

Newsletter

Spring Term 2 2018



Avalon School
Learning for Life

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Spring 2 Round Up

Parent Training

We are delighted that our parent training course for parents of young people with autism and anxiety has gone so well. Feedback has been really positive and this group will develop further. Watch this space! Huge thanks to the two governors who led this course: Teresa and Sabrina. Congratulations to Sue Philcox and Sabrina who delivered a presentation on this to 80 people at the celebratory event in London on Tuesday! This initiative was supported by the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust.

Healthy Living

You will have noticed, I'm sure, that we are strengthening our focus on developing healthy lifestyles. For example there are now two weekly lunchtime walking clubs attended by pupils and staff and very much enjoyed by all. Some pupils consider it a running club and have shown real endurance for quite a number of laps of the field! However, it is not a competition, we're all just trying to challenge ourselves and be healthy. We will develop this theme next term and look at further ways of becoming an increasingly healthy school.

Environmental Youth Award

We have just heard that we are the 2018 winners of this award for the Somerset region! We will receive a cup and prize money at the Royal Bath and West Show. We will be receiving a father visit by judges as part of the national competition.

We wish you all a happy and relaxing Easter break, and hopefully the sun may shine a little!

Preparation for Adulthood Support

We are pleased to continue to offer parents and carers of Year 10 and above students support sessions to access further information about services and provision for adulthood. Individual 30 min sessions with an Adult Transition worker from Somerset Social Services and an Avalon staff member can be booked through the school. They are an opportunity to discuss housing, employment and support options available and gather student and parents views on how Avalon School can help support your young person in their possible future plans.

New Life Topic

This term, our topic in KS3 has been 'New Life'. To complement our work towards creating a wildlife conservation area, **3H** have been busy building bug hotels and a wormery to observe the way common insects live in our local environment.

Here are pictures of some of us building a wormery. We worked as a team taking turns. Our target was to count out 2 bowls of each material and identify the name and colour of the natural materials used. We also practised our communication skills by describing the different textures using the terms rough, smooth, soft and hard.

Our next step is to find out and record what activities have taken place.



3 Purple have visited different places in the local area, looking at nature and signs of new life.

During the first week of this half-term, we visited Shapwick Heath and made a collection of natural objects, listened for wildlife and spent some time in the hides looking for wild animals.

Back at school, we have used our learning from our visits across the curriculum. We have been writing recounts of our visits in English and have been developing our nature area at the bottom of the field during our lessons during our community and volunteering lessons.



3 Green were lucky enough to visit to the beautiful Shapwick Heath in February to get ideas for their own projects this term, including making bird boxes, digging a pond to encourage more wildlife to our school and writing a descriptive recount of our day out. The pupils loved looking out for different kinds of birds such as herons and robins, and were excited when they heard a woodpecker close by! We spent a long time quietly watching the lake for otters to appear but they must have been feeling shy that day, though the splashes we saw told us they were there.



4EM

Sadly the end of term marks the end of 4EM's volunteering term at Westhay Moor with Somerset Wildlife Trust. This experience has been valuable and it has been wonderful watching student's confidence in themselves and their ability grow together with their persistence and engagement skills. Students have been using tree loppers to cut young tree saplings, moving wood and preparing and burning waste wood. All students have demonstrated sensible and safe behaviour with equipment. Special mention to Ben, Eve, Cerys and Cerys who worked in the pouring rain for 45 minutes cutting down trees independently (and enthusiastically!) and to Tom who demonstrated persistence in using a saw to cut down a thicker tree sapling with support. Well Done 4EM!



4L Photography

This term in art pupils in 4L have been working towards their Photography unit for their art accreditations. Pupils have been learning about composition including viewpoints, pattern, texture, line and colour in photography. They have also been learning some technical photography skills using a dSLR camera. Pupils have experimented with aperture, using a wide aperture to conceal/blur a background and a small aperture to get everything looking sharp. They have also experimented with shutter speed to capture movement using a fast shutter speed to freeze movement and a slow shutter speed to blur movement. Pupils have made great progress with their photography skills and all pupils are using camera settings to focus their photographs and have shown great perseverance when photos haven't come out as they have expected.

Travis has been particularly enthusiastic and has started taking photographs at home. He is also noticing and commenting on complementary and harmonious colours in the environment.

Here are just a few of the wonderful photographs 4L have taken so far:



Photo taken by Luke T using a slow shutter speed to capture the movement of the light.



Photo taken by Darrell using a wide aperture to blur the background and keep the spider in focus.



Photography taken by Jasmine using a fast shutter speed to freeze movement.

KS4 Sport

This term 4K and 4L have been learning skills related to basketball in their physical education lessons, including passing, dribbling and shooting. Pupils have demonstrated great focus and talent when learning and practicing these skills.



Swimming Progress

In swimming lessons William from KS3 has made exceptional progress. He has gone from not wanting to get into the pool, to swimming without a woggle float for the first time this term.

Walk for WaterAid

Pupils throughout the school are trying to improve their fitness by walking as much as possible, in Walking Club, PE lessons and by wearing FitBits and pedometers around school. We are collecting records of each class's 'step totals' on a chart in the hall. At the end of term we will work out how many steps we have done as a whole school. Did you know that the average person in Africa has to walk 8,000 steps to access clean, fresh water?



We are also linking our walking with support for our whole school charity WaterAid. Sponsor forms were sent home at the beginning of this term and we are very grateful for any donations you can give.

Good News for Samba Club

We are delighted to have been successful in a bid of £350 from EMI Music Foundation to help us buy new instruments for our lunchtime Samba club. The pupils are really excited and looking forward to playing them.

Sixth Form Activities

Enterprise Project - Upcycled Bird Feeders

Students have been extremely busy with this term's Enterprise project. They have now received a total of 52 orders for mug and jar bird feeders! They have been working well together as a team to carry out a number of roles to ensure that the project is run effectively. Some students have been learning how to collate data in a chart to check that all orders are paid for and items are received.



Jean Rees Sixth Form Collaboration

Throughout the year, Avalon 6th Form have been making links with Jean Rees 6th Form students. This term, students have joined Jean Rees students to collaboratively participate in invasion games in Chilton Trinity Sports hall. They have enjoyed participating in a range of ball skills including bench ball, basketball, netball, football and tag rugby. Students have really enjoyed interacting with other 6th Form students from a different setting. They have also enjoyed seeing how many more steps they can achieve on their new fitness watches!



Work Experience



Some of our Sixth Form students are working towards Employability skills accreditations. They have been exploring the health and safety requirements in a place of work and have been busy finding health and safety signs around their work experience placements. The students have been demonstrating they are able to work hygienically and safely in a work place. In the photograph above, a student has been safely using specialist equipment at Burns the Bread bakery to slice tomatoes to

Spinning

This term Sixth Form have been attending spinning classes at Tor Leisure in Glastonbury. The students have new fitness watches which they have been using to track how their heart beat changes before and after a spinning class. In class, students have also been recording the number of steps they complete each day.



Happy Easter!



Join me for fun at Avalon School Easter Activities

Wednesday 28th March, 2pm - 4pm
Easter Play Day and Easter Treat Making
Cost £6.00 per child, Carer/Parent free

Thursday 29th March, 2pm - 4pm
Easter Craft Making including Easter Baskets, Easter Cards, Novelty Egg Decorating, Easter Cross Decorating and Easter Masks.
Cost £6.00 per child, carer/parent free

Wednesday 4th April, 2pm-4pm
Easter Play Day and Easter Egg Hunt
Cost £6.00 per child, carer/parent free

Friends and Family Welcome.
Refreshments will be provided.

All Children MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult.
For more details please contact Angela Bolton on 01458 443081



Hydrotherapy Pool Fundraising

Friends of Avalon PTA have now raised 78% of the total amount to fund the cost of our Hydrotherapy Pool. We now need the final £238,861 to reach our goal allowing us to begin building the pool in the Summer.

Please see 'How you can help' on our website.

Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme update



Thank you to all who have voted for the Hydrotherapy Pool appeal in Glastonbury Tesco during January and February. We hope to be notified of the amount of funding they have awarded our appeal at the end of March. Fingers crossed for top spot!

Key Dates for Next Term

Coffee Morning with Angela [PFSA]	Wednesday 21 st March 2018 10.00 – 12.00 noon
World Water Day – bring your trainers for walking	Thursday 22 nd March 2018
Easter Holidays	Monday 26 th March – Friday 6 th April 2018
Return to school for pupils	Monday 9 th April 2018
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 11 th April 2018
May Day Holiday	Monday 7 th May 2018
Coffee Morning with Angela [PFSA]	Wednesday 16 th May 2018 10.00 – 12.00 noon
Spring Half Term	Monday 28 th May – Friday 1 st June 2018
Return to school for pupils	Monday 4 th June 2018

Bag 2 School Collection – Monday 23rd April

Are you spring cleaning your wardrobe? Please send any good quality second hand clothing that can be re-used, paired shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties and soft toys. All proceeds will be donated to our Hydrotherapy appeal. Thank you.