



# Avonside School

School Newsletter. Issue 2. February 2026

# Happy Holiday!

What a wonderful half-term we've enjoyed at Avonside!

It has been fantastic to see our students beginning to build positive friendships and develop strong, trusting relationships with staff. Many students are now attending on a full-time basis, and those who are in the process of transitioning are showing great enthusiasm about increasing their time with us.

Students have engaged brilliantly with their learning this half term. They have particularly enjoyed their introductions to vocational skills, embracing new opportunities with confidence and curiosity. Our recent Storytelling Day and Number Day were real highlights, with students participating enthusiastically and demonstrating teamwork and resilience.

It has truly been a fabulous start to 2026. We are incredibly proud of all our students and grateful for your continued support.

Well done, everyone!

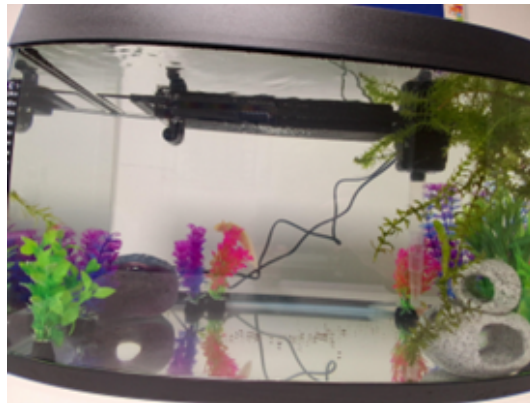


# Avonside Axolotyls

At Avonside School, we have just welcomed 2 unusual school pets. Peaches and Dandelion the Axolotyls. This is their journey so far:



We had a trip to Pets at Home to buy the things to go inside their tank.



After we bought the tank, we decorated it ready for their arrival.



We picked the axolotyls and caught them.



They were brought to school and placed in the office until their tank water was tested



We washed our hands and then made friends with them



The first time we cleaned the tank.

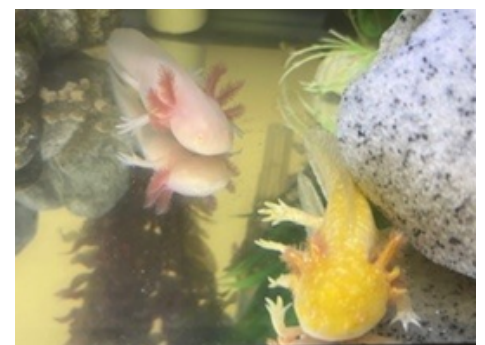


Our axolotyls also help with out careers advice by giving us a range of different jobs we could do.

Please tick your favourite names:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Axl Rose and Lotty
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peaches and Custard-dandelion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oreo and Cheesecake
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barry and Larry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shankley and Paisley
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fred and Churo

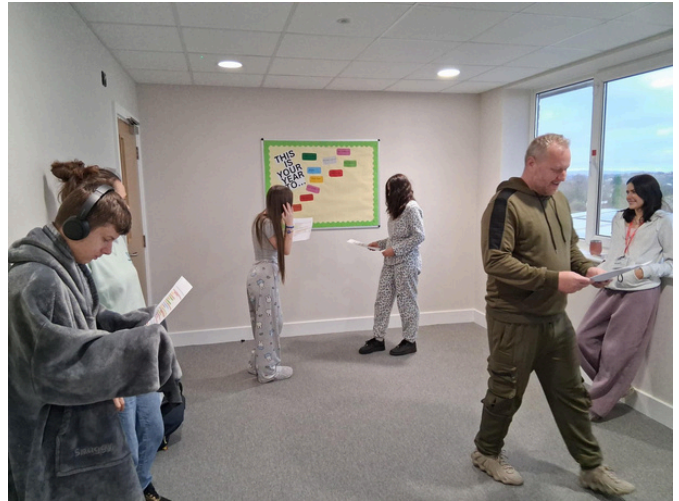
We suggested names and then voted for our favourite names



We are happy to introduce Peaches and Dandelion!



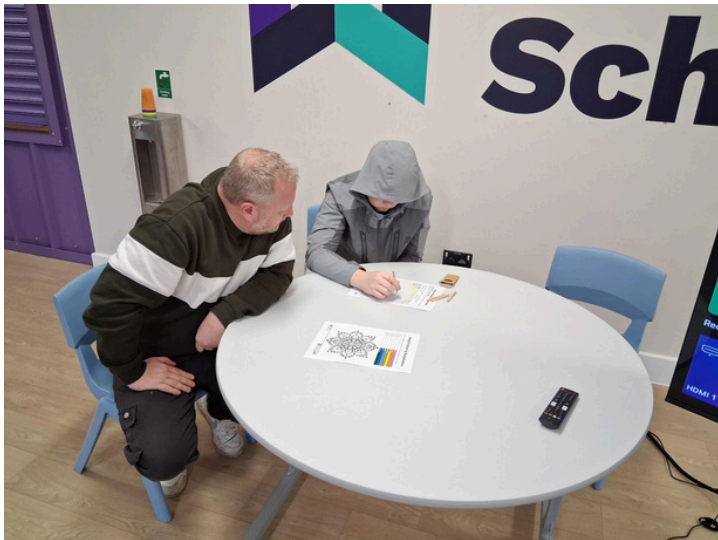
# National Storytelling Day



For National Storytelling Day, we did a wonderful drama activity, listened to stories, read to the school and watched the movie version of the book we have been studying in class. Of course, we had to make fresh, homemade popcorn and add our own flavours and toppings to enjoy as we watched the movie!



# Number Day



### Rangoli Colour by Multiplication

Solve the multiplication calculations and colour each shape using the correct colour.

10 - 149	Orange
150 - 299	Purple
300 - 449	Pink
450 - 599	Green
600 - 749	Yellow
750 +	Blue

*Lucia*

Subtract the stress, multiply the fun - try our Maths App! <http://bit.ly/ea-uk-app-maths>

**MATHS APP**

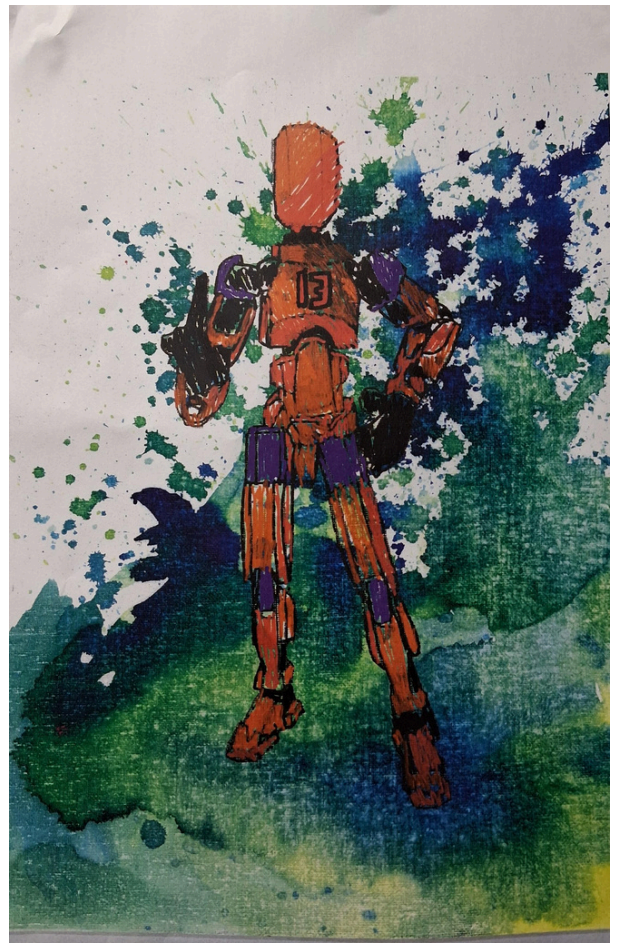
To celebrate number day, we completed a range of maths-linked colourings, guessed the number of jelly beans in a jar, played timetable bingo where staff and pupils were challenged, and appreciated the links between music and maths by undertaking a range of body percussion and conducting tasks.

# STEM Enrichment Day



One of our favourite activities for our STEM enrichment day was the egg drop challenge. Look at the size of our smiles!

# A Gallery of Greatness



Just a few examples of the beautiful artwork by our young learners .

. There was a really positive feel to the school, both in the learning environments and in the attitudes and behaviours of students.



We were impressed by the facilities and appreciated the tour being conducted with xxx, one of our B&NES pupils. Please thank him on our behalf, his confidence and enthusiasm for his new school was great to see.

## What did they say about Avonside?

These are a few of the comments we have recently received from our visitors...

The team demonstrated an incredibly reflective, caring, and nurturing culture – not only towards the children but also towards one another. This is a real strength and something to celebrate.

There was also a strong sense of celebration of positives

It was a pleasure and a privilege to meet you, the team and the learners.



The learners appeared calm, settled, and happy to engage, which reflects the incredibly safe and supportive environment you have created

# Helplines

A useful list of helplines and support services for families in and around Bristol – including emotional support, crisis lines, practical help and local organisations you can contact. Some services have special opening arrangements or operate year-round.

## **Immediate Support & Mental Health Helplines (24/7)**

### **Emergency & Crisis**

Emergency Services – Call 999 if someone is in immediate danger or at risk of serious harm.

Bristol Mental Health Crisis Line – 0300 555 0334 (24/7 crisis support)

Samaritans – 116 123 (free to call, 24/7 emotional support)

Shout Crisis Text Line – Text SHOUT to 85258 (24/7 confidential support)

Premier Lifeline – 0300 111 0101 (emotional support, daily)

### **Family & Local Support in Bristol**

Home-Start Bristol and South Gloucestershire – Local charity offering support and home-visiting programmes for families with young children (help with parenting, isolation, wellbeing).

Bristol Child Parent Support – Support and guidance for parents.

Bristol City Council - Family Information Service – Advice on family services, childcare, activities and early help support.

Caring in Bristol – Community-based charity that offers practical support (including holiday programmes and assistance).

## **City-Wide Support Services**

Family Hubs / Children's Centres – Drop-in family support, activities, information, parenting help and signposting to services.

Early Help for Families – Parenting support, behaviour help, emotional wellbeing, debt/finances signposting

We Are Bristol Helpline – 0800 694 0184 (free council helpline for cost-of-living & family advice, Mon–Fri)

### **Emotional & Parenting Support (National)**

These services operate all year and often through holiday periods – useful if local services are closed:

Family Lives – Parent Helpline – 0808 800 2222 (support with family issues, parent stress, behaviour, relationships).

Childline – 0800 1111 (for children & young people).

NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000 or Text 88858 (advice on child safety).