



Bulletin: Friday 12th December 2025
(website version)

The highlight of our week has undoubtedly been Tuesday's Christmas concerts. The children were fantastic and made us all very proud. Their behaviour, attitude and teamwork—from rehearsals to travelling to and from the church—were superb. They learned every word to every song, showed confidence when performing and demonstrated kindness and respect when it wasn't their turn. They were a real credit to the school and to you, their families. We would also like to thank all parents, carers, friends and members of our community for joining us and for your continued support. Thanks, too, to Tim, Daniel and everyone at the

church for welcoming us so warmly and helping make the event such a success. It was a lovely reminder of the strength of our community.

This week has also been full of festive fun. Yesterday was our Christmas dinner and jumper day—huge thanks to Miss Hooper and the kitchen and lunchtime teams for all their hard work. There were plenty of empty plates and happy faces! In the afternoon, the children took part in a Christmas Jingle Jog. A reminder that our school Christmas postbox is now open; please ensure envelopes are clearly labelled with the recipient's name and class.

Today, our Year 6 children are thoroughly enjoying their STEMdrones day. There is a fantastic atmosphere in the hall—lots of excitement, focus and high-quality learning taking place. A big thank-you once again to the FOAV for funding this experience.

FOAV funding is also supporting several exciting upcoming events:

- Monday 15th December – STEMbotics workshops for Year 5*
 - Thursday 19th March – Minecraft workshops for Years 3 and 4*
 - Friday 30th January – Whole-school Drumba workshops*
 - Monday 22nd June – In-school theatre production of The Jungle Book for all year groups*
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In addition, FOAV contributions help fund our Christmas parties, the Year 6 leavers' celebrations, and a variety of other enrichment activities across the year. We're also pleased to share that some funds will be invested in upgrading the visual, lighting and sound systems in the school hall—improvements that will benefit performances and events for years to come.

Looking ahead, next week is Christmas party week. Class teachers will share details on Dojo shortly. While there is lots of festive excitement to come, plenty of learning will still be taking place and lessons will continue as normal.

We're looking forward to another busy week at Arno Vale as we head towards the end of term.

Have a lovely weekend!

Dee Wilson

We are saddened to share the news that Dee Wilson, a former and much-respected member of our governing body, has recently passed away. Dee served Arno Vale with great dedication for many years, including in the roles of Vice Chair and Chair of Governors, before stepping down from her responsibilities a few years ago. She also held similar roles at Arnold Hill Academy.

Although she was no longer a serving governor, Dee remained a huge supporter of the school and a deeply valued and trusted member of our wider school community. Her knowledge, expertise and unwavering commitment were of immense benefit to Arno Vale, and her contribution has had a lasting impact.

On behalf of everyone at Arno Vale, we extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends and loved ones.

Electronic sign in system

Our new electronic sign in system is now up and running. If your child arrives late (after 8.55am), you must come in to reception with them to sign them in. Please do not just drop them at the door and leave.

Site safety

Also, please note that cars should not be driven up the drive to the main entrance when dropping off and picking up. This creates an unnecessary risk for staff and children using the main entrance. This area is for staff parking only.

New Bricks 4 Kidz Lego Club

*Following the success of the Clay Creators Club, we are really pleased to be able to offer another set of sessions for the new year. This time though, the company will be delivering a **Lego Technics Club**. The children will be building models from the 'Transportation' theme.*

The club is open to all year groups at Arno Vale and will run on the dates listed below:

Places are limited and can only be booked via the following link:

<https://booking.bricksnotts.com/bookings/course-info/797>

Based on previous experience, we anticipate that the places will get booked up very quickly. The cost is £42 for the six-week block. The organisers will create a waiting list if necessary.

Please note that this is an externally run club and that any queries should be sent to the company and not us. They will assist with all bookings and payments. We are not able to do this.

Notes from the instructors:

We'll be building models from our Transportation theme where the children love our interactive Technics Bricks 4 Kidz models.

The children will be building models from our Transportation Timeline theme, so If your child likes planes, trains and automobiles, then this class is for them!

Build motorized models of a dragster, a railroad crossing gate, an airplane and more! Explore the history of transportation from horse and buggy and trains to the development of the automobile and flight.

Take mini-figures for a ride on these vehicles, and customize it to your own specifications! Bricks4Kidz is a STEM-based program that teaches science and technology concepts using LEGO® bricks.

Your child(ren) will be collected from their class and brought to us or make their own way if instructed, in time for our register. We'll be setup in one of the Y3 classrooms. You only need to arrange collection (from the main school entrance) or tell us if they're going to another after-school provider when creating their profiles.

Please inform us before the class, by replying to our pre-class email, if your child is unable to attend. If we haven't received notification of their absence and they don't arrive, we'll contact you via the numbers you gave upon registration.

To book your child(ren) onto this event they have to already be a pupil at Arno Vale Junior School.

Once you've booked, please pay by card on your profile page. You can book now and pay later if more convenient.

Date	Time
Friday 9 th January	3.35-4.35pm
Friday 16 th January	3.35-4.35pm
Friday 23 rd January	3.35-4.35pm
Friday 30 th January	3.35-4.35pm
Friday 6 th February	3.35-4.35pm
Friday 13 th February	3.35-4.35pm

School dinners

Our new spring school dinner menu is now available to view on our [website](#). We've made a few tweaks based on feedback from the recent survey, so thank you again for your input! After Christmas, we'll be trialling a new system allowing parents to book meals for individual days, rather than having to block book for a whole week. We'll share full details about this next week.

Celebration assembly

Unfortunately we were unable to have a celebration assembly today as the hall was in use. We'll have an extended one next Friday instead. If your child had a birthday or out of school achievement this week, we'll still celebrate those next Friday.

Illness

It's that time of year when coughs, colds and other seasonal illnesses are circulating widely. You may have seen recent news reports about an increase in flu cases. For the latest advice and information, please refer to the official NHS guidance: [Flu - NHS](#)

Here is a useful guide for some other common conditions/illnesses:

Do I need to keep my child off school?

Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
	Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	

General messages and reminders from previous bulletins:

- Tuck shop for the spring term - payment is now available on MCAS.
 - If you would like to make a donation to support children impacted by the devastation in Jamaica caused by Hurricane Melissa, please click here: [Help school children in Jamaica affected by Hurricane Melissa](#)
 - Payments for the Y5 trip to the Holocaust Centre and Year 4 residential to Dukes Barn (installment 3) are now due.
 - If you have not yet updated your consents, this can be done quickly on MCAS by clicking on the 'Parental Consents' tab – it only takes a few seconds. If you haven't already done so, please complete this at your earliest convenience. Thank you.
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The importance of knowing times tables

Being confident with times tables is a key part of children's mathematical development. Quick recall of multiplication facts helps children solve calculations more efficiently, supports their understanding of division, fractions and problem-solving and builds a strong foundation for the maths they will encounter in later years. When children know their times tables well, they can focus their thinking on new concepts rather than getting stuck on basic facts.

Parents can play a big role in helping children learn their times tables. Short, regular practice is far more effective than long sessions—just a few minutes a day can make a real difference. You might try using flashcards, chanting together, singing times-table songs or using online games such as Times Table Rock Stars. Practising in real-life situations also helps: counting objects in groups, talking about multiplication in cooking or shopping or asking quick-fire questions on the school run. Most importantly, keep it fun and positive—celebrating small improvements helps build confidence and motivation.

Dates for your calendar:

Here are some important dates for this academic year:

Arno Vale Junior School Diary Dates 2025 to 2026	
Tuesday 9 th December	Christmas concert at St Marks. There will be two performances (one in the morning and one in the afternoon). Full details in the bulletin.
Thursday 11 th December	Save the Children Christmas jumper day Christmas dinner day
Friday 12 th December	Y6 STEMdrones day in school.
Monday 15 th December	Y5 STEMbotics day in school.
Wednesday 17 th December	Y3/4 Christmas party. Details to follow.
Thursday 18 th December	Y5/6 Christmas party. Details to follow.
Monday 22 nd December to Friday 2 nd January	Christmas holiday
Monday 5 th January	First day of the spring term
Monday 19 th January to Wednesday 21 st January	4 Yellow residential to Dukes Barn
Wednesday 21 st January to Friday 23 rd January	4 Orange residential to Dukes Barn
Friday 30 th January	Whole school Drumba workshops.
Monday 9 th February	Y5 trip to National Holocaust Museum
Monday 18 th February to Friday 20 th February	Half term holiday
Monday 23 rd February	Inset day
Tuesday 24 th February	Return to school
Tuesday 3 rd March	Parent's consultation meeting – 3.40pm to 6.30pm
Wednesday 4 th March	Parent's consultation meeting – 3.40pm to 6.30pm
Thursday 5 th March	Parent's consultation meeting – 3.40pm to 6.30pm
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April	Easter holiday
Monday 13 th April	Return to school
Monday 4 th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 11 th May to Thursday 14 th May	Y6 SATs week
Thursday 21 st May	Y3 trip to Cresswell Crags
Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May	Half term
Thursday 18 th June	School Games afternoon
Monday 22 nd June	M&M Productions Jungle Book (in school)
Tuesday 23 rd June	Back up School Games afternoon
Friday 3 rd July	Inset day
Tuesday 14 th July	Y6 performance
Wednesday 15 th July	Y6 performance
TBC	Y3/4 Minecraft workshops
TBC	FOAV summer fair
TBC	Y6 leavers' festival
TBC	FOAV film night
TBC	FOAV disco
Friday 24 th July	Last day of term

1 - [Calendar | Arno Vale Junior School](#)

Community events:

Please see the website for information about holiday clubs, activities, events, messages from other schools, SEND support and family support.

[Community News | Arno Vale Junior School](#)