



Dear Parents

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. There is a contribution from each class which tells something about what they have been learning so far and some lovely photographs too.

Other school news :

We are pleased with the accreditation results this year in Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form, with accreditations gained in independent living skills, maths, English, personal progress, preparing for work and art. This year Sixth Form and Key Stage 4 had particularly good science accreditation results, achieving very high marks.



Pupils who finished Key Stage 3 in July made good and outstanding progress with 89% of pupils who joined us in Year 7 making Upper Quartile progress, or greater than Upper Quartile progress in relation to national expectations.

What are we working on this year ?

Here are some of the things we are working on. We continue to develop our website and also to raise funds for the hydrotherapy pool; a total of £311,000 has now been reached including pledges.

Progress

- ◆ Last year we targeted progress in shape, space and measure; writing or communication for some pupils. They made greater progress in these areas than they had the previous year. This focus continues as these are the areas of greater challenge for these pupils.

Learning

- ◆ Consistent development of pupils' independence in learning. Class teams have identified what this looks like for each individual pupil and how they are going to work on this.

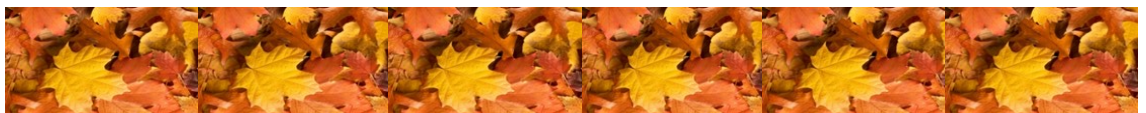
Collaboration

- ◆ We are developing our partnership working with the other special schools in Somerset in the interests of all our pupils.

We wish you a happy half term holiday. Laura Rutherford our assistant head teacher is spending it in China at our partner special school in Yue Yang. At their request she is going to train their teachers, so we look forward to news from China on her return.



Alison Murkin
Head Teacher



6M

The theme for the term has been 'Autumn'. We have been having lots of fun exploring the smells, colours and sounds of Autumn with visits out, walks and working in the garden, including picking apples from our trees. We have spent a lot of time exploring the fallen leaves. The best time to do this is when it is really windy, but if you haven't got a windy day we will happily help you out!



6D

This year we have been working one day a week at Priddy Farm.

On this day we split ourselves into two teams. One team working outside with the animals, for our ABC Animal Care accreditations and another team working indoors, working towards hospitality and independent living accreditations... making lunch for everyone!

Our outdoor jobs have included caring for the chickens, cleaning out their enclosure and replacing their bedding, as well as mucking out and feeding the pigs... sometimes it's very smelly work!

For lunches we've made a wide range of things, from pie to pizza, and sweet and sour chicken to apple crumble!

Everyone has worked well as a team, making good progress towards their accreditations, whilst also enjoying the work as well.





Harvest

Happy Harvest Celebrations

This term we had great fun celebrating our annual Harvest Festival. With parents and our friends from Brookside Specialist Provision we visited the stalls set up by pupils : making vegetable prints, tasting pumpkin cookies and a range of treats, exploring an amazing leaf tunnel in the sensory room.

Pupils brought in donations of food to give to the local Food Bank. Special guest Annie Wynter-Crofts from the local Mission Church, where the Street Food Bank is run, came along to start the celebrations off. Annie was very impressed and moved by all of the efforts of our pupils

Avalon's 6th Form students personally delivered the food to the Food Bank and did a great job in packing up and unpacking the food and carrying it into the church. Their social skills were evident in the way that our students greeted staff and enjoyed having their photo taken with all of the food. A MASSIVE THANK YOU to everyone who so kindly donated to this very valuable cause.

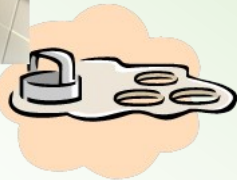
Lorna Shephard R.E.Leader
Angela Bolton PFSA.



7V

7V have been very busy this half term working on instructions as part of our English topic. They have followed instructions to make paper aeroplanes, which they tested to see how far they would fly.

They have developed their independence by following instructions to make toast and biscuits; so do get them to help out with these activities at home too!!



On Friday September 26th we held a Macmillan's Coffee Morning. We were very happy to receive all of your amazing cakes to help this very worthy cause. It is down to you all that we were able to **raise an impressive £105.41**. The standard of home baking that took place was very high and we sold out of everything. **THANK YOU** to everyone for your kind contributions.



Y8/9C

Year 8/9C have been learning about leisure centres as a cross curricular topic including art, PHSE, citizenship and English. Pupils have written recounts; explored and composed poems on the theme.

We took our first class visit together to Strode Leisure Centre. Matt met us at reception and showed us into the studio. We were very impressed by the size of the mirrors and understood that they helped us to ensure that our working out exercises were being done correctly.

We then went into the gym where the cool air was a pleasant surprise. We watched people on the running machines and looked through the window at the people working hard on their swimming.

After this Matt gave us the chance to practice our money and speaking skills by selling us all a drink of our choice. We were all a bit naughty and chose a fizzy one for a treat!

CLASS 8/9A

We have been learning about physical and chemical changes in Science. We mixed vinegar and baking powder and watched a chemical reaction take place, which inflated a balloon! We have also made lava lamps and planned our own science experiment, thinking about predicting and fair testing.



KS4 are enjoying their new course at Strode College, working in the kitchen. They have been learning how to use and carry knives and other equipment safely and about the importance of hygiene in the kitchen. They have been making some delicious dishes to take home such as Spanish meatballs, homemade burgers and some very yummy chocolate, orange and cranberry cookies!



Parent Club!



- ◆ Would you like to have more opportunities to talk with other parents who understand you?
- ◆ Would you like informal advice and support from professionals with learning disability backgrounds?

Come and join us at 'Parent Club'.

Enjoy fun, relaxed discussions about the issues that matter to you - sleep, eating, growing up, relationships and more!

WHEN?

The first **Thursday of every month** from **6:30pm to 8:00pm**

The next session is on: **Thursday 6th November**

Angela Bolton
Parent and Family Support Advisor