



AVANTI GARDENS
SCHOOL

Avanti Gardens Family Bulletin

Welcome to the AGS Family Bulletin. In this communication with parents and carers, we aim to bring together our whole school community by sharing information

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL :

Dear Families,

I write to you at the end of an exciting, aspirational and slightly exhausting Autumn term. I am proud to tell families about the journey we've been on since September and incredibly exciting about the next term and the wonderful learning that the pupils will be welcomed back to.

My thanks once again goes to all families for helping us to keep our school COVID safe. We have been stringent in school to minimise any transmission and will continue to implement our safety measures in January as per Government guidance.

Across this term I have frequently been motivated, inspired and proud of our pupils at AGS. The way that Pupils have responded to the changes in learning expectation has been wonderful. The linear nature of our newly created curriculum means that new knowledge is built upon prior knowledge and we are beginning to see it 'click' for so many of our pupils. Each pupil should be immensely proud of their determination and perseverance this term - it has been my privilege to get to know them. Pupils have been brave in embracing new experiences and we have certainly grown together.

I would like you to join me in thanking all of our staff for the immense effort they have contributed to keeping the school running, keeping our pupils safe whilst inspiring them into learning.

Thank you as always for your huge commitment and support to the school – the team and I have been incredibly pleased with the positive comments we've received in the last few weeks.

I wish families a safe and restful festive holiday break. The team and I look forward to welcoming back the school community on the 4th January.

Yours Faithfully,
Mr Milum



CLASS UPDATES

RECEPTION

This term the children have had fun exploring Autumn and the many celebration that we celebrate during this time of the year. The children have managed to learn all the set 1 sounds and started using them in their reading and writing. They have also deepened their understanding of their numbers 1-5. It has been a delight to have the opportunity to teach such vibrant and enthusiastic children and has been a joy to watch the children grow in confidence and begin to show us their own unique traits. It has been brilliant that the children have begun to work collaboratively together to share ideas and solve problems.

We hope you all have a lovely break, and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year!

Miss Silverthorne, Mrs Osborne and Mrs Palinska

DAFFODIL

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Thank you for your hard work and humour this term year 1. Enjoy a well-deserved break and some important family time, whether it's a small affair this year or not.

Our end of term celebrations have been enjoyable, making crafts, doing our class advent calendar, writing Christmas party invitations, writing cards, making maps for Father Christmas, sharing kind words and designing jumpers with stickers to make repeated patterns.

A note from Miss Jackson- I will miss all the children's unique characters and being a part of their learning journey. I wish them the best for their next steps into 2021.

Miss Jackson and Mrs Cook

SUNFLOWER

Hello Sunflower Class Parents

This Autumn term Year 2 children have made us all so proud. They have approached this exceptional term with an abundance of enthusiasm and resilience. Their thirst for learning and sense of fun have made the past 15 weeks an absolute joy. They continue to astound me with just how quickly they are acquiring new skills and information.

However, I know first-hand and that when lovingly asked "What did you learn in school today?", children so often reply "Nothing." So, today I have sent home a Knowledge Organiser. This is an overview of the learning that we will be covering next term. Please use this to support conversations with your child at home about what we have been doing in school.

We look forward to welcoming the children back in January, when our learning quest will be 'Where in the World are We?'

Miss Jeffries, Miss Lollover and I wish you all a very happy festive period.

Miss Roberts

IRIS and PEONY

Throughout the autumn term year 3 have shown great resilience and a brilliant attitude to learning. We have loved hearing all their wonderful ideas across the subjects, especially when they are inventing their own stories. This term we have spent a lot of time thinking about why kindness is important and how we can show it in and out of school, we plan to continue this in the spring term.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and restful new year and we look forward to welcoming you all back into the Year 3 class in January.

Miss Griffith and Miss Butterfield-West

FOXGLOVE

Thank you for your support this term. The children have had a fantastic time in class, and there has been a lot of learning and fun. They have all demonstrated what it is to be part of the Avanti Schools' Trust through their mature behaviour and their willingness to follow instructions and to take responsibility for their learning.

We have enjoyed our Pirates topic, using Ordnance Survey map symbols and making our own Treasure Maps and Treasure Chests.

Enrichment Week was a great success too and the children can speak about 'The Diversity of Bristol' with knowledge and confidence. This was evident when Miss Kitchen came to visit our class to talk to the children about their learning experiences throughout the week.

During these strange and unprecedented COVID times the children have shown great resilience and kindness towards each other. They have been empathetic to each other's family situations as well.

Let's hope that 2021 brings us out of this pandemic, with the new vaccine comes hope that life will return to a new normality where upon restrictions on seeing family and friends will be lifted and travel will be possible to reunite with extended family members.

As for now, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Best wishes from Mrs Painter

SNAPDRAGON

Dear parents/guardians

Firstly, thank you all very much for your support this term, it has been really appreciated by myself. Looking back on the school year so far, I have been delighted on how well the class has bonded. After some initial hiccups, the children have worked hard to identify as a class and have supported each other well.

There have been many highlights this term, seeing the children grow in confidence and belief when it comes to solving maths problems.

Smiles on their faces when they've overcome a challenge. Realising they can do things they didn't think they could. Performing their own version of our Bristol Beacon poem was another highlight and I am working out a way in which you can all see the final performance. The Year 6 children need a special mention on how diligently they have worked to complete tests and on how much they have improved in reading, maths and writing – the improvements are amazing.

In these strange Covid times, I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and let us hope that 2021 sees the return of a more normal time. Here's hoping for a fantastic New Year for all.
Many thanks and again thank you for your support.

Mr Youngs

P.E.

Dear parents / carers, children, and staff!

Thank you for all engaging with us over our first term at Avanti Gardens - we have felt very welcome and very much part of the wider Avanti family. This term's highlights have seen some amazing flight and landings for year 5/6, Netball skills to be proud for years 4 and 3, some very expressive dance techniques and routines from year 2, and year 1 have successfully learnt to roll / throw and retrieve their balls in our fundamental's topic. We will have some more great PE and yoga in store for you in term 3. A couple of updates from us...

EYFS: Mr Dyer will be teaching reception class on Friday mornings in term 3 - he is very excited to meet you all!

CLUBS: We recently asked you to complete our club survey, with a view to offering sports clubs at Avanti in term 3. At the present time we are unable to offer clubs based on the numbers of interested families per year group - we hope that we will be able to join year group bubbles together in the near future, making clubs more viable. We will update you as again on this matter as soon as possible. If you have any further feedback or queries regarding clubs then please contact Spencer Davies info@sportingchance-csp.co.uk

We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Be the best 'festive' version of you!

From all at Sporting Chance (Mr Davies, Mr Gill, Mr Evans, and Mr Dyer)

SPANISH

Each year between December 24 and January 6, Spain comes alive to celebrate Christmas, or ***Navidad***.

According to Catholic tradition, Christmas is celebrated on December 25 in honour of the day Jesus was born. Children in Spain only get a couple of presents from Santa to open on Christmas day.

December 31 is New Year's Eve, or *Nochevieja* in Spanish, the time to say goodbye to the year that's coming to an end and welcome the new year. Spaniards spend the final moments before the clock strikes midnight preparing to ring in the new year. People gather in plazas or homes to eat the *12 uvas de la suerte* (**12 lucky grapes**). During the last 12 seconds of the year, everyone eats 12 grapes so that luck will be on their side for the whole year to come. Maybe this is something you all could try this year in your own homes.

But the holiday season doesn't end there! January 6 is a very important holiday in Spain called *el Día de los Tres Reyes Magos* (known in English as Epiphany or Three Kings' Day). On this day the children of Spain get the majority of their presents from the Three Wise Men.

Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!

Mrs Gardner – Malchiodi

CRAFT

What fantastic progress the children in Handwork this term. We've had bunny's and lambs going home. Vibrant multi coloured pompoms being made. We've had the tricky new skill of purling being learnt by year 3. Year 4 are well on their way to mastering crochet using a beautiful, rich selection of rainbow colours. Year 5 are creating beautiful cross stitch using their own two-way symmetry design. Year 6 have quickly picked up the tricky skill of using the sewing machine and are sewing log cabin cushion covers.

I can't wait to see what these clever children's fingers will produce next term.

Well done everyone, have a holiday!

Mrs Cook



A Showcase of our Enrichment Week

- Last week, all children and staff at Avanti Gardens took a weeklong look at the diversity of Bristol.
- Each class was given a BIG question to consider:
Why is Bristol so Diverse?
- The mission for the week was to explore Bristol's history, to work together as a class to create a beautiful piece of Artwork, and to have time to discuss what makes us unique, as a school community and as individuals.

Here is the story of the week from the children and staff themselves:



An EYFS Snapshot of Enrichment week:

Orchid class began the week by sharing the story 'Santa is coming to Bristol' by Steve Smallman. We explored the illustrations in the book looking at landmarks around Bristol such as the Clifton Suspension Bridge and Bristol Cathedral. The children were excited to share the different places in Bristol they have visited.

We realised that living in Bristol is what makes us "United", so we further explored what makes us "Unique".

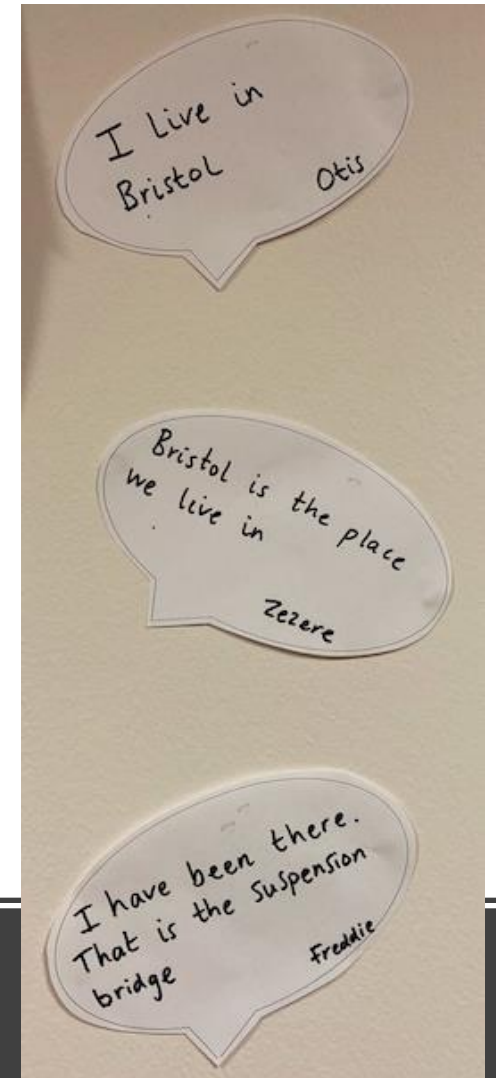
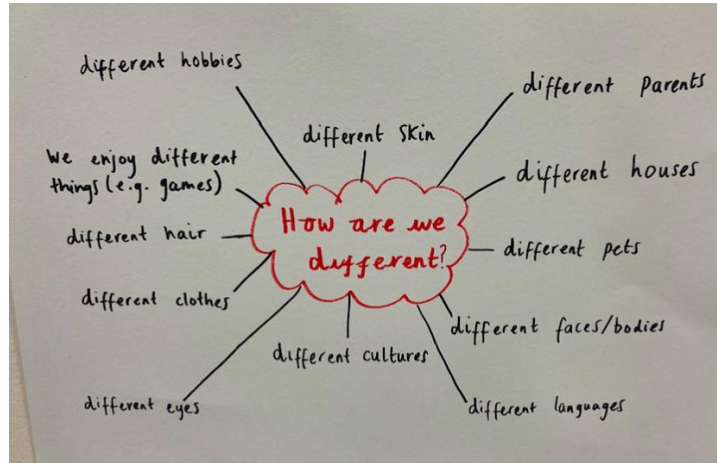
The children interviewed Mrs Palinska, as being from Poland is what makes her unique. From this we shared the languages that we speak at home and spent the week learning how to say hello in Spanish, Polish, Gujarati, Portuguese and Punjabi.

The children shared with the class what makes them special and unique, and we celebrated our differences.

Bristol International Balloon Fiesta is an iconic festival in Bristol, as a class we learnt about the fiesta as well as learning how they make Hot Air Balloons at Cameron Balloons. This led onto our art project where we created our own hot air balloons, thinking about how the baskets unite us as they are the same, but the shell of the balloons are different: making us unique.

The children explored different patterns of the hot air balloon shell before creating their own using collaging. As a class the children shared ideas on how they wanted to display the balloons, and as this is the year of the Rainbow, there was a unanimous decision to create their own rainbows, uniting us as a Class and a child at Avanti Gardens School in Bristol.





Miss Silverthorne helped us to write down our ideas about how we are different.

Year 1 – How did you enjoy Enrichment week?

We started the week using maps to point out our favourite places in Bristol. We read the story Goram and Ghyston the Bristol giants and discussed the beauty of the city.

We talked about the meaning of diversity and that people from all over the world live in Bristol. We discussed the range of places that we come from in our class. For our art piece we made hot air balloons travelling over the school inspired by Jenny Urquhart and cut card to create the flags of where we are from to celebrate the diversity in our class. Our flags included: Russian, Indian, Bulgarian, Argentinian and Polish.

Our class did handprints to create a values display we talked about values we think are most important for our school, these included: kindness, creativity, embracing diversity, tolerance, listening, sharing and inclusion.

We looked at pictures of street art in Bristol that celebrated diversity and used them to inspire our own. We also talked about St.Paul's carnival and watched drumming videos. We created poetry about our favorite places in Bristol and how we celebrate diversity. Once we had created our individual poems, we came together with drums and wrote a collaborative poem as a class taking bits of everyone's ideas.

What Year 1 had to say about the BIG question:

Lots of people come from different countries

The people that are different make friends

Now we celebrate with carnivals

In the past people had been unkind to different people so the statue of Colston was taken down.



Year 1's celebration poem from Enrichment Week

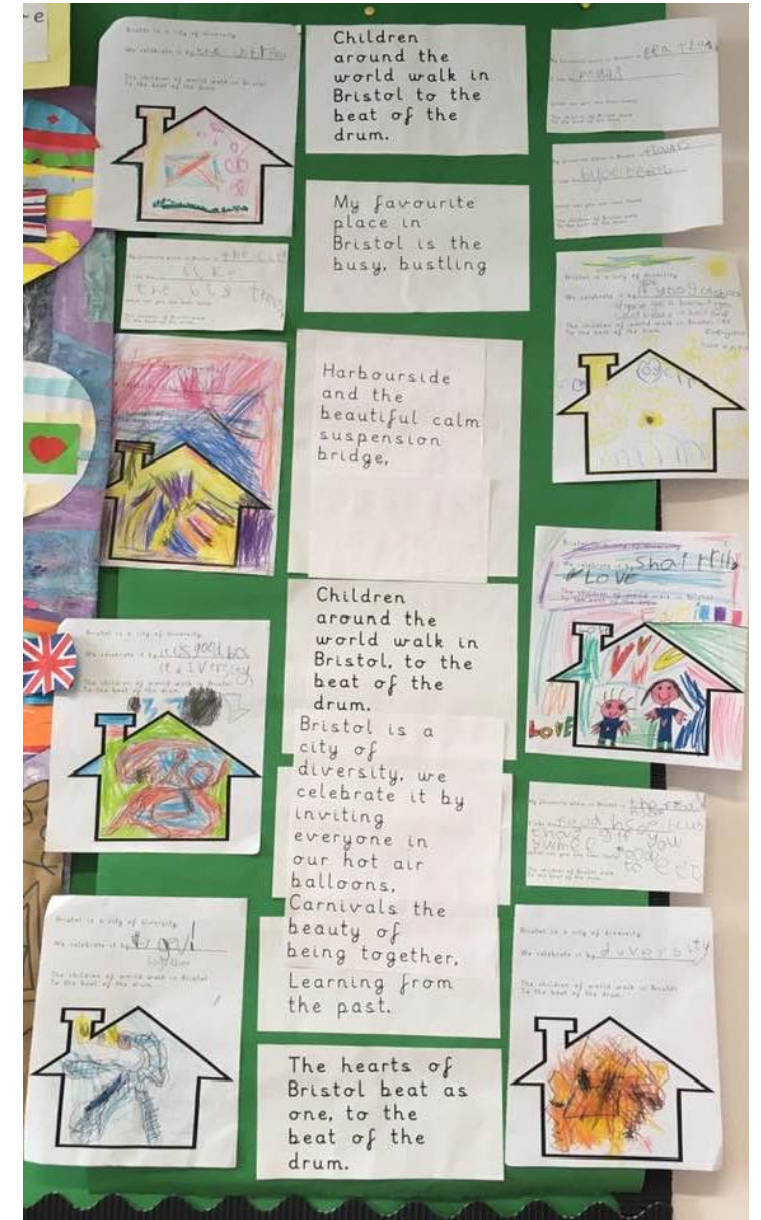
Children around the world walk in
Bristol to the beat of the drum.

My favourite place in Bristol is the
busy, bustling Harbourside and the
beautiful calm suspension bridge,

Children around the world walk in
Bristol, to the beat of the drum.

Bristol is a city of diversity, we
celebrate it by inviting everyone in
our hot air balloons,
Carnivals the beauty of being
together, dancing. Learning from
the past.

The hearts of Bristol beat as one,
to the beat of the drum.



Year 2 what did you learn from Enrichment week?

We began by talking about why we love Bristol and that brought us onto the topic of Carnival; the dance, the dresses and the colourful feathers. Carnival was created to get lots of communities together. When people from Afro Caribbean backgrounds came to Bristol they were not treated very nicely, and so Carnival was a way of celebrating their culture. We love Carnival in Bristol because we like to celebrate people who bring us things we might not have known about before – like the food and the music and the dancing. We made hats to celebrate our own mini-Carnival outside, and we paraded around the sunken lawn whilst some of our classmates played the steel pans, drums and maracas.

After that we read a newspaper called the Avanti Post (we think Miss Roberts wrote it, but we can't be sure) – anyway, we learnt about a man called Edward Colston. We learnt that his statue had been torn down as part of Black Lives Matter and now he lives in the Bristol Museum. We learnt about why he was made into a statue in the first place, because he gave lots of money to Bristol. Miss Roberts kept using this big word with us “controversial” – which means to us that he is sort of both a good and a bad figure and we feel a bit torn about him. He was a slave trader and so he wasn't good for that reason, but it was good that he gave lots of his money to Bristol. This made us discuss how many places are named after him – there are lots. We concluded that changing the names of these places is a great idea, but perhaps destroying statues isn't such a good idea. Finally, this ended in us talking about the right to have an opinion but that it is always good to gather all the facts. There are quite a few things we came up with that you could do if you didn't like something and you wanted to make a change, such as: using our words, talking about it, protesting, making sure people know how we feel, or even writing a letter to Martin Rees!







Amari Price celebrating the Avanti Carnival on the steel pans.

Year 3 what did you learn from Enrichment week?



We began by talking about the word “diverse” and what that meant. We think that means “to be different” and being different isn’t a bad thing. In our PSHE lessons we began by thinking about the amount of difference amongst people in the classroom. As Marcie puts it “people love being different every day”. We then talked about how lots of people and places are diverse – this led us on to talk about a variety of beliefs and races.

One person was the focus of our discussion – a footballer and British black war hero. We were not sure that everyone in Bristol knew who he was, so we did some research into his life so we could tell more people about him. That man is known as Walter Tull. He was one of English football’s first black players and the British Army’s first ever black officer to command white troops. His story has been forgotten by lots of people, but it really should not have been because he kept on fighting even though he was not treated very nicely at football matches, and he was an orphan, and he had to go to war!

As a year group, we decided to look into writing a letter to English heritage asking if Walter Tull could have a blue plaque. Blue plaques are a way of remembering people, and we think they are cool because you could walk past the plaque and think 'oooooh who is Walter Tull, it says he did this, wow I am now interested in learning more about him' (thanks Minnie!)

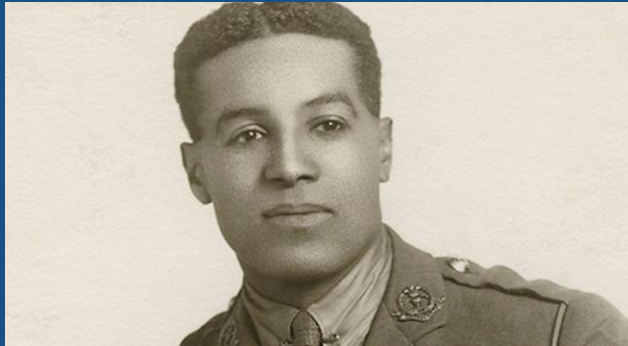
In our Art session, we made colourful collages to show off Bristol's diversity. One of our favourite collages said on it "only laundry should be separated by colour" – we also found pictures of balloons and the SS Great Britain which makes Bristol somewhere people want to visit.

When Miss Kitchen asked us the BIG question today, we came up quite a few ideas: Bristol is diverse because lots of people have arrived here from different places and they have felt comfortable. Bristol is diverse because the schools are nice! Bristol is diverse because of the war efforts. Bristol is diverse because it has good universities!



We tried to be quite persuasive in our letters to the English heritage: here is an example of one of our letters, this one has been written by Clover Penning.

English Heritage 6th Floor,
100 Wood Street,
London,
EC2V 7AN
Thursday 10th December



Dear Sir, Madam

I am writing to you because I am sure that Walter Tull should get a blue plaque.

Firstly, I think that he should be commemorated for his football career. More specifically because he was the second black professional football player. Furthermore, he was discriminated against for his race, because he was black. Despite this he still played.

Secondly, I think he should be remembered for his war career. He was the first black officer to lead a British army. Thirdly also he died young fighting for his country.

This is why I think Walter Tull should get a blue plaque.

Sincerely

Clover

Year 4 – What did you learn from Enrichment week?



Our week was jam packed with Art, history and lots of research into Blackbeard the Bristolian Pirate! On the left you can see that we have re-designed the Avanti shield. Theo KJ put his amazing drawing skills to the test when he drew out the torch, and Miriam drew the lion beautifully which we discussed as showing off our courage. Around the lion are mini portraits of everyone in the class with different backgrounds to represent our different families. We also decided to create a collage of the different flowers (classes) that the whole school is made up of: Iris, Peony, Sunflower, Orchid, Daffodil, Snapdragon.

In our morning lessons we began by looking at Edward Colston. We found out some interesting stuff about him. He used to be considered a charitable man and for that he was celebrated. However, he only gave his money to white charities who supported poor white people. Otto quite rightly pointed out that this seems odd, how did he know his money was only going to white people? We discussed that white people were considered more important than black people, and that Edward Colston was involved in selling black slaves – which is how he made his money. We didn't like the fact he branded his slaves. We understood why the BLM movement wanted the statue to be taken down.

Then we did some research into Blackbeard, who used to sail from Bristol on slave ships bound for the Caribbean and West Africa. The first thing we want to tell you is that his head was cut off and attached to a ship. He also had 14 wives – which is rather greedy indeed! He liked to set his beard alight to scare people in battle. He fought in the Queen Anne's war and his pirate ship was eventually called the Queen Anne's Revenge.

So, in answer to the BIG question we think Bristol is diverse because now we understand how many people came to be here. Bristol was a trading port, and the port was involved in the slave trade. We thought it was important that different people have come to live in Bristol because there is now such a big variety of food on offer here! Bristol's history and what we have learnt from it is what makes it different. We also think that Bristol's graffiti makes the city a colourful and inviting one.



Year 5/6 - What did you learn from Enrichment week?

We were inspired by the opening assembly for the week which considered the re-naming of Colston Hall to the Bristol Beacon. We discussed the word "beacon" and what it stood for. We know that a beacon is a light, and so we thought maybe light it now being shone on the right things to celebrate, community and performance – not a slave trader.

Mr Youngs told us that Colston Hall had decided to change the name because of what had happened in Bristol in the summer. Edward Colston was a charitable man, but from the research we did, we found out his money only went to white people. We liked how the people at Bristol Beacon thought the new message for people of Bristol was to remember the enslaved, not the enslaver! All people should know that, not just people from Bristol.

We really liked this poem written by city poet Vanessa Kisuule to unveil Bristol Beacon's new name, spoken by the people of Bristol.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNR6KrUu25U&feature=emb_logo

We thought we would have a go at writing our own poem (that can be read on the next page)

We asked the staff to give us their ideas too and so it is a good take on how we all feel about Bristol and why it is special to us.

In our PSHE sessions we talked about how it was not that long ago that people didn't celebrate people from different cultures and backgrounds. Mr Youngs told us that people would openly be racist or homophobic on TV and we discussed how different that is now. Our attitudes have changed now, and we decided that it was good that there was no right or wrong way to be. This feels like a better world to live in.

We talked about the words "inclusive" and "multi-cultural" and thought maybe that is what attracts people to Bristol.

Year 5/6's Poem in celebration of Bristol

Bristol	Bristol	Bristol	Bristol
My City,	City of colour and culture	Our Home	Like nowhere else,
My Future	Everyone's Welcome	Our City	Standing Alone
My Home	Past of slave trade, future yet to come	Our Place of Wonder	A Unique Amazing City
My Happy Place	Secrets and memories	Diverse, magical	Aspirational, astounding
My Stomping Ground	Together we live, together we learn	Warm like Hot Chocolate	A Flickering Flame curling round in spirals.
Standing Strong	Majestic	The Place we Belong	Multicultural, Inclusive
United, Proud, Together	City of dreams	Respect the city	Ours
Banksy, City, Rovers	Inspirational	Respect each other	Ours
Ours	Ours	Ours	Ours



175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR					
175 days to spend on family time, holidays and other appointments					
190 School days for each child's education	10 days of absence 180 days of Education	19 days of absence 171 days of Education	29 days of absence 161 days of Education	38 days of absence 152 days of Education	47 days of absence 143 days of Education
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good Best Chance of Success		Serious Concern Penalty Notice Considered		Severe Risk Prosecution / Court Action	

w/c 16.11.20	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
98.3%	99.6 %	98.7%	95.2%	n/a	n/a

AVANTI GARDENS VIDEO

[Please click here to watch a video about our school](#)



AVANTI SCHOOLS
TRUST