



The Avenue School

SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

School Year 2015-2016

Term 3



Ufton Court Staff Training/ Team Building Day.

The school year started for staff and some governors on 5th January at Ufton Court in the heart of the local Countryside.

Many pupils and staff have already had the pleasure of a residential experience at Ufton Court. Mary Harris wanted all staff to sample the therapeutic benefits of Ufton Court, this alongside the very competitive nature of The Avenue School Staff Team informed the format of the day.

With much trepidation the entire school staff and representative governors met in the great barn for drinks and welcome pastries. Four teams had already been selected and activities announced. The

day was spent hiding in woods, playing volley ball, making mud masks, lighting fires in the wood and in archery competitions. An Avenue Quiz gave food for thought, and brought back happy memories, over lunch. The winning team then battled amongst themselves, in an archery competition, to find five overall winners. While this was happening other staff either took a tour of the wonderful Manor House or took a 'Ballistic Challenge', basically firing water bombs at a parachute held by their colleagues in the hope of getting them very wet!.

Despite the apprehension prior to the day great fun and camaraderie was enjoyed by all, preparing us for the challenges that the New Year will present.

The more serious element to the day was considering the benefits of Ufton Court how to decide which of our pupils should take advantage of them. The staff team discussed criteria for selecting which pupils were offered the Ufton Court opportunity in the future. A procedure is now in place to support the selection of pupils.

We are very grateful for the reception and support we received from The Ufton Court Team who gave us an amazing day of activities and refreshments.

Some of our old favourite activities were again a major hit.



These included archery and camouflage challenge.



Changes in Class A

This term, the Early Years IPC topic has been Changes.



Through this topic, Class A have engaged in foundation subjects, such as history, geography, and D&T, as well as science. We have also experienced and explored our topic through stories such as 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle and 'Tadpole's Promise' by Jeanne Willis.



Class A have particularly enjoyed learning about the changes in frogs during their life cycles. We have been busy finding frogspawn in jelly, hunting for tadpoles hiding under leaves and stones in water trays, and catching frogs in our fishing nets. Through exploring models and props in sensory habitats the children have developed their scientific understanding of life cycles. They have also used their experiences to support their writing, counting and speech, as well as to make some fantastic art work.

This term we have been keeping a close eye on our class pet, Sammy the Giant African Land Snail, who joined us in November. We have seen the change in Sammy's size and think there is a lot more growing to go!



The Avenue School Football team

On Thursday 21st January the school football team played in a special needs schools football tournament at Reading FC Madejski Dome.

We played in 8 matches and worked very hard as a team. We managed to score 4 goals! 2 by Gideon 1 by Charlie Ashton and 1 by Ryan Cullingham

The team had a fantastic time and are looking forward to the competitive tournament.



A Trip to the The Look Out with 2A



Ryan's Royals

On Saturday 23rd January The Avenue School had the amazing opportunity to unveil our new vehicle outside the Megastore at the Madejski Stadium before the match against Sheffield Wednesday.

Ryan and his family were driven to the stadium in the car and Sky Sports News were waiting for him to exit the vehicle where they took photographs and interviewed him which was then shown on the Sky Sports Channel later that evening.

The sight of the car in all its splendour, emblazoned in bright logos, spurred a lot of interest from fans, and it gave us the chance to not only explain that the vehicle was bought from the proceeds of the auction of the very special #Ryan's Royals football kit that the

Reading footballers wore at the match versus Blackburn Rovers last year but also to thank them for their generosity and support during the whole project.

Ryan and his family were then guests of Reading Football Club and enjoyed hospitality in a box where they could watch the match.



3B Highlights

This term the pupils in 3b have been working extremely hard and we thought we would share some of our highlights! Junior and Demi-Lee-Mea have been developing their listening and matching skills through a variety of activities. Jaroslav has been gaining familiarity with the school's new Eye Gaze machine. Hafsa has been moving around the classroom independently! Eniola has been really enjoying exploring story props and Mya has been developing functional use of her hands.



The day we went to meet the Queen!

7A and 7B were treated to a visit to Kensington Palace on Friday. We went to take part in a workshop created by Time Explores. We got to hear all about Queen Victoria and what she was like when she was a little girl. We got to have a look around her nursery room where she was born and we even got to play with some of her toys! After the workshop we looked around the palace and saw lots of Victorian dresses and paintings. Next term we will be taking part in the Time Explorers competition and creating some artwork linked to our learning about Queen Victoria.



Special Guest

The school was pleased to open its doors to The Rt Hon. Nicky Morgan MP - Secretary of State for Education last week. She enjoyed her visit as much as pupils and staff enjoyed showing off their skills in such a wonderful learning environment. She was greeted by two members of the school pupil council. Here are just a few of the photos we took to commemorate the occasion.



The Avenue School Website <http://www.avenue.reading.sch.uk>

We are pleased to say we have recently added more detail on the website class pages. Parents can see the topics that are being covered and homework for individual classes is added as a new feature. This is as a result of the feedback from the parent questionnaire. We hope you enjoy looking at these pages and the lovely pictures but please be aware that whilst we have permission to use photos you should not attempt to copy these for any other purpose. Thank you

CHARITY STALL

The school reception charity stall has now raised £7480.00 for the school since it was set up in 2011. This school year we have banked £402.00

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.

Message from our Headteacher

A letter went out last term to all parents informing them of my intention to reduce my work to four days a week. Governors have overseen this change and this plan has now been implemented. Mary Harris, a highly experience Deputy will be Acting Head on those days. My day out is not fixed, but the reception team will be able to tell you who is the Head and responsible for the school on any given day. This arrangement has been in place since January and we have not encountered any difficulties with this and we have no reason to believe there will be any problems in the future.

Dame Sue

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

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School Terms & Holidays 2015 - 2016

| January 2016 | | | | | | | February 2016 | | | | | | | March 2016 | | | | | | | April 2016 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 29 | | | | | | | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

| May 2016 | | | | | | | June 2016 | | | | | | | July 2016 | | | | | | | August 2016 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|-------------|--|
| Term 4 2016 | Monday 22 February 2016 - Thursday 24 March 2016 Total days: 24 |
| Term 5 2016 | Monday 11 April 2016 - Friday 27 May 2016 Total days: 34 |
| Term 6 2016 | Monday 6 June 2016 - Friday 22 July 2016 * Teachers' In Service Training day: Monday 6 June (school closed for pupils) Total days: 36 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 6 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 2015/2016

| | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| Christmas | 25-Dec-15 | Good Friday | 25-Mar-16 | Spring Bank Holiday | 30-May-16 |
| Boxing Day | 26-Dec-15 | Easter Monday | 28-Mar-16 | August Bank Holiday | 29-Aug-16 |
| New Year | 01-Jan-16 | May Bank Holiday | 02-May-16 | | |

The Avenue School

Please make a note of these dates

| EVENT | DATE |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| First Day Of Term 4 | Monday 22 nd February 2016 |
| Parents Evening | Monday 7 th March 2016 |
| The Avenue School Book day | Thursday 10 th March 2016 |
| School photographer | Thursday 17 th March 2016 |
| School photographer | Friday 18 th March 2016 |
| Basil & Crew Farm | Tuesday 22 nd March 2016 |
| Easter Holidays- Last day of term 3 | Thursday 24 th March 2016 |
| First day of term 4 | Monday 11 th April 2016 |

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A National Support School