

Avalon Times



Spring 2016

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Mrs. J Callaway

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Headteacher's Welcome

A very warm welcome to the Spring Term edition of the Avalon Times. It has been an incredibly busy term, with many activities and events packed in.

Celebrations for World Book Day was the usual array of colour and costume, class book swaps and sharing of much-loved stories, especially with the anniversaries of Roald Dahl and Beatrix Potter books. The Travelling Book Fair, which arrived the following week, proved to be very popular and the children enjoyed browsing through a range of genres, before choosing new favourites to treasure!

A particular highlight of the term was our Russian theme day. The children were fascinated and absorbed by the differences in culture and traditions that were explored and experienced throughout the day. We are eagerly looking forward to the next celebration of International Languages Day!

Green fingers are tingling, as our keen scientists await the return of the rocket seeds from space and wait to see any observed differences in those that have been grown on Earth. Avalon is proud to be part of the nationwide project launched in partnership with RHS and the UK Space Agency - maybe we will have some budding 'Tim Peake' space scientists at Avalon!

I hope that you enjoy reading on to find out more about many of the events and activities already mentioned, as well as hearing about our other spring term pursuits.

May I wish our Avalon families and friends a happy Easter and look forward to sharing more events and activities in the forthcoming summer term.

Best wishes,

Mrs Callaway



Russian Day



The children enjoyed a whole host of activities and were very excited to learn about Russia's language and traditions as well as its varied history, during this special themed day. The morning assembly was an Avalon first! We contacted Mrs Bartle's Russian friend in Siberia via Skype. The children were delighted to ask a variety of questions and get instant authentic Russian answers. There were many other fun activities going on throughout the day including painting Faberge eggs, counting in Russian rubles, watching a Russian cartoon and tasting delicious blinis! Amongst other things, the children learned a great deal about the largest country in the world.





Spring Concert



A delighted audience were treated to a fabulous medley of songs, instrumental pieces and speech and drama performances during this term's spring concert, involving over 140 children!



THE HOBBIT

On 2nd March M and M Theatre company brought “The Hobbit” to Avalon to perform for our children. In an adaptation of J.R. Tolkien’s novel, Bilbo Baggins set off to win a share of the treasure guarded by the fierce dragon, Smaug. Many children were already familiar with the story and some of the characters from the Lord of the Rings series as well as the film adaptation of the Hobbit. The theatre company brought it to life with lighting, special effects and an equally terrifying dragon! At the end of the production, the Year 5 children had the opportunity to find out how things worked backstage, as the cast talked them through how they used all their sound, lighting and pyrotechnics. It was a great experience for the children and we were all amazed at how a talented cast of just 4 actors transformed our hall into a wonderful theatre! They brought everything from stage set scenery, theatre style props to special effects and lighting.



Sporting News

Netball Tournament

A group of year 5 and 6 girls attended the Chadwick Cup Netball tournament held at The Oval, this spring. Despite not having played as a team before, they showed great determination and commitment, with a superb spirit of perseverance. Mrs Brew was delighted when the girls won bronze medals and she said, "They can be really proud of themselves, only narrowly losing to a very experienced team from Birkenhead, who were the overall winners." Well done girls!



Mrs. J Brew

Football Tournament

Year 5 and 6 boys represented our school at the annual Prenton Prep football tournament. Getting off to a slow start and being 1- 0 down within seconds of the kick off against Abbey Gate College was always going to make the rest of the game challenging. Nevertheless, we roused ourselves and gave a very strong team a good game. Similarly, in our next game against Carleton, we started slowly and failed to take a couple of chances early on in the game and despite two good goals from David, we went down 4 – 2. Avalon against Forest from Altrincham, was an excellent game and we were delighted at last to have found our feet, with a comfortable win in this game. We played our last game against Abbeygate School and finished a very creditable 5th place in the tournament. Our thanks to Mr Mellor and Mr Brew for their support with the boys and their enthusiasm and encouragement towards boys football at Avalon.



ISA Swimming Gala 2016

On Saturday 23 January, 2016 I had the pleasure of going to the Olympic Aquatic Centre in London to watch two girls from our Year 6 compete in the Independent Schools Association's national swimming gala. Having won through their heats in Macclesfield, Lehna and Freya were delighted to have been chosen to be a part of the Northern team. I had never been to the Aquatic Centre before and I was thoroughly impressed by the venue.

What an experience for the girls to be competing in front of a huge crowd in the pool where so many wonderful memories were made in the Olympic games in the summer of 2012. It was an enormous event, featuring almost 80 races! Freya was first up and, after an amazing swim, she finished an amazing 4th place. Well done!

In the medley relay, Freya joined three girls from other schools and swam the backstroke in an incredibly exciting race. They finished 3rd in this race but were later moved up to silver after a disqualification. The girls were delighted with their medals.

In the 2nd session of the day it was Lehna's turn and it was a truly remarkable race. 4 very talented swimmers took to the pool for the north of England. Lehna got a good start to the race and pulled away together with three other regions from the rest. It was very close between the first four and Lehna handed over in what looked like a very tight 3rd place. In the 2nd leg, the swimmer from London West pushed ahead followed by Lehna's North team mate and the Midlands team. Then the 3rd swimmer from the North put in a fantastic chase and caught up almost level with the swimmer from London West. Both teams were well ahead now of all the other teams.

When the North's last swimmer took over in a close 2nd place, she pulled away and left everyone else behind. Lehna's North team won the race by more than 2 seconds. Overall, the North came 3rd in the competition.

It was a fantastic day and we are immensely proud of the girls for such a fantastic achievement – well done! -

By Mr. Ashton

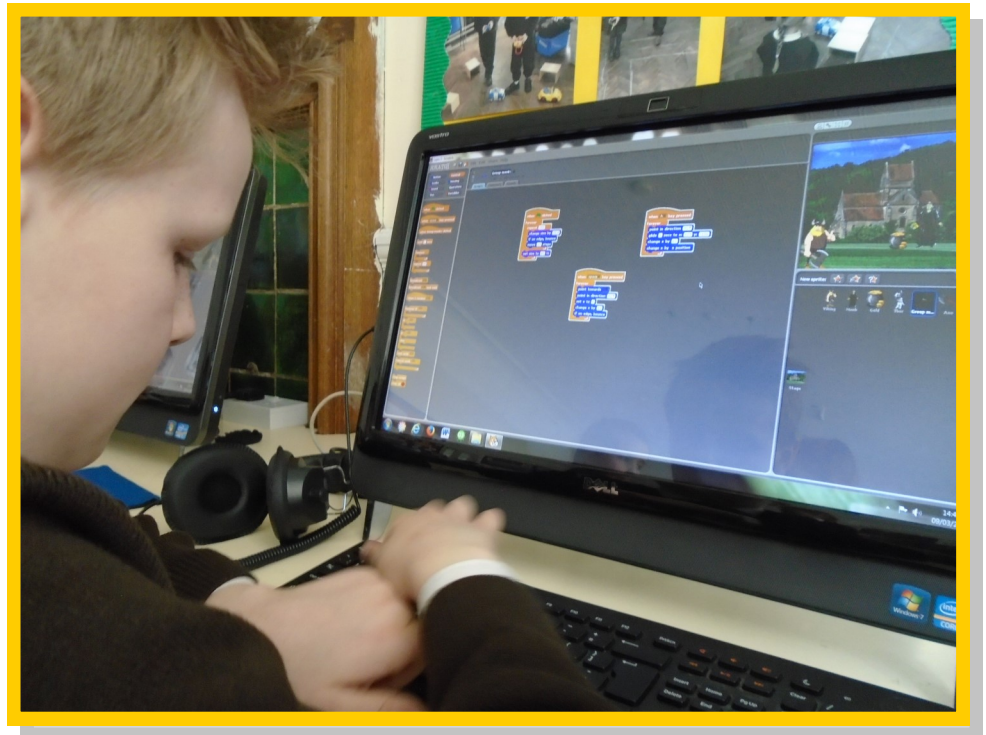


Tinkering with a Viking Raid!

By Mrs. Ellsmoor
Computing Specialist

Avalon juniors are enjoying the coding element of Computing!

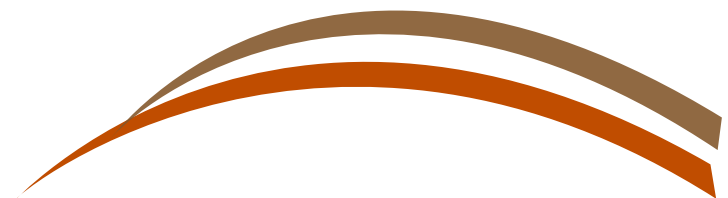
They have been linking their historical knowledge of the Vikings to make an animation of a Viking raid.



After writing the algorithm they wrote a program using a sequence of commands.

To ensure their timing was accurate ,they constantly had to test their program and debug it by fixing any bugs they found.

Children always enjoy the last part of a lesson on coding when they have time to 'tinker'! This means trying things out and is an explorative phase of learning. Tinkering is fun, inventive and full of questions and surprises!



Swimming



Recounts by Jacob and Halle, Year 4

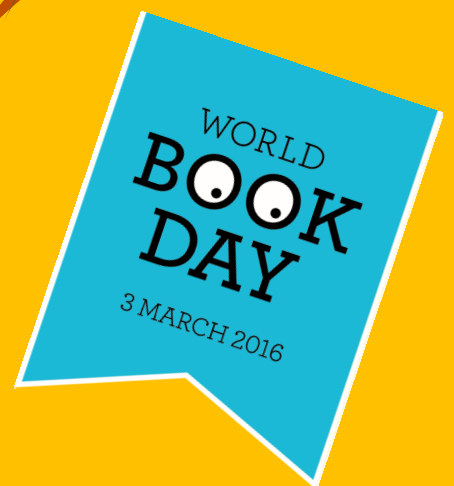
When we got on the coach my heart was pumping. I was so excited and nervous. Mr Ashton made sure we knew what we were doing. We arrived at Europa pools. Mr Ashton took the boys to the boys changing room and Mrs Rigby took the girls to the girls changing room. After we got dressed we knew we were against Kingsmead and Prenton prep. First we had a practise run at doing backstroke, front crawl and breaststroke. Finally we had our first race. Freya won and Ruby came second, it was front crawl. Then we had our second race. It was breaststroke. Halle came first and Nicole came second. Then it was me and Katie. I came second and Katie came third. Then we had the relay. Kai Oliver all the year fours, Freya, Anya and Leha. Finally we had the last race. Nearly everybody was in it. Then it was the end! We came second by one point, we were a bit dissappointed but at least we didn't come third. A few weeks later we all got medals; I was so proud!

Finally the results; I was so nervous, we came second by one point. We were going to have one more race but there wasn't enough time. We were a bit dissappointed but we tried our hardest and that's what matters. We were happy!!! by 11 in evening 10/11/19



WORLD BOOK DAY





The whole school took part in World Book Day celebrations on 3rd March and it was a fabulous sight to see such an array of colourful costumes and characters. Each class took to the stage, during a special assembly, to perform scenes from their chosen book theme. This included a Mad Hatter's Tea Party, a Greek Rap about King Midas, a huge collaboration of Roald Dahl characters and of course a look at Beatrix Potter's Tales to mark the 150th anniversary of one of our most favourite author's!



School Council

Avalon's own elected school council recently visited Wallasey Town Hall Council Chambers. The children enjoyed meeting the Mayor, signing the Visitors' Book and were presented with a picture of the Wirral Coat of Arms, followed by a tour and refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour.

The School Council are now working hard on their 'Call for Nepal' project, with the aim of fundraising to sponsor the education of a boy and girl in a Nepalese village.



By Mrs Parkins & Mrs Kililiku

A Call To Nepal



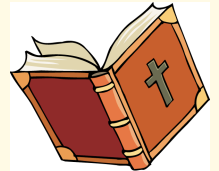
On Monday 21st March, John Clark, who established the link with Nepal, visited Avalon to express his thanks for the money and gifts donated so far. The School Council thought it would be a great idea to raise some more money to help those children in Nepal, still in need. As many Nepalese children are expected to work to help their families, the school council encouraged Avalon children to do jobs at home to raise further donations to contribute to aid in Nepal. So far the children and parents from Avalon have raised a fantastic total of £797.56. Well done everybody!

Bible Exhibition



Children in Year 6 learned a great deal about the origins and content of the Bible, as they worked together with Bromborough Bible Exhibition and did lots of practical activities to enrich their spring term Religious Studies topic. The children dressed up as scribes and wrote with quill pens and ink to copy Greek and Hebrew scriptures! They also had a team competition to see who could be the quickest group to sort and order all the books from the Bible correctly.

By Mrs Ham



Eco Council

The 'Go Green Warriors' Eco team had a hard time judging the very different creative models produced in their recent UP-Cycling competition. Some entries were functional and some were purely artistic! As you can see models included robots, a piggy bank robber, a boat, a go-kart, a bird house, a rocket and feeder, a bird, an aquarium and several useful containers!

In addition, two of the Eco council members created splendid trophies from up-cycled materials to award to the winners.

Well done to everyone who took part.

By Miss Fletcher & Mrs Ham



Year 6 English

In teacher's defence, homework provides self directed learning, which will help us throughout our lives. Secondary, University; even getting jobs. Also, homework helps to consolidate what the child has been learning in the school classroom, and so if there is the odd gap in the child's knowledge, this can be highlighted to the teacher, and the child can be helped.

Freya Y6



This term, Year 6 have been learning how to write their own point of view. They looked at the new 'Youth Zone' in Birkenhead and what it has to offer, then considered arguments for and against it. After studying the 'Letters to the Editor' page in the Wirral Globe and Wirral News, they wrote letters of their own to the Editor.

Their work on written arguments culminated in a discursive text on Homework: Should children have homework? Their responses were balanced and considered with great maturity. See for yourself with these super extracts!

Homework is an important part of school life. It's necessary to do so we can progress with our learning. We learn how to work at home without assistance. It is however important to strike a balance between not enough or too much homework.

Erin S.

Erin Y6

I remember when I first got homework in Reception. It felt really strange to be doing school work at home AND it was every night. We had to read every night and do spellings every week. Then we got projects to do in the HOLIDAYS! Imagine that. MY free-time doing homework on MY holiday! It was no good!

Anya Y6

I know how important homework is however after getting home, after a long day at school, having dinner then completing your homework you hardly have any time for all the pleasurable things such as reading, drawing, playing or just relaxing. Although we want to be able to do this kind of thing we can't because by the time we done homework for most of us it's time for bed. Have teachers considered those days when pupils have after school clubs such as netball, ballet, streetdance, rugby, football, and many others like need just the right balance.

Erin S.

It's hard work homework, and some nights you really don't feel like doing it, especially after a long day in school. But usually it only takes 20 or 30 minutes, and once it's done it's done and it really is worth it!

Mrs. Kililiku: Y6



Year 6 were introduced to Laurence Stephen Lowry and conducted some research using the learn pads to find out more about his life. The pupils were then introduced to the 'Famous Five' colours Lowry painted with, they tried to create these five colours by using mixing techniques.

Then, we looked at examples of his work where he used 'Matchstick people and dogs' and practised within their sketchbooks using a range of drawing implements such as black markers, pencils and charcoal.

Lowry Art Project

Miss Fletcher: Art

We looked at a drawing called 'Band Steel Park' whilst finding out more about his life. Pupils went out onto the playground and sketched a landscape drawing of our surroundings, including adding 'imaginary' matchstick men from the previous week!

Finally, Year 6 spent several weeks, creating a 'textured' industrial landscape painting using Lowry's work as inspiration. They cut out buildings and painted a background as well as adding details and their own signature to their work.

We are just beginning to look at other work from Lowry's collection and will be creating a 'Seascape' painting using watercolours over the next few weeks!





Mrs McGregor has been delighted at the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the infant children who attend her after-school French club. Currently 21 children from Reception up to year 2 attend the weekly club. The main focus of the club is conversational French where the children have been learning how to greet people in French, talk about their family, how to count in French, as well as playing games and singing songs. A very popular activity was learning all about French food and sampling a selection of French delights such as pain au chocolat, brioche and croissants! Other topics the children learn about include colours, days of the week, the weather, animals, and sports and pastimes. Mrs Mc Gregor has been extremely impressed at how quickly the children have picked up the language and often gets greeted in French by the children when they see her around school. Très bien les enfants!

Le croissants c'est très délicieux!





I really enjoyed playing Chess with my friends! - Elias Year 3

You know you have definitely done it when you move into Check Mate! - William Y6

I couldn't wait to get to 11 points to earn a mascot! - Xavier



Junior children have enjoyed participating in Chess Club this term; 16 of them also took part in the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge. A number of players have now qualified for the next stage of the competition at the Megafinal Cheshire & North Wales, to be held at Cheadle Hulme School on 22nd May. Children had to gain 17 points to qualify, or be the top scorer in their age group.

U11: William Bowyer (21 points)

U9: Anthony Hirons, Sam Quayle and Noah Jones (14 points equal)

U8: Elias Aristodemou (16 points)

Well done and good luck to them all in the next round!

Our thanks go to Mrs Ryan for supporting and encouraging all our Chess players each week!

Nursery News

In rosebuds the children have been exploring the use of snow dough. What messy fun!



The children from Rosepetals listened to the story 'Shark in the Park' by Nick Sharratt and then went for a walk in our local, Ashton park.

The children had to go on a hunt for sharks hidden in the park and once they found them they had to make marks on paper to represent the number they had found.

The children in preschool have been making a very unique gift for a special person. They learned lots of new skills, including how to cut wood using a hacksaw!



Easter Bonnet Parade!

Pre-School children made a visit to Hoylake Cottage Hospital this term to sing songs and share their beautiful Easter Bonnet creations with the residents there. The children also presented the elderly folk with some Easter cards and a fabulous spring basket that they had helped to make.





On the hunt for a Gruffalo

Pre- School and Reception children went to the local woods to look for a Gruffalo. First they had to find parts of the Gruffalo hidden in the woods. Once they found all the pieces, the children then had to work together to construct him. Next they collected items from the woods to decorate their Gruffalo. Finally they built a den and sat cosily inside it to listen to the story, whilst enjoying toast and hot chocolate. Yummy!



Eye for Colour

the rainbow revealed!



Children from Pre-School to Year 2 joined together for a visit to the 'Eye for Colour' exhibition at Liverpool's World Museum. During the Spring Term, each year group has been focusing, in different ways, on the effects of light and colour in our world. The exhibition is a literal explosion of colour which stimulates the mind and alerts the senses.



The children enjoyed finding out how colour is formed and how artists use colour in creativity. There were some unusual exhibits and interactive displays which showed how animals use colour as camouflage and how some birds and reptiles use colour to stand out from the crowd! The children were delighted with the 'Mood Room', which allowed them to experience and explore the effect colour can have on the way they feel, or find out the impact colour can have on how we enjoy our food. By the end of the visit some very thought provoking questions were being asked: Why is the sky blue? Have you ever wondered how fast light is? Or why we don't see rainbows all the time?



Mrs. Roberts:

**Spring Term Winners
are**

House News



Each child from Reception to Year 6 are members of one of the four House Teams; St. Patrick, St. George, St. Andrew and St. David!

Each week, the children work hard to earn house Points and merit badges for their team.

St. David's Team with 1535 points



In aid of Sport Relief, the children took part in a sponsored “mad mile” - a 0.2 mile route around school which snaked around the playground, up the driveway, onto the field and back down again. The children ran in their house teams and the older children had the responsibility of helping the younger ones on their 5 laps around the course.

It was really nice to see so many siblings choosing to run together and have fun along the way and raise money for such an important cause. Well done to all the children for taking part!