

AVJS Bulletin: 3rd February 2023

I would like to extend a large thank you to everyone for your support this week. We know it was not easy for many of you on Wednesday as you had to find alternative arrangements for childcare. We are looking forward to seeing you in school next week for the parent consultation meetings. If you have not managed to book a place or are struggling to do so, please contact the school office where someone will be able to help you.

Many years ago, the FOAV used to hold a quiz night for friends, parents and carers. They were always good, fun events but the popularity dwindled and we haven't held one for quite a while. We would like to hold a Pizza and Quiz night on Friday, 21st April from 7.30pm in the school hall. However, before we press ahead with the arrangements, we would like to gauge what interest there would be. If you think that this is something you would like to attend, we would love you to complete the attached form by following the link below. This is not a commitment but just a way of seeing if this is a viable proposition. At present, we are envisaging a general knowledge quiz in teams of about 6 and having pizza and a cash bar.

<https://forms.office.com/e/K1ngKXtfQL>

Over the last few months, we have been conducting a review of reading at Arno Vale led by Mrs Blakemore who is our English subject lead. The pandemic has meant that we (and all schools across the nation) have had to consider the learning that was lost during this time. Phonics is traditionally taught in reception and year 1 with a statutory phonics check in the summer of year 1. In year 2, the children who needed extra support received this enabling them to move into key stage 2 (the junior phase) confident in early reading. One of the main changes we have had to make is the teaching of phonics in key stage 2 to address missed learning. All primary schools are required to deliver one of the DfE approved phonics schemes and we have chosen the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised scheme.

This is also the scheme that Woodthorpe Infants has selected enabling a smooth transition between the schools. Not all children will need to access phonics teaching at Arno Vale and the teaching is carried out as part of an intervention programme. Miss Carter leads on the teaching of phonics in the school. We have also considered the impact of our teaching of guided reading across the school. Classes are taught to develop their skills in reading as a whole class based on texts which are chosen to stretch the children's skills, knowledge and ability in a safe and constructive way. We also support children who may be secure with their phonics knowledge but need extra support with their other reading skills through being part of our regular reader scheme where children read to a trained adult on a regular basis and some children are supported through an intervention called Switch On reading. We have been asked if all children read regularly to a teacher. This is important when children are developing their early reading skills and is done through the phonics groups, regular readers and Switch On. Some of our children are confident and competent readers. We encourage these children to develop their knowledge, skills and vocabulary through reading a range of genres and text types. Some of these children will be asked to read aloud in class, some will read to a partner and we will listen to some 'whisper read' during their guided reading session. We have also been asked by some of you why we don't have reading diaries like they do at Woodthorpe Infants. In the past, we have supplied children with them and our research has shown that they are not always used in a junior setting and that for some, there is little impact on developing reading. However, we do know that some people like them and we have been researching how we can encourage reading, allow children to record what they have read and make it enjoyable. After half term, each child will be issued with an Arno Vale Reading



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Challenge Sheet. The sheet gives the children challenges of what types of text to read, where to read them, how often to read them and allows them to record how well they have done and what they have read (there is also space for parents and carers to make comments too). Each Friday during the guided reading session, the children will have the opportunity to discuss what they have read, make recommendations to each other and consider how they may challenge themselves the following week. We will be celebrating reading successes at the end of each half term and then looking at changing and adding to the challenges. We really hope the children enjoy the challenges, vary the range of texts that they read and benefit from the recommendations from their peers. We want this to be enjoyable and worthwhile for the children. You can see a small image of what the challenge sheet will be like below:

The Arno Vale Reading Challenge

Name: _____

My goal is to read _____ times each week
for _____ minutes each time

Read for longer than usual	Read to a pet	Draw a picture of what you have read	Read a book someone else picks	Read your favourite book again
Read a prize winning book	Read while snuggling	Read on a Saturday	Read to a family member	Read without being asked
Read outside	Read twice a day	Free choice!	Read before breakfast	Read in a funny voice
Read to sibling or friend	Read a book in bed	Read a book from the library	Read in pyjamas	Read five poems
Read a non-fiction book	Read a book by an author you have never read	Read under a tree	Read a story set in another country	Read a book with a name in the title
Read a book that makes you laugh	Read to someone on the phone or over a video chat	Read an historical fiction book	Read a book that became a film	Read a book that has been recommended to you

Put a tick in the box when you have achieved it.
You can complete each box more than once.
Don't forget to write what your 'free choice' is.

What I have read:

Comments:

I was made aware from a parent that there have been a couple of reportings of a white van slowing down and talking to students near Arnold Hill Academy and Christ The King Academy. We have spoken to the children about stranger danger and taking care of themselves whilst they are out and about but ask that you reinforce it with your children at home.

Watch out for some information next week about the FOAV 'Break Some Rules' day that is coming up on 28th February! We hope to raise some much needed funds from this.

Mr Ward and Mr Lindley would like me to advise you that there are still spaces on a couple of days for their multi sports camp during half term week. The dates available are Monday, February 13th and Tuesday, February 14th. To book a place for your child, you can contact Mr Lindley on 07858 744626, Mr Ward on 07901 967644 or email them at: multisportscamp@hotmail.com.



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Tuesday, 7 th February 23	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday, 7 th February 23	Year 5 trip to the National Space Centre
Tuesday, 7 th February 23	Parents' Consultation Meeting – 3.40-6.30pm
Wednesday, 8 th February 23	Parents' Consultation Meeting – 3.40-6.30pm
Thursday, 9 th February 23	Parents' Consultation Meeting – 3.40-6.30pm
13 th to 17 th February 23	Half Term
Monday, 20 th February 23	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday, 28 th February 23	Break Some Rules day
Thursday, 2 nd March 23	World Book Day
Monday, 21 st March 23	Mother's Day afternoon tea
Tuesday, 22 nd March 23	Mother's Day afternoon tea
Friday, 31 st March 23	Last Day of the Spring Term
Monday, 17 th April 23	First Day of the Summer Term
Friday, 21 st April 23	FOAV Quiz Night
Monday, 1 st May 23	Bank Holiday
Monday, 8 th May 23	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9 th May to Friday, 12 th May 23	Year 6 SATs
29 th May – 2 nd June 23	Half Term week
Monday, 5 th June 23	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Thursday, 15 th June 23	Y3 trip to Brackenhurst
Thursday, 29 th June 23	Transition Day (Arnold Hill Transition Day 1)
Thursday, 29 th June 23	New Parents Meeting – 6pm
Friday, 30 th June 23	Year 6 Arnold Hill Transition Day 2
Friday, 7 th July 23	Summer Fayre
Friday, 14 th July 23	Year 5 Inspire Day at Arnold Hill
Tuesday, 25 th July 23	Last Day of the Summer Term

