

A view from the Valley



After some high quality intensive staff training, Addington Valley Academy welcomed our students into their new home on Monday 27th September. The past four weeks have simply flown by.

As I sit writing this first newsletter it is a joy to listen to your children laugh and have fun in our brilliant new playground behind me. They all have settled and transitioned remarkably well to the new environment. Your children are safe and happy. Since we opened there have been many visitors come to see the new school and all have commented on the positive atmosphere, culture and ethos within. Although we are a “new school” many of these visitors have added that we feel like a well-established school already.

There is little doubt that the positive start is down, in no small part, to our professional and dedicated staff team. Again, visitors say how happy they all look in work and how staff meet and greet them with a smile. Recently, a building contractor approached me to say he wanted to express how “brilliant” the staff are with the children. He has been “watching” the school in action as he carried on completing some work and wanted to say that “ you must be very proud of them”. Quite simply, I am. It is the greatest professional pleasure to lead such a hard working staff who clearly care deeply for your children. We talk often about the moral purpose of our work, you can see and feel it in all they do.

The weeks and months ahead will be such an exciting time for our school. Please do follow us on Twitter @ValleyAddington to keep up to date with all school news and developments. Our website www.addingtonvalley.org is also updated regularly and worth keeping an eye on.

I wanted to finish by thanking all our parents for your support, kind words and praise over this first half term. If you ever need any assistance then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our promise to you is to continue a partnership which is open and honest. We will deliver an aspirational school who will work relentlessly to support, challenge and ensure every child will make progress.

Have a restful half term and we come back on Monday 1st November at 8.40am

John Reilly

Principal

Addington Valley Academy

Primary School news update

In the Primary school the pupils have had a fantastic start to the year. They have enjoyed using the Sensory garden area; especially the bikes and the swing! We have all been focusing on using schedules to navigate through the day, learning routines and finding our way to all the exciting things we have in the building.

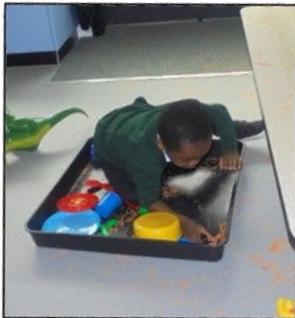
In Reception we have been so impressed with how well the pupils have done during their settling in period – we look forward to them joining us for full days after Half term. As the staff split into the two class teams to support the classes, Marta will continue as class teacher for Adventurers class and we are very excited to announced that Carole will be taking over as class teacher for Explorer class.

Reminders – please remember to send in a change (or two) or clothing for your child. Please also remember to use the communication books to let us know of anything your child might not be able to communicate to us; for example, if they have not slept well or didn't eat their breakfast as normal, or if they did something amazing at the weekend and you wish to share the 'Wow moment' with us!

Anna Huzzey
Vice Principal, Primary

Reception – Adventurers and Explorers

We have been very busy at Addington Valley School getting to know our new teachers and friends. We are very pleased that our Reception classes have been involved in diverse activities and have learned the new routines very well. Our Adventurers and Explorers Classes have loved exploring our outside area – using our bikes and enjoying our new swing in the sensory garden. In our classrooms, we have been developing all our skills through play and getting to know ourselves. We all loved to participate in our Attention Autism sessions. We have also been visiting our specialist rooms: Sensory Room - where we can have a calm moment and soft play room - where we can climb, slide and use the trampoline. We all had the opportunity for PE sessions in the school hall and we loved our sensory circuits.



KS1 - Wood Class

Key stage one children have settled in well into their new classroom. They have been engaging in different sensory and construction activities. Nitesh and Daniel love picking up, squeezing, pouring, scrapping and running their fingers through corn flour. While Max was engrossed in exploring the calm and stimulating environment of our sensory garden, he independently rode a scooter navigating his way around the garden, avoiding obstacles and steering away from other children. In Wood class we have also had access to some amazing messy activities such as shaving foam. Rayirth enjoyed exploring the swirly, gooey foam using all his five senses of smell, touch, sight, hearing and taste. The children in Wood Class children have made strong and healthy relationships with their teacher Farah and the teaching assistants in the Wood class team; they are able to demonstrate friendly behavior towards each other and the adults looking after them.



KS1 – Parks class

In Parks class we have been focusing on settling our learners into their new environment, and routine. At the beginning of each school day, Parks class always begin their morning with circle time. This session allows our students to settle in the morning, and become familiar with their new friends, adults and teacher. Each student is given the opportunity to independently greet their classmates. It is important that students recognise what the start of our day looks like, know the schedule for that day, which we believe helps them regulate and access the curriculum better. We have been enjoying ‘movement to music’, which is when our students use our music room facilities, explore the musical instruments to create their own piece. In Art, we are exploring our creative side using different mediums, materials, and tools to create art, but also helping our students to recognise their colours and develop fine motor skills. Our students like getting messy and enjoying the freedom of creativity. They also like learning through playing, and interacting with others, as they take turns on the bikes, swings, scooters. We also get to use the school field during P.E sessions. We have had a great start to the year! Even though our learners have different goals they are working towards, our main goal for Parks class is to create a safe working environment that our learners can explore, and build on their already beautiful personalities, and abilities.

KS2 – Doyle class

This half term has been....all about us! Martin has taken centre stage at a staff meeting, Euan has loved reading his favourite stories in his cool shades, Rodrique has shown us his football skills, Rylee is our puzzle master and Oliver has taught us how to speed up and slow down songs on YouTube.

We have all started our journey at AVA together and we are enjoying getting to know each other and our amazing new school. We have especially enjoyed cooking sessions, soft play, sensory room, the bikes and swing.

The boys have been making great progress each and every day. Rylee and Rodrique are showing more confidence and have been showing great independence. Euan has discovered his love for the music room and has been joining in with group games. Oliver has been enjoying the sensory garden and is sharing classroom technology with others. Martin is interacting more with his peers and enjoys helping others.

The staff in Doyle class are happy that the children have all settled in well and we are looking forward to the half term ahead where we will be learning all about 'Winter Wonderland'.



KS2 – Tull class



It has been a wonderful half term, getting to know our 5 fantastic boys in Tull Class. We have learnt lots of new things about each other and have enjoyed taking part in many sensory and messy activities along the way. We have been using a lot of intensive interaction sessions with our students to help us build a bond with them. As you can see below, Abiran is loving taking part in these sessions with Jemma.

We have been enjoying reading stories and developing knowledge of colours and PECS along the way. Here is a photo of Saad and Gaia reading a story together. The pupils have also loved getting involved in our sensory story of 'We're going on a bear hunt' and completing sensory cookery sessions where we have made some porridge.

We also put a major focus on regulation throughout the day and ensuring that the children are relaxed, happy and ready to complete learning across the school. We have many sessions where the children can relax in the sensory room, go to the soft play or explore some of the many sensory toys we have in the classroom. Khalid is loving our spiky balls which light up, squeezing them in his hands and watching the flashing colours.



Secondary School news update

We've had an unbelievably wonderful start of term in the Secondary school. The students have settled in to the new environment incredibly well. They have spent the half term getting to know their new teachers and teaching assistants and vice versa. It has been lovely to see our Pathway 1 and 2 students accessing all the new facilities, such as the art room and the cookery room. Our Pathway 3 students have been able to make great use of the outdoor facilities. We know how important sensory regulation is for our cohort and they have made especially good use of our swings!

We look forward to the students continuing their learning journeys using the Equals curriculum next half term and also beginning to access the community. There may even be the opportunity for some work experience for our Nazreen students so we will be in touch early in the half term to organize this with parents.

Thank you so much to all of our parents for your continued support with everything we are doing and we hope that you have a brilliant half term. Please do send in any photos or notes on any activities you do over half term so our students can share these with their peers.

Joe Shepherd,

Vice Principal, Secondary

We hope you all have a restful half term and we look forward to welcoming you back in November.

KS3 – Johnson class



Johnson class have had an amazing start to the term. The students have really been getting to know each other, their teachers and the school. This term we have been focusing on learning our schedules, as well as knowing the different areas in both the classroom and around school. Kemani has been enjoying the tricycle in the sensory garden, Jibril is enjoying messy play with cornflour and Kieyan has been having fun in the soft play room.

Junior is using PECS to request for snacks.

Berk has been having fun with paint spreading and Kavin enjoys chilling on the trampoline in soft play.



KS3 – Braille class

Braille Class has had a fantastic first half term. Our topic for this term was “All about me” and we have had fantastic time getting to know each other. We have learnt about our likes, dislikes, the way we learn and how we communicate with each other. We are very impressed to see how children in our classroom have settled in at our new school.

Alexantha, Amira, Ashlyn, Khaalid, Sara, Scottie, Shiaranah and Sophie have all enjoyed messy play and they are working on their fine motor skills on daily basis. Amira, Khaalid, Shaiarnah and Scottie enjoyed Maths and working on life skills using interactive board and games.

Alexantha, Ashlyn, Sara and Khaalid enjoyed developing their fine motor skills, using stickle blocks, threading letters, textured boards and textured letters. All of them have enjoyed making colourful playdough with Senem. On Fridays we have a special visitor to our school. Her name is Autumn and she is a therapy dog. Amira, Ashlyn, Shaiarnah and Sophie adore her! As a whole group we are taking a part in the 2021 Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon. Each child is expected to complete 2.6 miles by walking, running, jogging or wheeling. We are nearly there!

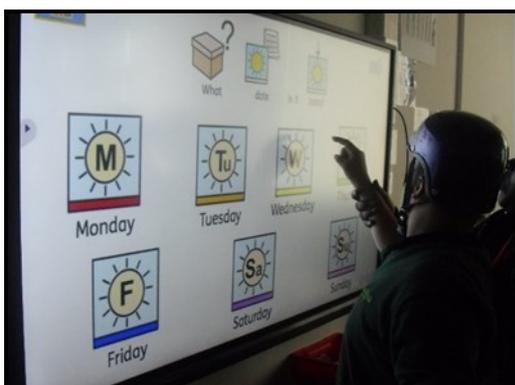


KS3 – Gates class

This term Gates class have spent time focusing on developing and expanding our social groups within the classroom. One way in which the students have done this (as seen in the picture) is by sharing a full class morning circle time. This entails each student being helped to say good morning to their fellow classmates whilst having a positive experience with one another through music and song.

The gates class focus on shared social experiences have also led to very positive group snack and lunch sessions. Where each student sits as part of small meal group to share their meals. So far this term the gates class students have shown excellent manners and patience during their meal times.

As part of embracing the wider school community gates class has completed the mini marathon (check name) where each student was able to run, Jog, or walk 2.6 miles over 2 weeks. In the photo below are some of the gates students completing the mini marathon on the schools brand new field. Being outside and having such a nice open space to complete the mini marathon quickly became a much loved session amongst the gates class students.





KS3 – Wheatley class

Wheatley class have had a positive start to the new academic year and have enjoyed exploring our topic 'All About Me'. During this topic we have explored our senses through a variety of ways such as looking at our reflections, dressing up and smelling different herbs. Kobe has loved looking at his reflection in a mirror and using what he observes to draw a face. Sean has drawn a self-portrait and has successfully labelled it using the vocabulary eyes, ears and hair. In Literacy, we have worked on pencil control by tracing lines, letters and numbers. Asher has enjoyed tracing straight and curved lines and has then applied this knowledge to tracing the features of a face. In Maths, we have been identifying a given number of objects. Stephen and Aiden have confidently built Lego towers up to 30 blocks high. Both children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed our Attention Autism sessions where we have knocked down lentil towers, splatted paint and jumped on bubble wrap. All of the Wheatley staff are very proud of the children



KS3 – Nazreen class

Nazreen class has impressed the staff daily, with how well they are settling in and making daily progress. With our whole school topic of All About Me, Nazreen class has been focusing on how we feel inside, we have been trying some new foods, learning about body parts and the way that we describe the world around us, as well as ourselves. Joshua has been impressing us with his engagement with other students along with his speech becoming clearer. Zuriel has been impressing us with the same along with his neater handwriting. Hayden, Brendan, Sydney, and Chloe have been working very hard on their emotions and how many ways we can feel and their describing words. Rameen has been handling the changes to the new school so well and has been diligently completing her topic work. Jayden has been engaging well in Attention Autism and Art. The Nazreen Class team are so proud of our students, and we hope they have a fantastic half term, and we look forward to seeing them on their return.



Update from Kate – PE lead

The students have had lots of fun in PE this half term. They have taken part in sensory circuits, which now make up an important part of their sensory diet in class. We have also been working on gross motor skills and the ABCs of movement: agility, balance, coordination and speed on top of social and personal skills. Students have enjoyed getting to know all the wonderful facilities that we have.

Students have also represented their school in the London Mini Marathon for Schools. They have walked, run or jogged 2.6 miles around the school site in the last two weeks.



Next half term, students will need to wear their PE kit to school on the days they are doing PE. Please make sure this is weather appropriate and they have water proof shoes. The table below details when each class does PE:

Class	PE Days
Adventurers	Tuesday and Thursday
Explorers	Wednesday
Wood	Monday and Friday
Parks	Monday and Tuesday
Tull	Monday and Wednesday
Doyle	Tuesday and Thursday
Johnson	Tuesday and Friday
Braille	Monday and Thursday
Gates	Tuesday and Thursday
Wheatley	Thursday and Friday
Nazreen	Wednesday and Friday

We are also excited to be starting some offsite activities such as swimming and horse riding after half term. More details to follow.

I have also put together a list of out of school activities that your child and family may be interested in. They are all tailored to the needs of the students at Addington Valley. We are not affiliated to any of these organisations, but feel they are great opportunities to get active.

Feel free to get in contact if you have any questions or queries and I'm more than happy to help.

Activity	Description	Age range	Times	Cost	Link for more information
Sense - Exercise through Dance on zoom	Join us for this fully inclusive virtual dance experience, incorporating a mix of active learning, storytelling and magical music.	5-11 years with complex disabilities	Wednesday 4pm for 45 mins	Free	https://www.sense.org.uk/arts-sports-and-wellbeing/explore-our-activities/exercise-through-dance-children-5-11
Croydon Wingz Cycling BMX	For those who want to learn or perfect their BMX skills in a fun and friendly environment. All equipment is provided such as bikes, pads, gloves, and helmets.	6+	Saturday 10-11am	First session free then £3	https://parasport.org.uk/oaopportunity/parasport2021-EventSeries-4766
The Community Club, Sutton (Westcroft Leisure)	The Community Club is a pan disability weekly multi-sport club. The club delivers a range of inclusive traditional and Paralympic sports including Football, Basketball, Cricket, Tennis, Boccia and more.	Aged 8 years and older	Saturdays 11.00 – 12.30	£4	https://parasport.org.uk/oaopportunity/parasport2021-EventSeries-2601
Wheels for Wellbeing (Croydon Sports Arena)	We run regular inclusive cycling sessions in South London for disabled children and adults to try our fleet of two, three and four wheeled cycles. Our qualified instructors, supported by fantastic volunteers, help participants try our cycles or get comfortable on the one that suits them, and offer ongoing support.		Saturdays 10am – 12 45 minute bookable slots	£5 per cyclist (carer comes free). £10 per family with at least 1 disabled cyclist	https://wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk/cycling-sessions/

<p>RAP Sports Programme</p>	<p>RAP sports programme for children and young people (aged 5 to 25) with disabilities and additional needs.</p>	<p>Children and Young People aged 5-25</p>	<p>Monday: New Addington – Intermediate swimming</p> <p>Tuesday: Waddon – Basketball - 5 - 6pm</p> <p>Wednesday: St Cyprians – Racket sports – 5 -6pm</p> <p>Thursday: Waddon</p> <p>Trampoline – 4 – 5pm Rebound Therapy – 5-6pm Advanced Swimming – 6 – 7pm</p> <p>Friday: Thornton Heath – Beginners Swimming – 5 – 7pm</p> <p>Saturday: Waddon</p> <p>Multi sports High Support – 9 – 10.30am Low Support – 11 – 1pm</p>	<p>Most sessions £2 with full term booking discounts</p>	<p>https://www.croydon.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-culture/sports-and-physical-activity/inclusive-sports-programme</p>
<p>Oxygen Free-jumping Croydon</p>	<p>Oxygen provide weekly freejumping sessions for all ages on the the autistic spectrum, or with sensory or learning disabilities.</p>		<p>Wednesday's 3.00pm – 5.00pm (Pay for a 1 hour session, can enjoy as much of that 2 hours as you wish)</p> <p>Sunday's 5.00pm – 6.00pm</p> <p>School Holidays Sunday 5.00pm – 6.00pm</p>	<p>£8.50 with free carer</p>	<p>https://oxygenfreejumping.co.uk/activities/peaceful-play-autism-friendly/</p>

Purley Bury Tennis Club	A free tennis coaching session for adults and children with learning, sensory and physical disabilities.	5+	Fridays 6:30pm to 7:30pm	Free	https://localoffer.croydon.gov.uk/kb5/croydon/directory/service.page?id=PeX-PekInEY&localofferchannel=6_7
SLiDE	SLiDE is a Croydon street dance company for people with learning disabilities and learning difficulties. The company reaches diverse communities and offers a safe place for the local community to explore dance and movement.		Mondays 6-7pm		