



The Avenue School

Spring 2 Newsletter 2025/26

Headteacher's message

I'm sure like me, you've been enjoying the sun recently. It really shows the coming of spring along with the arrival of the blossom on the trees and the flowers popping up. In school we were lucky enough to have our own signs of new life - watching chicks hatch and it was amazing to see how quickly they develop.

There have been many highlights this term! Firstly, we started swimming sessions for four classes run by Swim Tank which is only a five-minute walk away. Following this success, I hope to get other classes swimming in the summer term.

Last week, we had a Challenge Partners review where two leaders from other schools, along with a lead reviewer spent three days in school. They looked at all aspects of teaching and learning and work alongside the leaders here, to decide what was working well and to agree things that would make it even better. They could see the really positive and warm relationships between the staff and the pupils and they commented on how expertly any behaviour was managed. They were all very impressed by our high levels of attendance and that is down to you getting your children up each day and into school. We know that this is sometimes difficult but we appreciate your commitment to your child's education.

It was wonderful to see so many children dressed up for World Book Day and the primary department enthusiastically joined in the Jump drama sessions in school.



Most recently we have enjoyed Eid celebrations – using it for art projects, and our wonderful catering team put on a special lunch.

Over the Easter holiday there will be work happening to decorate and improve the café with the aim to open it at the end of April. We hope to start getting some of our young people involved by working in the café and they have been busy practising their skills through their like skills lessons.

I hope you have an enjoyable break and have a Happy Easter.

We look forward to welcoming all children and young people back to school on Tuesday 14th, April 2026.

Kind regards,

Penny Doswell - Headteacher

Trips and Events

Pelican Class

This term, Pelican class took regular trips to the local shops, where pupils had the opportunity to practice real-life skills in a supportive environment. They learned how to choose items, handle money, and confidently pay for their own jam and butter.

As the weeks progressed, many began to challenge themselves by adding more items to their purchases, improving their independence and decision-making. This experience has been incredibly beneficial, boosting their confidence, communication, and understanding of everyday tasks, while also encouraging responsibility and a sense of achievement in each pupil through consistent practice and positive reinforcement from staff members. Amazing work, Pelican class and staff



Physical Education

We have seen more great action from our students again this term in PE.

We have seen some amazing skills on show in basketball and cricket along with great engagement from everyone.

Science Week

This term at The Avenue school, we celebrated Science Week with a wide range of exciting and hands-on activities. Students explored colour mixing to see what happens when different shades are combined and were fascinated by the “dancing popcorn” experiment.

Others investigated a variety of minibeasts and created their own lava lamps. The older students learned about camouflaged animals and observed balloon rockets in action.

The highlight of the week was, of course, the hatching of the chicks. This year, we welcomed nine chicks, and students had the wonderful opportunity to observe them both in the incubator and later in the brooding box. Some students were even brave enough to hold them, making it a truly memorable and engaging experience for everyone involved.



Literacy

Our World Book Day celebration was a wonderful success, filled with joy and enthusiasm across the school. The assembly was a highlight, with many staff and pupils dressing up as their favourite characters, bringing stories to life and creating plenty of smiles and laughter. It was fantastic to see such strong engagement in book-related activities throughout the school.

In addition, the Jump Drama sensory story sessions for our primary pupils were great fun, focusing this term on *The Colour Monster*, and immersing children in a world of colourful excitement.

Our Literacy Lead, Marzena, also hosted the BHAAG Reading Moderation Group, where leaders from different schools met to discuss progress and compare assessment levels, ensuring consistency and accuracy.

Marzena Slowik - Literacy Lead



Maths

It has been a very successful and productive spring term for Maths across the school.

One of the highlights this term has been the arrival of the new maths resources that were ordered for all classes. These resources have already made a very positive impact in lessons, helping to keep pupils engaged and supporting teachers in delivering maths in a more practical and meaningful way.

Another highlight this term was the opportunity to co-lead a trust-wide numeracy meeting as part of our outreach work. During this session, both The Avenue School and Manor School presented how maths is delivered and adapted to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. The aim was to share our approaches and offer ideas that other schools could consider implementing in their own settings. It was a valuable opportunity to collaborate, reflect on good practice, and continue strengthening the quality of maths teaching across the trust.

Alongside this, we have continued to work hard reviewing and refining our maths curriculum to ensure it remains ambitious, accessible, and well adapted to the needs of our pupils. This ongoing work helps ensure that maths learning across the school is purposeful, engaging, and supports pupils in developing the skills they need for independence and everyday life.

We look forward to continuing this work next term and building further on the strong progress made this year.

Daniel Alvarez - Maths Lead



Creative Arts

Hello everyone! I'm Amy, the new Art Teacher at The Avenue. It's been a busy first term for me and an exciting Spring term for all the students.

The older children have adapted well to their transition into the art room, whilst the little ones are exploring art from their classrooms. Throughout the term, the children have investigated a variety of mediums, discovering their creative skills along the way.

During my first half term, Art lessons were based on each class' termly topic, including 'my body', 'healthy eating', 'famous people' and many more. For the second half of the Spring term we have been focusing on the multiple celebrations throughout February and March. Pupils have created masterpieces such as prayer mats and star gazers for Ramadan, cards and bracelets for Mother's Day, and rainbows and shamrocks for St Patrick's Day.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the children and staff at the Avenue for being so welcoming in my first term here. I can't wait to see what the Summer term has in store!



Amy Mulroy - Art Lead



Therapy Team

We are happy to share with you some updates from the Therapy team.

During this Spring term, we were happy to welcome our new therapists, Lilia (Occupational Therapist) and Sharifa (Speech and Language Therapist) to the Therapy team. We say goodbye for now to our SaLT Ayah, who is on maternity leave and we wish her all the best.

Our Therapy team also delivered training to SENCOs of different schools within Brent as part of our Outreach Offer. This included an 'Afternoon with' session with our Lead SaLT Lorenzo and Lead OT Brooke around maximising communication in the classroom and supporting participation and regulation of pupils. Our Makaton tutor, Rebecca, also provided Makaton taster sessions as part of this.

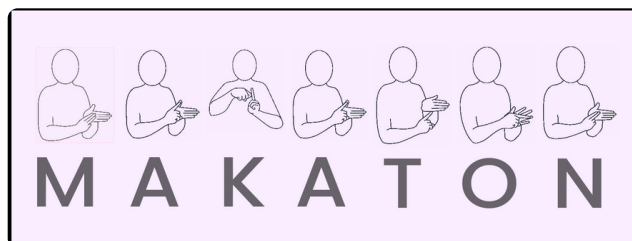
We were also privileged to engage in our continuing professional development (CPD) through a range of activities and seminars. The OT team attended the yearly 'Learn Play Thrive' Neurodiversity summit which consisted of 8 talks presented by a panel of neurodivergent professionals and centred around supporting social and emotional wellbeing for autistic individuals and promoting neurodiversity-affirming, person-centred care). Meanwhile,

the SaLT team attended the first of three Autism Clinical Excellence Network (CEN) sessions held by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RSCLT). The SaLT team learned and explored the idea of attuned goal setting and exploring methods of teaching topics related to personal, social, health, and economic education (PSHE) to our neurodivergent populations. We look forward to continuing to put our learning into practice to best support the pupils in all Trust schools.

We all wish you a lovely time during our Spring break!



The Partnership Trust Therapy Team



As we near the end of spring term I would like to take a moment to continue building on Makaton's positive momentum across The Rise Partnership Trust. This is an opportunity to celebrate, reflect on the progress made, and share our plans going forward.

It has been a truly inspiring start to 2026, with pupils and staff, especially our dedicated Makaton Champions leading, embracing, and sharing ways to communicate and connect.

Makaton Friendly

As part of maintaining standards of our Makaton Friendly Status at **Manor School** and **The Avenue School** one of the highlights this term has been the launch of our exciting **Makaton QR project**. This project has brought communication to life, giving staff and families easy access to core vocabulary concept videos that will support the learning and use of Makaton signs visually so they can be put into practice. It has been wonderful to see how positively this has been received across our school community.

Pupil Support and Engagement

We continue to see the positive impact of the daily use of Makaton. This term our SaLT team focused on sharing a functional Phrase of the Week: some examples of these phrases included, 'Can I have?', 'Let's play', 'I am hungry', 'Can you help me?'.

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!

Looking Ahead to Summer Term, we will continue building on this by:

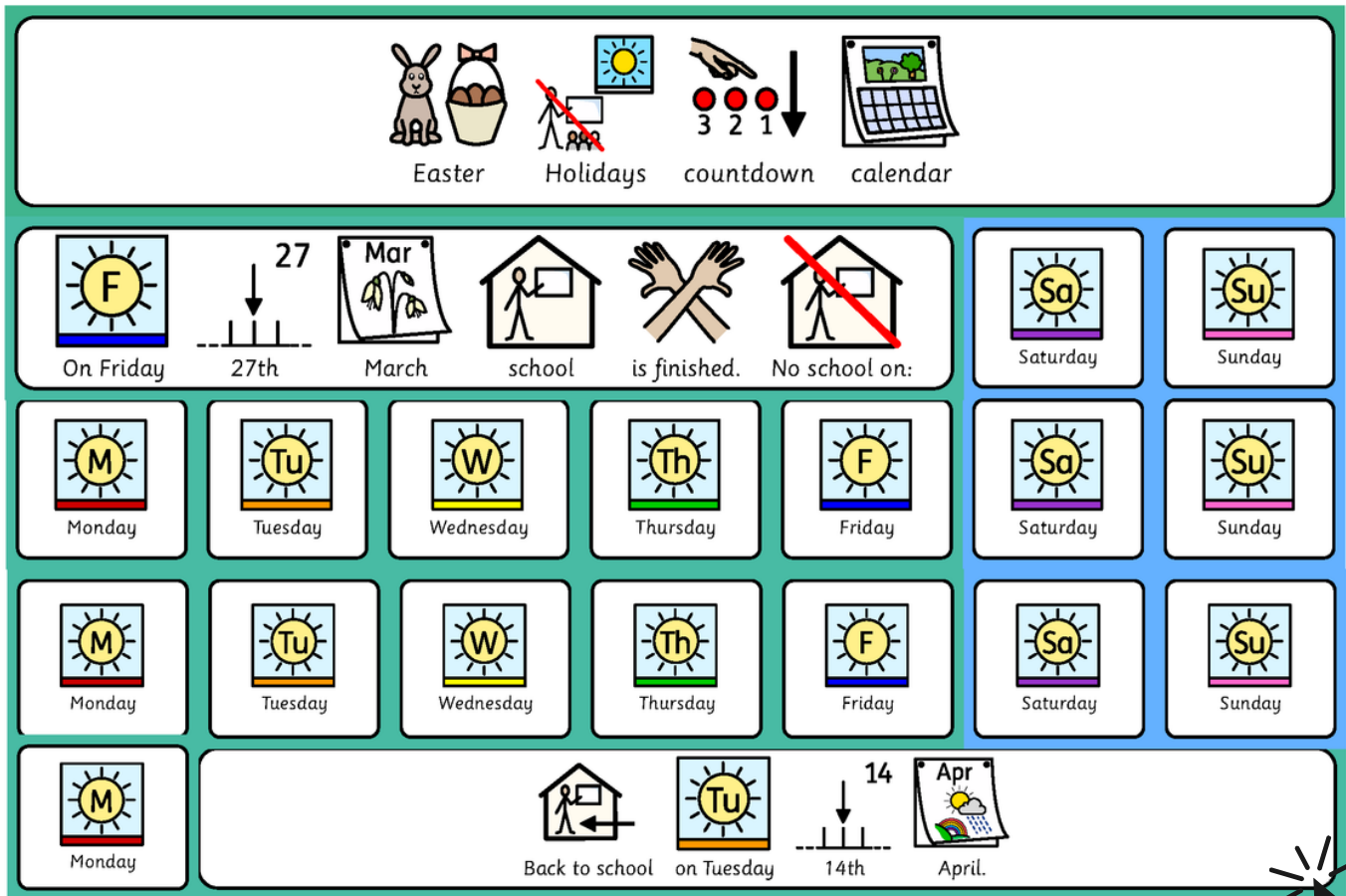
- Providing **more staff and parent training** to support consistent use of signs and phrases.
- Providing support and working with our Safeguarding leads to develop a 'Safeguarding through Makaton' programme.
- Continuing to support our new **Wembley Manor** site towards becoming a Makaton Friendly school.

We remain committed to strengthening communication for all our pupils and ensuring that every child has the tools they need to express themselves effectively.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.



Diary Dates



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

Spring recap 2026

