018							November 2018							December 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
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			31						

January 2019							February 2019							March 2019							April 2019						
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	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

May 2019							June 2019							July 2019							August 2019						
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					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> AND 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.brigadeuniformdirect.uk.com)**

## The Avenue School

*Please make a note of these dates*

EVENT	DATE
<i>Last day of Term 3</i>	<i>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019</i>
<i>First Day of Term 4 for pupils</i>	<i>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019</i>
<i>School Photographs</i>	<i>28<sup>th</sup> February 2019</i>
<i>School Photographs</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> March 2019</i>
<i>Parents Evening</i>	<i>28<sup>th</sup> March 2019</i>
<i>Basil &amp; Crew mobile farm</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> April 2019</i>
<i>March of the Elephants</i>	<i>5<sup>th</sup> April 2019</i>

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

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**Charity Number 1127969.**