September 25

Heads Up!

Avalon School
Learning for Life

Dear Parent Carers,

Back to school

3rd September 2025

I hope you have had the very best summer holiday and that you have had some quality time with your families. As always, we have been busy here at Avalon and during the holidays we still make progress.

Our site team have worked their socks off this summer, and as always, and we have entertained contractors of all sorts, all of whom have made our school environment better for our children and young people from decorating classrooms and our office to doing essential improvements—including new outer doors—to our 6th Form building.

Amy Norris, Head of School

September 25

Heads Up!

Avalon School
Learning for Life

We look forward to welcoming new staff who will become familiar faces very quickly.

Teachers: Indigo, Peter and Bethany.

Support staff: Jade, Hannah, Rosie and Sara

Apprentice Tas: Skye, Maddison and Emma

I am also glad to welcome Sally in the office to a permanent role here at Avalon.

Induction for new staff will take place for the first two weeks of term so if you don't see a face you were expecting, they will be back after their training, raring to go and classroom-ready!

Del Munro—our seconded assistant head whilst Megan Beckingham is away—has worked hard to ready our curriculum and we are very excited to share key updates which are a key part of our school improvement plan, with teachers and support staff next week. I am overjoyed to mention Skills and Experiences for Life, which has been developed to support our children to adulthood and which aligns with our school motto LEARNING FOR LIFE.

I am proud of our curriculum which is based around children learning and overlearning the key concepts they need to be successful whilst engaging in a pre-formal, semi-formal or more formal curriculum depending on their pathway. If you would like to discuss your child's learning or learn more about the curriculum here at Avalon please contact the school office

office@avalonsch.uk

Intent: The Avalon Curriculum aims to ensure a young person's journey through their educational offer is progressive, sequenced and informed. Through identification of appropriate curriculum pathways, we secure outstanding outcomes in developing their independence, skills and experiences for life, communication & social skills, engagement and academic achievement. Everything we do supports a young person's wellbeing, preparing them for the next stage in their educational journey and always considering their preparation for a good adulthood.

Implementation: Whilst learners are taught largely in age related groups and within inclusive class groups, there are four identified learning pathways which ensure that every young person's teaching and learning needs are met. Experiential, Exploratory Investigative and Challenge are the four identified pathways; whilst a learner may predominantly follow the learning programme within a specific pathway, due to special interest or specific talent, they may work across the pathways to ensure they have a personalised and targeted curriculum. Fundamental to any personalised learning pathway is the school's response to outcomes identified via Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCP's) which are fully implemented in any one of the pathways being pursued. In addition, underpinning the work across the pathways and across the key stages is the preparation for adulthood, skills and experiences for life and careers frameworks alongside a Personal Development priority for very child and young person.

Avalon School Curriculum – 'Learning for Life' – An Overview

Experiential Learners	Exploratory Learners	Investigative Learners	Challenge
Learners who learn through experiencing the world around them Skills delivered in a sensory and physical way.	*Learners who learn through exploring the world around them* Skills, concepts and essential knowledge delivered in a highly structured, sensory and physical way.	*Learners who learn through investigating the world around them* Skills, concepts and knowledge delivered in a more formal learning environment and manner.	*Learners who learn academically* Skills, concepts and knowledge delivered through a more formal academic provision.

Personal Development and Preparation for Adulthood

Key stage 3
Learning links closely with Preparation for Adulthood, as students begin to think about their future beyond school. Core curriculum of English, Maths, PSHE, IT, Science and Physical Development sits alongside a subject rich and skills and experiences-based curriculum.

Key Stage 4/Key Stage 5 - Sixth Form
A functional and practical approach to learning drives our accredited curriculum for our older students with a clear focus on independence, life skills and employability, with opportunities to apply these in the wider community. A focus on next destination and aspiration is a key focus in these latter years, ensuring appropriate pathways for learners are identified to move on to the best adult life for them.

Impact: All students are prepared well for their next stage/steps through the development of independent skills which recognises and nurtures their aspirations, interests and motivators, supports their wellbeing and secures outstanding outcomes for all.

September 25

PFSA News

Sadly, we are losing our wonderful PFSA, Tania Barry who has been successful in securing a different PFSA role with hours which better suit her requirements.

This will inevitably and sadly create a temporary hole in our provision for our families however, Kelly Llewellyn, David Drew and me, as Head of School and Designated Safeguarding Lead for Avalon, will endeavour to provide support to the families who need it while we recruit to the position.

The PFSA email will continue to be monitored and you can continue to use your class teacher as your first point of contact via the Home-School Link books or email the school office for any needs or guidance:

office@avalonsch.uk

Dear Parent Carers,

I wanted to let you know that I will be leaving my role at Avalon. It has been an absolute pleasure working with you all, and I feel incredibly grateful to have been part of such a supportive and caring school community. I will truly miss everyone – your children, your kindness, and the many moments we've shared.

Thank you once again for all your support.

Wishing you and your families all the very best.

Warm regards,

Tania Barry

If you know any would-be candidates for this role and other roles across the federation, please use the link below:

https://mynewterm.com/trust/Polden-Bower-and-Avalon-School-Federation/123945

September 25

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

September 25

Back to School

You can find additional useful information on our website https://avalon.greenhousecms.co.uk/

- Uniform—please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform and that they have natural nails, hair and no make up. They can wear one pair of stud earrings and a sensible watch.

- If your child needs medicine in school, please send it in with the request for school to administer medication form

https://avalon.greenhousecms.co.uk/Parents/Letters-and-Information/

- If you have not ordered a school lunch, please send your child in with a healthy lunch.

- Home School Link Book

Please engage with class teams via the Home School Link Book. Ask and answer questions here. Staff are asked to share information about the school day 3 times a week but if you need bespoke feedback, talk to your class teacher. Some classes, where children need a higher level of personal care, teams will respond daily.

- Transport arrangements should be made directly with the local authority but we will help where we can!

https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/education/school-travel-assistance-and-special-educational-needs-and-or-disabilities-send/

You will receive a copy of our Home School Agreement when your child starts the new year.

Avalon School Aims and Values

Our school vision is 'Learning for Life' - together with our parent carers and the learners themselves - we aim to teach skills for the whole of life using the 3 key values below.

Belonging — Avalon School is a place of belonging for all children and their families. We develop trusting relationships in a safe and nurturing environment.

Empowerment— We are committed to uplifting children by recognising and celebrating their strengths, encouraging independence and supporting them to understand their needs.

Aspirations - We encourage our young people to set ambitious goals, developing their curiosity through individual pathways and curricula.

Agreement Signatory

All children and young people attending Avalon School are agreeing to follow the Home School Partnership Agreement through their daily attendance.

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Parents, Carers and families are agreeing to follow the Home School Partnership Agreement when choosing to send their children and young people to Avalon School.

~

All staff members are agreeing to follow the Home School Partnership Agreement when choosing Avalon School as their place of work.

Avalon School Learning for Life

Home School Partnership Agreement

Tel: 01458 443081
Email: Office@avalonsch.uk
Website: Www.avalonschool.org.uk

The school will

- Be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and young people.
- Provide a trusting, safe and encouraging environment with a range of experiences and opportunities for learning skills and risk taking.
- Listen and respond to the voice of children, young people, their family and the local community.
- Work with children and their families to prepare for the transition into adulthood.
- Celebrate your child or young person's academic achievements and personal development.
- Promote our school values of through our words and actions.
- Create and regularly update transparent policies to ensure the smooth and effective operation of all school activities.

Parent Carers will

- Be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and young people.
- Ensure your son/ daughter attends school every day unless there is a good reason for absence e.g. hospital appointments/ illness.
- Share with school staff any concerns that you have and support the school in helping to resolve them through discussion and collaboration however difficult that may seem at the time.
- Engage with school to keep us updated and communicate any important information which may affect your child's welfare or learning.
- Make every effort to attend parent carer evenings, workshops, annual reviews and school events.
- Support the school to provide children and young people with opportunities to build relationships with staff and peers, to regulate their own emotions with bespoke strategies and to reflect on their own behaviour and the impact of their behaviour.

The child/young person will be

Safe

Happy

Respectful

including

To have a voice and be listened to.

September 25

Office News

Avalon School
Learning for Life

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

Arbor

Google Play App Store

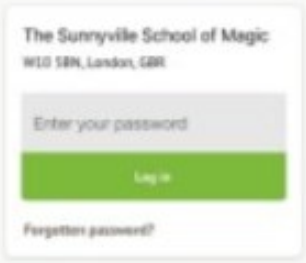
We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

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.

September 25

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.

September
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Dates for your Diary

Inset Day	2nd September
Return to school	3rd September
PTA Meeting	29th September at 2pm
Macmillan coffee afternoon	26th September 2-3pm