



The Avenue School

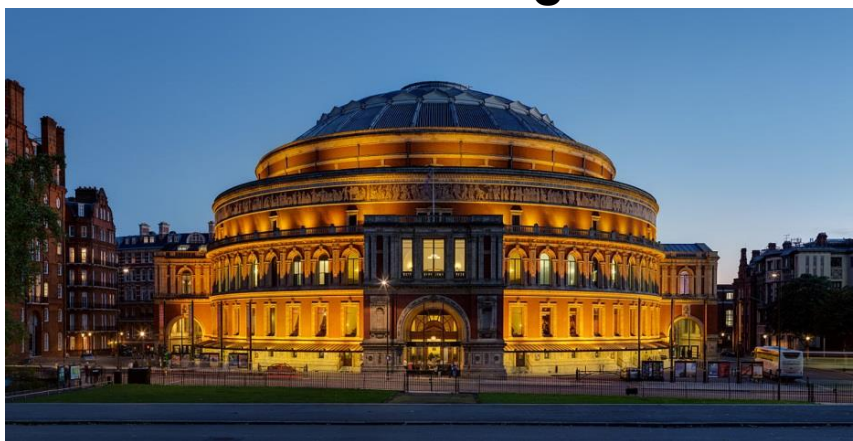
SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

School Year 2015-2016

Term 6

Oh What a Night!!!



What an absolutely amazing time the pupils, staff and parents had on Tuesday 14th June 2016 performing at the Armonico Concert which was held at The Royal Albert Hall in London.

Over the many years I have worked at The Avenue School I have experienced many high points; Shakespeare Schools Festivals, Belmas, Performing Arts Weeks, Christmas Shows to name but a few but this event topped them all!

We left school at 1.30pm along with a few parents and had a safe and comfortable coach journey into London. When we arrived the parents left us as we entered the iconic building. Just the sight of it takes your breath away!

On arrival other schools were already rehearsing on the main stage but Will & Patrick, our Armonico mentors, met us and we, along with The Ridgeway Special School who had travelled from Warwick, had a quick rehearsal in our dressing room before they took us to the stage for another rehearsal with the band.

After tea we were escorted back to the auditorium for the main event. We sat in the first 2 rows, within touching distance of the stage, and listened and watched as two thousand school children from all over England sang. The sound was unbelievable!

Three songs in and it was our turn! Whilst the Director of Armonico introduced us the 'choir' assembled on stage.

The pride Symon & I felt watching them perform their Brazilian style songs on stage at one of the most famous concert halls in the world in front of an audience of thousands is hard to put into words.

To say our school was the highlight of the show would be an understatement. They sang loudly and proudly, they danced, they laughed and they never put a foot wrong. The audience cheered and clapped as the choir returned to their seats and I had tears in my eyes with happiness.

All too soon the interval came and we had to return to our dressing room to get ready to go home. The Director made a special point of visiting us during the interval to thank us for making the concert such a great success.

After saying our goodbyes to The Ridgeway School and Will & Patrick we made our way out of the building. Just as we came out of our dressing room we (literally) bumped into Kevin & Karen Clifton, of Strictly Come Dancing fame, who were dancing in the second half of the show. They were both very happy to pose for photos and to talk to us about the concert, which rounded off the evening nicely!

The journey home was special because everyone was feeling elated at their triumphant evening, either as a performer or as a proud parent.

We are hoping to be involved again next year so when I know the date make sure you keep it free!

Here are some photographs to give you an idea of what the day held. We are also hoping to purchase a DVD of the concert so the memories will stay with us forever.





Bike Club

On Tuesday afternoons we run a bike club, it is run by Michael and Pauline. Initially the club was set up to teach the children to ride a bike but recently we have introduced life skills to the sessions. We have traffic lights and a pedestrian crossing. We teach the children road safety, when to stop, where to stop and get ready to go by paying attention to the traffic lights sequence. We also want to introduce a zebra crossing to teach the children to give priority to the rights of way to pedestrians, who may be standing waiting or approaching a crossing.



Her Majesty is 90!

On 21st April The Avenue School wished her majesty a Very Happy Birthday!

Mary was determined that we would celebrate this historic milestone in style. We enjoyed lunch in the style of a 1940's street party. Kitchen and school staff worked together to provide a delicious lunch finished off by Jelly and Ice Cream. We enjoyed live entertainment which encouraged many of the pupils to "dance in the street". Our own Jess was 30 on the day and so became our "Queen for the Day". A big thank you to our very own in house Patisserie Chief Liam Paice who made the most amazing cake. All staff, pupils and governors were given a specially designed mug to commemorate the day. We are now looking forward to the Queens 100th birthday.





THE AVENUE SCHOOL PROM

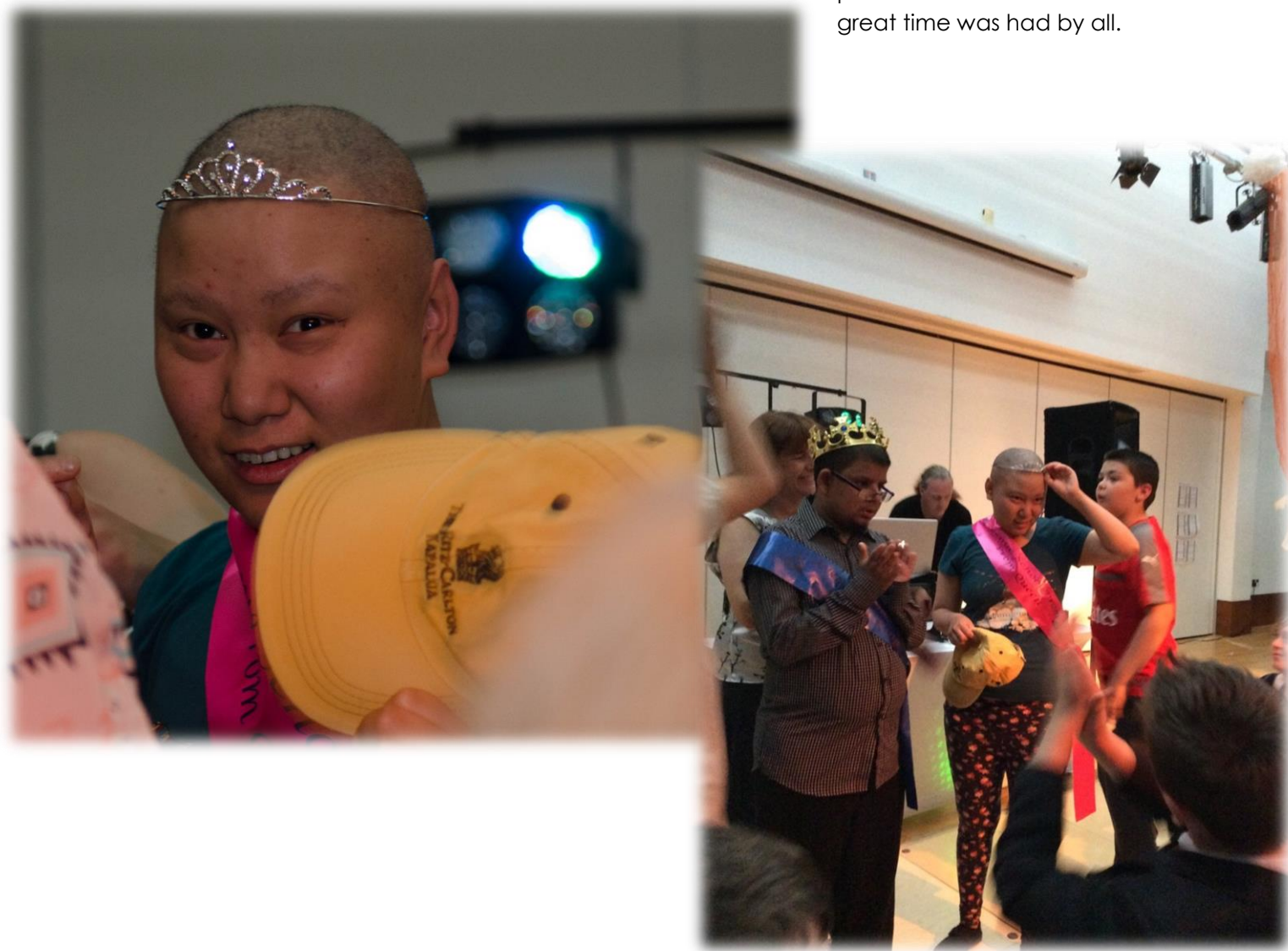


On Friday 8th July we held a leavers assembly to say goodbye to Asim who has been with us for 16 years and Lily who has also been with us since 2011 but has been a lovely member of our community. In the afternoon the whole of secondary attended the Avenue School Prom. We spent some time getting ready, putting our special clothes on, and the girls put their make up on. We then wandered down to the square where Pauline had started the disco, and we had a great time dancing to the music. We also enjoyed dressing up for the photo booth, with hats and wigs. Food, kindly donated by parents, was being eaten throughout the afternoon.





Towards the end of the afternoon we crowned our Prom King and Queen, Asim and Lily our two leavers and presented them with their sashes. A great time was had by all.



School Dinners



From 1st August we will no longer be part of the contract with Chartwells to provide our school meals. The Avenue School will be managing our meals ourselves.

We will have a new manager – Pat, she will work with Lea-anne and Joy who already work in our kitchen. Pat is keen to work with our pupils to find out about their favourite foods and those that they are not so keen on.

In addition to the hot food options, jacket potatoes or a sandwich will be available every day.

Meals will continue to cost £2.10 per day however we would like to offer an option. Pupils who would like a larger portion each day can pay £2.25. Both size meals will include a main meal choice, pudding and fruit.

We are planning to introduce an electronic payment method for those who would like to use it. In the meantime cheques from 1st September should be made payable to The Avenue School, please make it clear whether you are paying for a £2.10 or £2.25 meal.

the
School Day
just got
Healthier



Charity Stall

As you are probably aware the school has a charity stall situated in its Reception area. We are always pleased to receive donations of items for the stall. We need items in excellent condition please. If you know a company or retail outlet that have any end on line items that they no longer want and are prepared to donate please speak to them on our behalf. We really have had some amazing items Every penny goes into our school fund to help to pay for those extra items to enhance the school lives of our wonderful pupils.



Holidays are fine, but not in term time please

Please think about your child's education and book your holidays in the school

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](mailto: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

Message from the Headteacher

We have come to the end of another busy year. It is so good to be able to say that we have another outstanding Ofsted judgement under our belt and that the school is relaxed and happy and moving forward.

It is always a sad time of year when we have to say goodbye to staff and some pupils this year is no exception in that we say goodbye to Asim and Lily two of our wonderful pupils. We wish them both well in whatever they do. We also say goodbye to Joni who joined us in 2014 and Beth who has been with us since 2009. They have both contributed so much to the school and the positive outcomes for our pupils, but Beth in particular has shared the enthusiasm for 'things historic' as well as working across the entire school to support pupils in creating fabulous artwork and displays. Thank You

We also say goodbye to Janine Rutland who has worked as physiotherapist supporting many pupils and families over the years as well as advising and guiding staff in meeting individual pupil needs. We wish her well for the future and thank her for all she has done for the school.

Have a great Summer everyone and for those who are returning come back refreshed and ready for what I hope will be another amazing year for me to end my time as Head.

Dame Sue Bourne

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***July to September is a busy time for ALL uniform providers!**

Place your order BEFORE 7th AUGUST for Delivery Before the Start of Term



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The Avenue School

School Terms & Holidays 2016 - 2017

September 2016							October 2016							November 2016							December 2016						
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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							31																				

January 2017							February 2017							March 2017							April 2017						
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May 2017							June 2017							July 2017							August 2017						
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														31													

Term 1 2016

Monday 5 September 2016 - Friday 21 October 2016

* Teachers' In Service Training day: Monday 5 September (school closed for pupils)

Total days: 35

Term 2 2016

Monday 31 October 2016 - Wednesday 21 December 2016

* Teachers' In Service Training day: Monday 31 October and Tuesday 1 November (school closed for pupils)

Total days 38

Term 3 2017

Wednesday 4 January 2017 - Friday 10 February 2017

* Teachers' In Service Training day: Wednesday 4 January (school closed for pupils)

Total days: 28

Term 4 2017

Monday 20 February 2017 - Friday 7 April 2017

Total days: 35

Term 5 2017

Monday 24 April 2017 - Friday 26 May 2017

Total days: 24

Term 6 2017

Monday 5 June 2017 - Friday 21 July 2017

* Teachers' In Service Training day: Friday 21 July (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 2015/2016

Christmas	25-Dec-16	Good Friday	14-Apr-17	Spring Bank Holiday	29-May-17
Boxing Day	26-Dec-16	Easter Monday	17-Apr-17	August Bank Holiday	28-Aug-17
New Year	01-Jan-17	May Bank Holiday	01-May-17		

The Avenue School

Please make a note of these dates

EVENT	DATE
Last day of term 6	Friday 22 nd July 2016 (finish 1.15pm)
First day of Term 1(school year 2016-17)	Tuesday 6 th September 2016
Parent Support Group	Friday 30 th September 2016
Shakespeare	Tuesday 18 th October 2016
Last day of Term 1	Friday 21 st October 2016
First day of Term 2	2nd November 2016



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

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email: admin@avenue.reading.sch.uk

Charity Number 1127969.

A National Support School