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Heads Up!

Avalon School
Learning for Life

Dear Parent Carers,

Thank you so much for your support over the past weeks as your children and young people have settled into the school year.

I am really proud to see our new students settling in so beautifully and it is very interesting to really learn about our new students now that they are here rather than just a person behind an EHCP or in another school.

Transition is tricky for some students and we are working hard to make this as easy as possible, referring to additional help and other agencies as necessary. Our teachers and class teams have worked hard to settle children but where we think they need more support we will contact you.

There are often changes to staffing and classroom environments in the first weeks of the year so that we can meet the needs of our students, if you or your child are worried about anything, please do contact the class team through home school link books or email the office office@avalonsch.uk.

We are currently using SEND specific assessment frameworks, designed with your child's needs in mind and according to their pathway to really get an understanding of what they need and we look forward to sharing what we have learned and gathering further information at parent carer evenings on 22nd and 29th September—we look forward to seeing many of you at school for these events. You will have received a note in the home school link book and through the Arbor communications—check your junk if you are not receiving emails.

Regarding external visits, these do not start in the first weeks of term due to a settling in period and so we can learn enough about the children before writing risk assessments. Class teams will let you know when visits are about to start and will share with you what is needed.

Our next PTA meeting is on 29th September—all welcome! This is your opportunity to create an even better school for your children—please join us!

We can correspond with you in any way you need! This newsletter comes out regularly and we are happy to send electronic or hard copies of this and other communications —please let us know your preference.

Amy Norris, Head of School

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Heads Up!

Avalon School
Learning for Life

OPERATION ENCOMPASS
In every force. In every school. For every child.

Parent Carers,

Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse.

As a school we have ensured that a member of our staff, the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Amy Norris, also known as a Key Adult, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the children in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

On 24 May 2024 Royal Assent was granted to The Victims and Prisoners Act. The Act placed Operation Encompass into Law.

This places a statutory obligation on police forces to share Operation Encompass notifications with schools/educational settings.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and through Operation Encompass we will be able to provide the best possible support to our children.

If you would like to talk in confidence to Amy or any of our team about domestic abuse or any other safeguarding issue, please contact either the school office or use our dedicated safeguarding email address: safeguarding@avalonsch.uk

Thank you, Amy Norris, Designated Safeguarding Lead

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PFSA News

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Support Available for Gas and Electric Top-Up Meters

We understand that managing household energy costs can be difficult, especially when using gas or electric top-up meters. If you are in need of support, help is available through the Fuel Bank Foundation, which offers emergency credit to ensure your home remains warm and safe.

If you would like to access this support, Kelly Llewelyn can complete a referral on your behalf.

Contact: kelly.llewelyn@poldenbower.org.uk
Please don't hesitate to get in touch—support is available, and we're here to help.

Support Available – Foodbank Vouchers

If you are experiencing financial hardship and need support accessing food, foodbank vouchers are available to help you and your family.

We can assist you in accessing local foodbanks through a referral process. If you would like support, Kelly Llewelyn can complete a referral on your behalf.

Contact: kelly.llewelyn@poldenbower.org.uk

Keeping Children Safe

Hello Parent Carers,

We just wanted to let you know that sometimes a member of our safeguarding team might give you a call. Please don't worry if this happens — it doesn't mean there's a big problem!

Sometimes we just want to check in, share something a student has said, or make sure everyone is okay. It's all part of how we work together to keep your child safe, happy, and well supported.

We really believe that being open and honest with you helps us all do the best for your child. So if you do get a call from us, it's simply because we care and want to keep you in the loop.

Thanks so much for your support!

The Safeguarding Team
Avalon School

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Office News

Avalon School
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Parent Carers, if you need any support to use our Arbor platform, please contact the school
office—email office@avalonsch.uk or telephone 01458443081

Arbor

We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

Google Play App Store

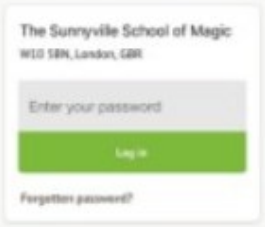
We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday



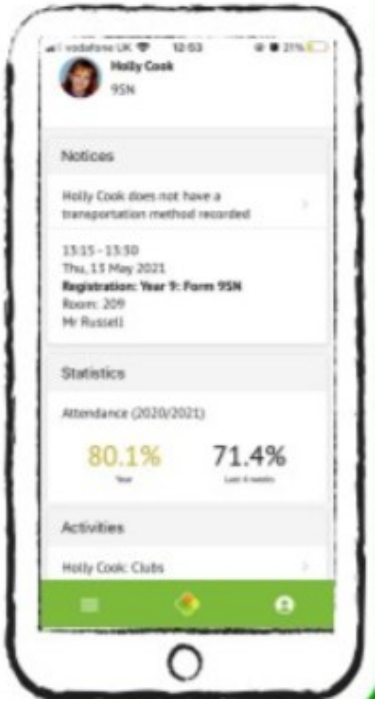
Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



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Term Dates 2025/2026

Avalon School
Learning for Life

Somerset School Terms and Holidays 2025/2026 Academic Year

September 2025					
M	1	8	15	22	29
Tu	2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	
Th	4	11	18	25	
F	5	12	19	26	
Sa	6	13	20	27	
Su	7	14	21	28	

October 2025					
Mo		6	13	20	27
Tu		7	14	21	28
We	1	8	15	22	29
Th	2	9	16	23	30
Fr	3	10	17	24	31
Sa	4	11	18	25	
Su	5	12	19	26	

November 2025					
M		3	10	17	24
Tu		4	11	18	25
W		5	12	19	26
Th		6	13	20	27
Fr		7	14	21	28
Sa	1	8	15	22	29
Su	2	9	16	23	30

December 2025					
M	1	8	15	22	29
Tu	2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	31
Th	4	11	18	25	
F	5	12	19	26	
Sa	6	13	20	27	
Su	7	14	21	28	

January 2026					
M		5	12	19	26
Tu		6	13	20	27
W		7	14	21	28
Th	1	8	15	22	29
F	2	9	16	23	30
Sa	3	10	17	24	31
Su	4	11	18	25	

February 2026					
M		2	9	16	23
Tu		3	10	17	24
W		4	11	18	25
Th		5	12	19	26
F		6	13	20	27
Sa		7	14	21	28
Su	1	8	15	22	

March 2026					
M		2	9	16	23	30
Tu		3	10	17	24	31
W		4	11	18	25	
Th		5	12	19	26	
F		6	13	20	27	
Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su	1	8	15	22	29	

April 2026					
M		6	13	20	27
Tu		7	14	21	28
W	1	8	15	22	29
Th	2	9	16	23	30
F	3	10	17	24	
Sa	4	11	18	25	
Su	5	12	19	26	

May 2026					
M		4	11	18	25
Tu		5	12	19	26
W		6	13	20	27
Th		7	14	21	28
F	1	8	15	22	29
Sa	2	9	16	23	30
Su	3	10	17	24	31

June 2026					
M	1	8	15	22	29
Tu	2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	
Th	4	11	18	25	
F	5	12	19	26	
Sa	6	13	20	27	
Su	7	14	21	28	

July 2026					
M		6	13	20	27
Tu		7	14	21	28
W	1	8	15	22	29
Th	2	9	16	23	30
F	3	10	17	24	31
Sa	4	11	18	25	
Su	5	12	19	26	

August 2026					
M		3	10	17	24	31
Tu		4	11	18	25	
W		5	12	19	26	
Th		6	13	20	27	
F		7	14	21	28	
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su	2	9	16	23	30	

Key:

- School Holiday
- Bank Holiday
- Term Time
- Inset Days

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 02 September – 24 October 2025 (39 days)
Term 2: 03 November – 19 December 2025 (35 days)
Term 3: 05 January – 13 February 2026 (30 days)
Term 4: 23 February – 02 April 2026 (29 days)
Term 5: 20 April – 22 May 2026 (24 days)
Term 6: 01 June – 22 July 2026 (38 days) **TOTAL = 195**

Bank and public holidays 2025/26

Christmas Day	25 December 2025	Easter Monday	06 April 2026
Boxing Day	26 December 2025	May Day Bank Holiday	04 May 2026
New Year's Day	01 January 2026	Spring Bank Holiday	25 May 2026
Good Friday	03 April 2026	Summer Bank Holiday	31 August 2026

Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with the individual schools for their term dates.

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Dates for your Diary

Flu Vaccinations	16th September
Macmillan coffee afternoon	26th September 2-3pm
PTA Meeting	29th September at 2pm
October half term	27tjh Oct to 31st Oct
Back to school	Monday 3rd November
School photography	4th November