



## Summer 1 Round Up



Dear parents and carers,

I thought I'd share a few highlights from this half term. I couldn't resist starting this newsletter with the photograph above! It's taken at Kilve Court Camp this term. Pupils had a wonderful time doing all sorts of activities such as abseiling, circus skills, climbing wall and beach and tropaquaria.



Here are some pupils doing their shelter building activity. Staff were proud of the pupils' individual steps towards independence that were achieved and the way they participated whole heartedly. Pupils were justly proud too!

**Lions of Zululand:** Their recent visit was, in the words of one of our pupils 'inspirational and uplifting'. Parents who joined in the celebrating song and dance afterwards said 'we need more of that!' Do read more in this newsletter!

**Bus Buddies:** Two Sixth Form students are currently taking part and they have now learned to identify the landmarks at which they need to press the bell to stop the bus where they need to get off.

Wishing you all a good happy holiday next week!

Alison Murkin  
Head Teacher



Art Enterprise clubs artwork is currently being displayed at the Clarks HQ. Some members of the group attended the grand unveiling on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May. They were welcomed by a fan club and artwork is flying off the shelves!!

**New General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** applies from **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018**. Our updated **privacy notice** is available to view or download in the policy area of our website, or on request from the school office.

Email: [sch.610@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sch.610@educ.somerset.gov.uk) Tel: 01458 443081

### 3H 'The Secret Garden' topic

Our focus this term has been set around the beautiful fiction text 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett. In science and citizenship lessons we have tended our own garden. We have sown runner bean plants and learned what happens when they grow from bean to plant.

We all took part in nurturing them and learned the names of different parts of a plant such as stem, leaf and root. We bought compost and canes in a garden centre and potted the bean shoots into plant pots. Finally, we planted them out into our raised beds.

Our next step is to keep them watered and watch them grow up the canes. We are waiting to discover the colour of the flowers?



### 3P 'The Secret Garden' topic

As part of this topic, we have been designing and making our own miniature gardens, choosing what we would like to put in them.

We have visited Combe Hill Woods and Ham Wall, to look at other outdoor spaces, collecting the materials we needed to make our gardens.

We have also continued the theme of 'The Secret Garden' through our maths learning and have spent time outside counting, measuring, weighing and comparing lengths. The class have been developing their maths vocabulary and have been developing their skills of working together.

The recent good weather has meant that we have really been able to embrace this theme and enjoy learning outside.



### 3G 'The Secret Garden' topic

We've read the book, and planned and written our very own versions of the story in English. We went to Lytes Cary, which has its own Secret Garden, to get some ideas and collect materials in order to design and make miniature gardens. The pupils had some great ideas, such as making washing lines out of string and wood, and using glue guns to make benches out of lolly sticks! They turned out brilliantly, and 3G felt really proud of them as you can see!



### 4EM Transport in the Community

This term pupils in 4EM have been using public transport to travel to Glastonbury to visit the Bay Tree Café. Compared to our fortnightly travels on the public bus in the Autumn Term all pupils have made progress in their confidence to communicate with the bus driver. They are able to tell the driver where they are going, exchange money and collect a ticket with little support. Pupils are working on their communication skills with non-familiar adults while visiting the café as well as their social communication skills with each other as we develop skills in conversation; asking questions to our peers and listening to their answers. Eve and Jessica have particularly impressed staff with their confidence, use of full sentences, loud, clear voices and eye contact with non-familiar adults at the café. Well done girls!



### New Instruments for Samba Club

Samba Club now has a new set of authentic samba instruments, thanks to a £350 grant from the EMI Music Foundation. Here is our Samba Club leader, with our new surdos, tambourim and agogos! The members of Samba Club are looking forward to trying them out when they meet on Wednesday lunch times.



### Our Sixth Form Leaver's Prom is being held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June.

As well as planning what to wear, students are also thinking about theme ideas. **Look out for a letter** coming soon with more information.

## 4K Volunteering at Carymoor Environmental Trust

This term class 4K have been doing voluntary work at Carymoor Environmental Trust. It is an environmental, education and nature conservation charity.



Pupils have spent sessions planting wild flowers over a covered landfill sight to create a flower meadow, separating and re-potting plants and building fences. Additionally they learnt about local flora and fauna and how their work would help the surrounding ecosystems.

The whole group joined in well; David in particular asked lots of insightful questions.



## Sixth Form Volunteering

This term, Sixth Form students have returned to Red Brick Building to continue volunteering with Jean Rees students. They have been working hard to improve the garden areas, creating and planting new garden beds. Students have also been maintaining existing planted areas; weeding and repotting plants. Avalon students have enjoyed working collaboratively with Jean Rees students to support their local community.



## Donation to WaterAid £93.01

Some of the profit made from the Christmas Enterprise product range of cards, hot chocolate reindeer, crocus pots and soaps has been donated to WaterAid.

The gift will help WaterAid to install a tap stand in Tombohuau, Africa, bringing a reliable source of clean water to the village, instead of the villagers having to walk for water.

## 'Lions of Zululand' Visit to School

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, the 'Lions of Zululand' visited Avalon school as part of their UK tour. The 'Lions of Zululand' arrived from KwaZulu Natal, South Africa for their 13th annual UK tour in April and will be performing in schools nationally every day until the end of July. We are extremely grateful to 'Happy Days' charity and the local 'Brue Boys' choir who have kindly provided funding to enable Avalon students to access this unique, musical experience.



The day began with Zulu musicians bursting into our school hall wearing traditional Zulu costume and performing an impressive show for our students. Throughout the day, the whole school participated in a carousel of workshops including; singing, dancing, drawing and painting artefacts, exploring the Zulu culture and language. We ended the day inviting parents to join us in the hall for a celebratory performance of the song and dance we had all been learning throughout the day.

Avalon staff, students and parents were clearly moved by this magical experience:

'The Lions of Zululand did not stop singing from the time they got off the bus until they left. Their enthusiasm in working with our students really shone through and bought out a huge amount of exuberance from Avalon. The best music day experience I have seen during my time working at Avalon'.

**Check out the NEWS section of our website for the full story and more brilliant photos of the day.**

## New Parents Group

Led by parents: Sabrina and Sue

Starting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June  
9.30 – 11.30am



A place for mutual support, advice, shared experiences, workshops and tips from professionals.

**Come along and make this group your own!**

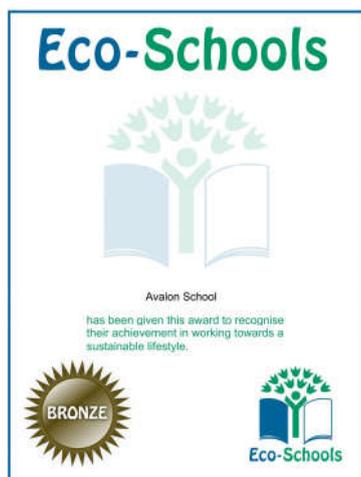
**All welcome!**

If you want to find out more, please get in touch with the school office and let them know if you are happy for your contact details to be passed on to one of the leaders for this purpose, who would then get in touch with you.

### Eco School Bronze Award

Our newly formed Eco-Committee has completed a whole school environmental audit. They have decided to focus on improving biodiversity in our school grounds. They have produced an action plan and are busy renovating the hedgehog house, building a log pile and observing the badgers who live in the setts near the sixth form building. Mike Seaman, who volunteers for the National Trust, very kindly lent us a night vision camera, we put out some tasty peanut treats, and were amazed and excited to get footage of at least six badgers on the very first night of filming! Many thanks to Mike, and to Delva Forrest, our governor member of the Eco-Committee, for introducing him to us.

The Eco-Committee has many more plans for the wildlife area: attracting more birds, planting a wild flower area and digging a pond to name a few. We have already gained our Eco-Schools Bronze Award and are working towards our Silver Award and eventually our Green Flag, the award given to a fully-fledged eco-school!



### Elvis Tribute Night for Hydro Appeal

**BARRY PAULL AS ELVIS**  
*a tribute fit for a King!*

3 Course Dinner + Tea/Coffee  
 Elvis Tribute and disco until late

**Saturday 25th August 2018**  
 Doors open at 7:00pm

Fund Raising Event for  
 Avalon School Hydro Appeal

TICKETS  
**£24.50**  
 PER PERSON

at the  
  
**THE WESSEX HOTEL**  
 High Street, Street, nr. Glastonbury, Somerset BA16 0EF  
**01458 443383**      [www.wessexhotel.com](http://www.wessexhotel.com)

### Hydrotherapy Pool Appeal

Friends of Avalon PTA have now raised over 80% of the total amount to fund the cost of our Hydrotherapy Pool. We now need the final £218,300 to reach our goal allowing us to begin building the pool in the Summer. Please see 'How you can help' on our website.

### Keep the date!

This year's annual **FUN FRIDAY** is to be held on **22nd June 2018**

### Key Dates for Next Term

Spring Half Term	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2018
Return to school for pupils	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Fun Friday	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2018
Leavers' Prom	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Leavers' celebration event Last day of school for school leavers in KS4 and sixth form	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Parents' evening - Reports	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Sports Day	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Induction Day	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Last day of term for pupils	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2018

### Bag 2 School Collection Update

A BIG thank you to all of our parent/carers, staff and friends who donated clothing for the Bag 2 School partnership. Your efforts have raised £156 towards the Hydrotherapy Pool Appeal.