

**Message from Kate (Co-Head teacher)**

I'd like to say a huge "Thank you" to all of you! We know this year has asked a lot of you and we have been amazed at all you have done to support your children with education. You have become teachers as well as parents/carers this year and the progress your children have made has been incredible!

As I have been away on maternity leave for most of this academic year, I was delighted to come back to school in May and to see the wonderful pupils smiling and enjoying life back at school. I am so proud of all that the pupils have achieved this year, under the most challenging of circumstances. They are a credit to you as their guardians!

We are very excited about the next academic year as we will finally be moving to our new purpose built school. We have waited such a long time for this and it is wonderful to see the school taking shape. We will be opening on the new site for Summer Term 2022, and we can't wait to invite you all for a tour of our new amazing school!

Over the past year Covid-19 has forced us to work differently and I am confident that some of the systems that we've introduced will have a positive and lasting legacy. We will be updating our Risk Assessments over the summer, in-line with Government and Public Health advice. However, we'd like to reassure you that we will always keep the health and safety of our pupils, our staff and the wider school community at the forefront of our minds when making decisions.

On behalf of all of the staff at The Avenue, thank you all for your support over the past year. It really has been a team effort, and your patience, resilience and understanding have empowered us all. We hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday, and we look forward to hopefully welcoming you into school in person for parent coffee mornings and training in the new academic year!

Best Wishes, Kate

A message from Louise (Co-Head teacher)

I look forward to meeting you all in time, but want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Louise Kimber and I'm working closely with Kate as we share co-head responsibilities for The Avenue School. I've worked for BSAT as the Director of Safeguarding and Partnerships for a number of years, and prior to this I was the Deputy Head at Manor School; so my relationships with many families have been longstanding.

I love working with young people with SEND and it's been a privilege to be a part of so many learning journeys. I've worked closely with families along the way and understand how important it is to work in partnership, so that we can all learn and support each other in making sure that each pupil is equipped for each stage of their education and development. I'm really looking forward to my role as co-head and have already begun to explore curriculum opportunities for those older pupils working at Key Stage 3. The staff have been extremely welcoming and I'm amazed by the progress of the pupils I once knew well when they attended Manor School. I'm also amazed by how much they've grown!!

I hope to get to know your child very soon and also hope that we will have an opportunity to meet. We are all looking forward to the development of the new school building and the further opportunities this will bring to enabling each pupil to become the best that they can be. I wish you a happy, healthy and hopefully sunny summer.

Warm Wishes, Louise

Pupils return to school: Monday 6th September

Natural Environment Teaching week (Emily Williams, Head of Behaviour & Inclusion)

This half term we planned a 'Natural Environment Teaching' week. We wanted our pupils to experience some new play and leisure activities, and celebrate learning through motivating activities! Members of Multi Agency Support Team (MAST) shared their expertise and we want to share the following key advice with you for when you are playing with your children at home!

1. Watch what your child likes to do and start there.
2. Start by playing along side your child and copying what they are doing.
3. Try to make the activity more fun with you there!
4. You do not have to play with toys as designed. Get creative and follow your child's lead.
5. Don't talk too much or ask too many questions.
6. If you need activity ideas watch some of the videos on our YouTube channel ([link](#))

Most importantly HAVE FUN!



Online training sessions: Speech and Language Therapy / Occupational Therapy



Fun with food

???

Asking the right questions



Self-regulation

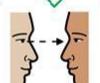


Supporting handwriting

Check out our SaLT and OT
online training sessions!
Go to: bsat.london/training/



Giving instructions



Adult-Child Interaction



Using Communication Boards



Social Skills and Play

Accessible activities – out and about (Amy McNicholas, Autism Lead)



park

Explore your local area and find a new park to visit:

(<https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/culture-leisure-and-parks/parks-and-allotments/park-finder/>)



cinema

Visit a cinema for an autism friendly showing

(<https://dimensions-uk.org/get-involved/campaigns/autism-friendly-cinema-screenings/#newsletter>)



jumping

Visit a local trampoline park for one of their autism friendly sessions: Oxygen Free Jump – Park Royal

(<https://oxygenfreejumping.co.uk/locations/acton/peacefulplay-acton/>) or Flip Out, Brent Cross (<https://www.flipout.co.uk/detail/flip-out-brent-cross/send-sessions>)



playground

Visit the SEN playground at Aldenham Country Park

(<https://www.aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk/welcome2>) or the Thames Valley Adventure Playground (<https://www.tvap.co.uk>)



swimming

Take your child swimming for free

(<https://www.brent.gov.uk/events-and-whats-on-calendar/events/kids-swim-free/>)

Maths update (Daniel Alvarez, Maths Lead Teacher)

It has been a great year for maths at The Avenue School.

During the year, we successfully setup “The Shop project”; a pretend, real-life scenario where every pupil could become a customer or even work at The Shop!

The main goal of this project was to support pupils in generalising previously learnt maths skills in a real-life scenario, allowing us to develop Financial Education across the School. ASDA Supermarkets provided the Avenue School with ASDA uniforms, real trolleys, and shopping baskets. This made every shopping experience even more realistic and functional!



We also, during the Summer Term, celebrated Maths Week! A week full of fun and functional maths activities.

The main purposes of the week were to create awareness about the importance of maths in everyone's day to day lives, and to show how maths targets and skills can be used, developed, and generalised in multiple environments. We are already looking forward to the next Maths Week!



"Maths; make it simple, do it fun and it will become functional!"

Science update (Madalina Luca, Science Lead Teacher)

The main goal of our school, and the motivation of its teachers, is to help our pupils to be more independent every day, and engaging them in science activities means offering the opportunity to learn, solve problems, make decisions, and be safe in the community. Science is everywhere in our lives (at home, on the road, at school, in the community) and through lots of activities and simple experiments we can help our pupils to have a better understanding of the outside world and to be encouraged to think scientifically.

There's a little bit of science to teach in everything we do. Next academic year we will organize a 'Science in School Day' in which pupils from the whole school will participate in fun and creative science activities. This will be just the beginning of a new approach to science in our school, where we will all get inspired and build the confidence to experience and teach science in a fun, creative and practical way.

We would like to see our pupils become more curious, to ask questions, and to be able to solve problems and to take decisions based on what they have learnt. Science is so relevant to our pupils' lives and giving them the gift of understanding is a life-long skill that they all need to be successful.

Summer is here and we would like to encourage our parents to engage in many science activities this holidays. Here are some fun activities we are convinced your children will love:

- Find out what happens when you drop a mento into a just opened bottle of coke (you've got to be quick before the fizz fades)

- Work with your children to discover how many feet tall they are. If they measure several members of the family, there might be a pattern to spot too!
- Rub a balloon on hair to make it stand up on end or have a competition to see how many balloons you can stick to a wall at once!
- If you haven't tried this one you're really missing out! Simply put skittles on a white plate and slowly pour water over the top. The end result is always impressive no matter how many times you try it.



story

Share a new story together – can you act out the roles in the story? Or make a prop from the story? Here's some stories to get you started:

(<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/>)



treasure hunt

Choose a letter of the alphabet and find as many items in your house as you can that starts with that letter



cooking

Choose a new recipe to try out together – get your children involved in helping you prepare and tidy up



den

Use cushions and blankets to build a den



junk



orchestra

Grab some pots and pans, boxes and wooden spoons and create a piece of music

Literacy update

This year we have focused on developing reading corners in each class and we've created a small school library to support the children to read for enjoyment. This has been really successful and pupils look forward to their dedicated sessions in the library and to choosing books to read that are of particular interest to them. We've also introduced a reading scheme to support comprehension and started to create a bank of questions for each reading book. MAST have supported with this so that questions are at different levels and will support all of our pupils to access the texts.

Our staff have received further training in teaching phonic skills that will help our children to decode unfamiliar words and we're looking forward to sending the reading scheme books home next year for you to practice reading with your child.

We know that the home learning resources created during periods of home learning were appreciated and used well, and we thank our families for all of their support to help the children to maintain their skills. Please find below some ideas of how you can support your child's literacy skills during the summer holidays - thanks to Ruta at Manor School for some of these suggestions!

1. Take time to talk

Have conversations with your child about their favourite toys, games, books etc. Talking with your child builds vocabulary and encourages critical thinking.

2. Read books together

Reading together provides a meaningful way for you to connect with your child every day. Even if your child can read only a few words or point to pictures they will become more confident. You can read your child's favourite books or try to bring their favourite books to life by finding some of the objects from the story for them to play with or manipulate.

3. Visit the library

This summer, many public libraries are reopening to the public. Plan a regular weekly library visit so your child can look forward to borrowing books and other library materials.

4. Listen to audio books

Encourage your child to listen to audiobooks whilst on car trips or at home. Listening to audiobooks helps children develop a variety of important cognitive and social skills.

5. Make puppets

Playing with puppets boosts children's language skills and builds vocabulary. You could use socks or lolly sticks, sticking on eyes and mouths so that your child can make them more animate.

6. Practice writing

Some children may enjoy sensory writing. Take a baking tray and spread it with a thin layer of shaving foam, salt, flour, sand or paint. then invite your child to write with their finger. If you have outside space you could also give them a bucket of water and a paintbrush to paint on fences, pavements or walls.

