



The Avenue School

Summer 2 Newsletter 2025/26

Headteacher's message

As we reach the end of another successful year, we want to take a moment to celebrate the achievements across our school community. Our children and young people have made fantastic progress—whether engaging in sessions, being ready to learn, building confidence when exploring the community, or developing life skills.

Over this year we have taken many of our classes out in our lovely bright yellow minibus. Some classes have been able to go swimming, others have gone to the library, some have gone skiing and some have gone to sensory soft play spaces.

This term we opened the café which sells delicious sandwiches, cakes and drinks at very reasonable prices! But what is even more exciting is our young people have started working in there - we now have young people cleaning tables, taking orders and restocking. All of the skills involved are things that the young people have practised over many weeks in their life skills lessons. They have also learnt about washing up and making beds and I have heard that they are even being more independent at home!

At the beginning of this term, we had the sad news of Kofi's death which had a significant impact on the young people and staff. We had support from our Educational Psychologists and celebrated his life in a range of ways. At the end of term we will be choosing 2 students to receive "Kofi" awards for children and young people who showed the most resilience.



Over this year we have been working in the background on developing a new curriculum that will be launched in September. This curriculum ensures that children and young people have access to a wide range of learning experiences and develops their functional communication and skills. We will share more on this in September.

In September we will be moving 3 classes to our new site on Harlesden Road. This will give the students more opportunities to be out learning in the community. We have also developed a link with Malorees school so that in September we will be using their Forest school area on a Monday.

At this time of year I have a lot of people to thank! Thank you to all our parents and carers for your ongoing support. Your involvement—whether in reviews, coffee mornings, or celebrations—has been invaluable. We are also incredibly grateful to our amazing staff team for their dedication and care. A special thank you and best wishes to those moving on—you'll be greatly missed.

Wishing you all a safe and restful summer.

Penny Doswell - Head Teacher

Literacy

This term, we have continued developing functional literacy across the school, ensuring that reading, writing and communication are embedded into meaningful, everyday experiences. Our aim is to help pupils develop the practical literacy skills they need to become as independent and confident as possible.

Pupils have been developing their literacy through real-life activities, including identifying and labelling everyday objects, following visual and verbal instructions, exploring books during shared reading, answering questions about stories, and using symbols, signs, words or technology to communicate. They have also been applying literacy skills during activities such as cooking, shopping, physical education and community visits, helping them understand how literacy supports everyday life.

This term, Marzena, our Literacy Lead, has also been working on developing a bespoke Functional Literacy Curriculum tailored to meet the individual needs of Avenue pupils. Alongside this, she has been reviewing and adapting the school's Literacy Policy and guidance to ensure they reflect our functional approach and provide clear support for staff in planning and delivering meaningful literacy experiences. This work will help ensure literacy continues to be taught in ways that are relevant, purposeful and engaging for all our pupils.

Marzena Slowik - Literacy Lead



Maths

It has been another successful and productive year for Maths across The Avenue School. Throughout the academic year, pupils have continued to engage enthusiastically in meaningful mathematical learning experiences that promote independence, confidence, and preparation for adulthood.

One of the major achievements this year has been the development of our new maths curriculum, which will be implemented across the school from September. This curriculum has been carefully designed to provide a clear and progressive pathway from Early Years through to Post-16, with a strong emphasis on functional mathematics, financial education, and real-life application. The new curriculum will ensure that pupils develop the mathematical skills needed to participate confidently in their communities and achieve the highest possible level of independence.



Another significant focus this year has been further embedding functional maths opportunities across the school. Pupils have continued to apply their mathematical skills through meaningful experiences such as the school shop, school cinema, cooking activities, budgeting tasks, and community visits. These opportunities have helped pupils develop confidence, decision-making skills, and a greater understanding of how maths supports everyday life and prepares them for adulthood.

Alongside curriculum development, we have continued to work collaboratively across the Trust, sharing best practice and contributing to the development of high-quality maths provision. We have also focused on strengthening assessment systems, increasing staff confidence through professional development, and ensuring consistency in the delivery of maths across the school. This work has helped establish maths as a meaningful and engaging subject that supports pupils' communication, independence, and participation in society.

As we look ahead to September, we are excited to launch our new maths curriculum and support the opening of the Newman site and Post-16 provision. This provides an exciting opportunity to create a seamless maths journey from Early Years through to adulthood, ensuring every pupil leaves The Avenue with the knowledge, confidence, and functional skills needed for lifelong independence.

Daniel Alvarez - Maths Lead

Creative Arts

It has been a wonderfully creative Summer term at the Avenue. We have been exploring various fun filled themes throughout the school, from 'Summer' and 'Holidays' in the younger years to 'Out and About' with the older students, where we have focused on life in the wider community.

This term we have been blessed with glorious weather, which has allowed multiple classes to expand their art exploration into the outdoors! Recently, we celebrated Sports day.

To prepare for this, students helped to create their own individual medals, as well as banners to cheer on their classmates. We look forward to furthering the children's art exploration and skills in the upcoming academic year!



Amy Mulroy - Art Lead



Sports Day

It was with great fan fair that the Avenue sports day took place this term. Under the summer sun at QPCS the students put on a fantastic display of their sporting prowess in a number of different events. It was fantastic to see so many students taking part enthusiastically and to see all the hard work that they put in, in preparation for sports day, pay off.

The positive atmosphere throughout the day was made even more special by the large number of parents, carers and family members who came along to watch, support and, in many cases, get involved themselves.



A huge thank you must go to all the staff whose support, enthusiasm and hard work helped make the day such a success. I would also like to thank Queens Park Community School for facilitating the event and allowing us to use their fantastic facilities.

Overall, it has been a fantastic year for PE across the school, with pupils developing their skills, confidence and enjoyment of being active throughout the year.

Preparations are already under way for next year's event!

Donagh O'Dwyer - Sports Lead



Therapy Team

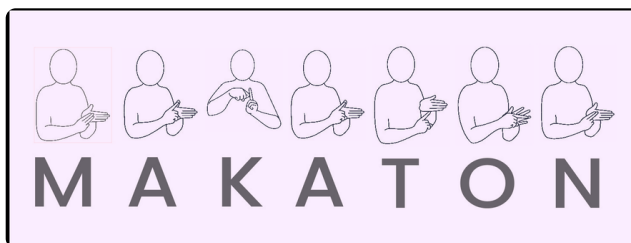
This term, the Therapy Team has thoroughly enjoyed being part of many whole-school events (including Sports Days, International Days, community trips, stay and play sessions, transition activities) and supporting pupils' communication, regulation and engagement across such a range of meaningful experiences.

We have also continued to deliver training to staff across all of our school covering topics such as play, use of fidgets, facilitation of total communication in the classroom, and exploring of activity and environmental adaptations to help maximise pupils' engagement, participation and independence in school activities. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with pupils, families and staff in the new academic year. Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

The Partnership Trust Therapy Team

Life Skills





As we near the end of another amazing school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the huge impact using Makaton has in supporting communication for all our pupils across The Rise Partnership Schools.

It has been truly inspiring to see staff, Makaton champions, parents, and most importantly our pupils embracing Makaton and incorporating signing into functional everyday routines, facilitated play sessions, books and stories, singing, talking mats and much much more!

This is huge in helping to build confidence, understanding and meaningful connections with one another.

♦ Makaton Friendly

We continue to maintain our Makaton Friendly Status at Manor School and The Avenue School. This year we launched our exciting Makaton QR project. This project initiative has brought communication to life, giving staff, and YOU our families easy access to videos of Makaton signs from the core vocabulary, that will support the learning and use of Makaton signs being put into practice. It has been wonderful to see how positively this has been received across our whole school community.

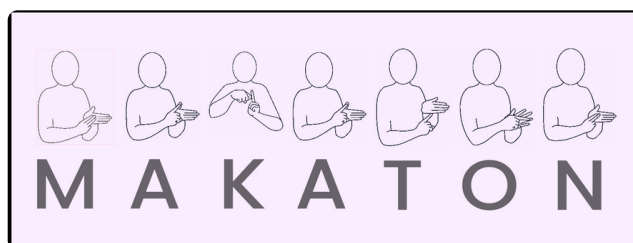
♦ Pupil Support and Engagement

We continue to see the positive impact of our Makaton Phrase of the week. This term our Speech and Language team's focus was on sharing a Question: some examples of these questions included, "What is your name?", "Who's turn is it?", "Are you hungry?", "What is in the box?", "How are you feeling?" and many more! We hope that you find these useful over the summer.

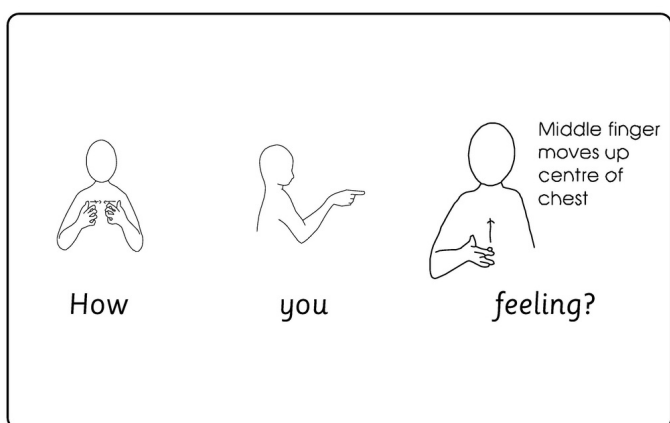
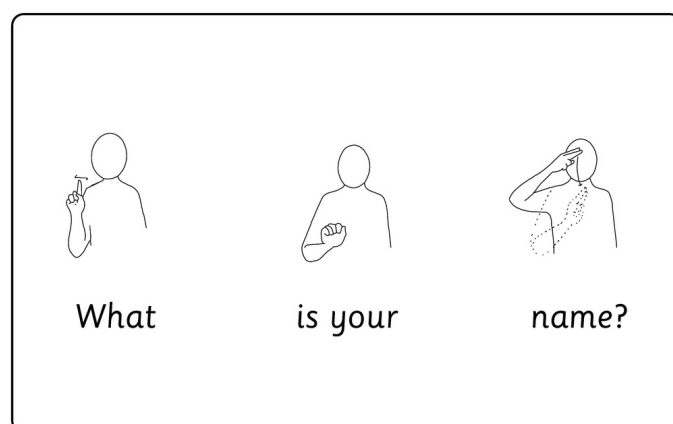
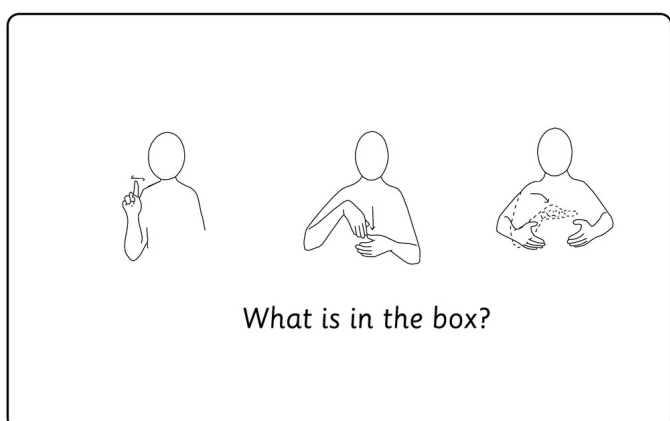
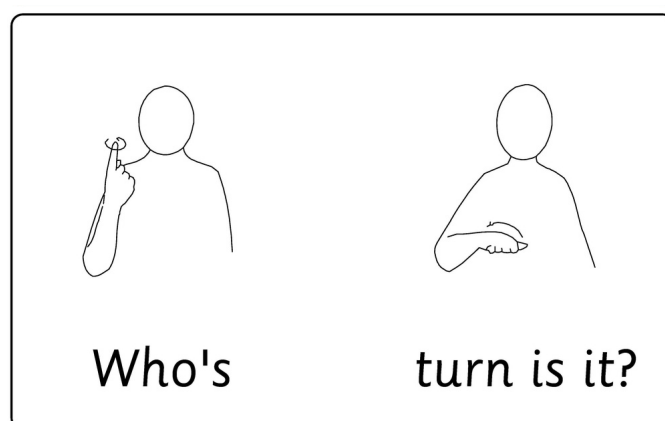
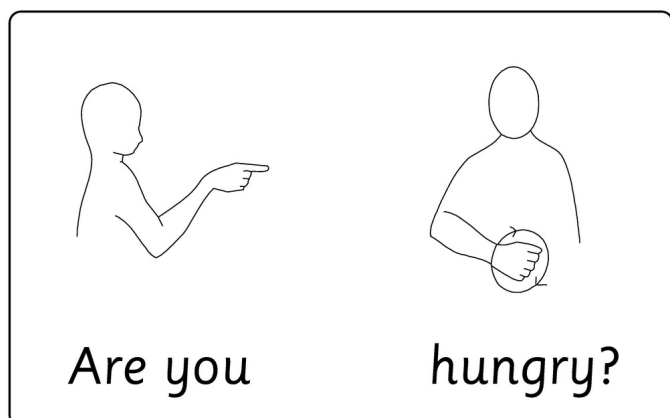
It has been lovely to hear from our parents and class teachers that our pupils have boosted enthusiasm and skill development by using signing more at home, this brings huge smiles to our faces!

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing commitment and support. Wishing you all a wonderful summer.





Summer signs of the week





Diary Dates

On Friday 24th July school is finished for the summer holidays. No school on:					Saturday Sunday	Saturday Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Back to The Avenue on Thursday 3rd September			

[Click here for a printable PDF!](#)



Summer recap 2026



Summer 2026
End of term recap

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