



Bulletin: Friday 17th April 2026 (website version)

This week's bulletin starts with a huge thank you to the parent helpers that were in school on Wednesday afternoon to support Year 3 with their pizza making project. Their help made the activity possible and we couldn't have done it without them. It was great to see the Year 3 children's pizza design ideas come to life, bringing together their science knowledge and DT learning in such fun way. The hall was full of excitement as the children worked with great teamwork and determination—along with a fair amount of flour everywhere!

You may have seen a letter from Amanda Payne, our Chair of Governors, shared on Wednesday introducing our new Headteacher. Mrs Nikki Glover will begin her role in September and has written a message for parents to share her excitement about joining the Arno Vale community. If you haven't yet had the chance to read the letter, it is available on ClassDojo.

This term, our class ambassadors are leading an exciting whole-school project called 'Everyone Belongs', focused on making our school an even more inclusive and welcoming place for everyone. After launching the campaign with a presentation next week, the ambassadors will gather pupil voice through surveys and discussions to understand how children feel about belonging, friendships and respect for differences. Using this feedback, they will set up initiatives such as buddy systems, playground improvements and awareness activities that celebrate diversity and promote kindness. They were very excited to get started when I met with them yesterday.

Finally, congratulations to the Hill family (Andy, Mel and Hattie) following the birth of their second child, Archie. It was great to see Mr Hill back in school today following his paternity leave - I know the children in 5 Red have really missed him!

Have a lovely weekend!

Writing competition - an update from Miss Oates

As part of our World Book Day celebrations in March, we launched a school wide writing competition. All children were invited to enter a short story entitled 'The Mystery at Arno Vale'. There were a huge number of entries from across the year groups, with a range of themes including crimes, missing teachers, toilets, ghosts, corridor monsters and missing remote controls and red pens!

Huge thanks to one of our governors Mrs Tinkler, who came into school to judge the competition. It was a tough task due to the high standard of writing. We were particularly impressed with the language choice and the characterisation in the stories - some of the stories gave an interesting insight into how the staff in school are perceived!

Every child (or team of children) who submitted a story should feel very proud of themselves. We did have to choose some overall winners, so it is with great pleasure that we can announce the following:

Year 3 winner - Evelyn C

Year 4 winner - Emily K and Lydia A

Year 5 winner - Molly T

Year 6 winner - Ibraheem

Overall winner - Imogen J (Y5)

The year group winners have won a £10 Amazon voucher, and the overall winner a £20 Amazon voucher. Thanks to FOAV for kindly providing the prizes. The entries are displayed in the school library for all to enjoy.

Winning story: The Mystery at Arno Vale

Arno Vale Junior School looked ordinary in the daytime. Its walls were bright white, almost glowing when the sun shone through the tall classroom windows. The corridors were wide and echoey, and there were no lockers like in big secondary schools. Instead, every child hung their bag on a wooden peg along the wall. Coats, school bags and PE bags dangled in neat rows. Teachers said it kept things tidy. Most days, it did. But something else also liked the pegs.

No one noticed it at first. It stayed very still during the day, hiding in the quiet shadows between coats and backpacks. It was thin and long, with grey skin the colour of dusty chalk. Its fingers were hook shaped so it could hang from the pegs just like a school bag. If anyone looked closely, they might have seen its yellow eyes blinking slowly from behind a jacket sleeve. The ghost waited for the bell.

When the final bell rang and the children rushed out, the school became silent. The lights hummed softly. Chairs scraped as the cleaners moved through the rooms. But sometimes, in the empty corridor near Year Five, a peg would creak. That was the ghost waking up. It slid down from the wall with a soft thump. Its long toes tapped on the shiny floor as it stretched. All day it listened to lessons about fractions, spelling and volcanoes. At night it explored. It sniffed forgotten lunch crumbs. It read half finished worksheets. Once it even tried writing its name with a purple whiteboard pen, but it didn't know how to spell it. The ghost was lonely.

One rainy afternoon, a boy named Oliver came back inside because he had forgotten his homework folder. The corridor was dim and quiet. Bags hung on their pegs like sleepy bats. Oliver heard a creak. He looked up and saw something hanging between his coat and a blue

backpack. Two yellow eyes blinked. The creature dropped lightly to the floor. Oliver froze, but the ghost didn't scream or chase him. Instead, it held out a crumpled worksheet it had been carrying all night. On it were wobbly letters. HELLO. Oliver stared then slowly wrote underneath. HELLO BACK.

From that day on, the ghost still hid on the pegs of Arno Vale Junior School. Teachers never noticed. Cleaners never saw. But sometimes a worksheet would appear with strange handwriting, and Oliver would leave another message behind. The scariest ghost in the school had finally found a friend. And every afternoon he checked the pegs carefully, just in case his secret friend was waiting there again.

Sport

On Wednesday, one of our boys football teams played out a 0-0 draw against Arnold View. The weather was so lovely...until kick off! I think it is fair to say that everyone in attendance got absolutely soaked! A big well done to the boys for showing so much determination in tough conditions.

Celebration assembly

In today's assembly we celebrated the birthdays of Abdul-Haadi A, Bobby T, Oliver W, Christy F, Lakai S-B, Isla M, Isla F, Adam K, Lediana P, Haaniyah-Noor A, Faris M, Iris P, Harriet C and Emilia M.

Stars of the week:

- 3 Grey – Jonah and Sophie for curiosity.
- 3 White – Thomas and Amima for determination and independence.
- 4 Orange – Esila for curiosity and Esme for independence.
- 4 Yellow – Max and Toby M for determination.
- 5 Green – Miami for determination and Ella for curiosity.
- 5 Red – Tilly for curiosity and Tom for respect.

- *6 Baker – Maisie and Noah P for determination.*
 - *6 Blue – Maise and Ibraheem for respect.*
 - *6 Purple – Riley, Adam and Annis for determination.*
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Out of school achievements:

- *Leo P shared his basketball certificate.*
 - *Faris has earned a gold medal in Karate.*
 - *Meredith was awarded Player of the Game in a recent football match.*
 - *We saw Olive’s amazing gymnastic talents on a video clip.*
 - *Louie C had a multitude of football trophies and medals to show us.*
 - *Adrian enjoyed talking about his football camp achievements.*
 - *Elliott T worked hard to earn another swimming certificate.*
 - *Annabelle G has been busy achieving in gymnastics and football.*
 - *Phoebe P got the incredible opportunity to take a penalty with Murillo at a Forest training session.*
 - *Phoebe N shared a silver level gymnastics certificate.*
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If your child has an out of school achievement they would like to share, all they need to do is come to the front in a celebration assembly. They will then be featured in the bulletin.

Mr Manchester's team of volunteers

Over the past few weeks we have been busy planting broad beans, sunflowers, tomatoes, onions, runner beans, sweetcorn, aubergine, peas and mint. We've also made lots of daisy chains. Every day, we have lots of fun! We have also been improving school by litter picking and sweeping.

By Ava and Amelia

This week we have been planting broad beans using bamboo in the ground. We used bamboo to make sure that when they grow they don't flop over. We have also decorated the bamboo. We cut slits in a special sheet to stop weeds growing. Then we dug a hole under the sheet to plant the beans. After that we took the plant out of its pot and put it in the hole before covering it with soil. We water them daily.

By Iris

General messages and reminders from previous bulletins

INSET Days

A reminder that the next INSET Days are as follows:

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- Friday 3rd July*
 - Tuesday 1st September*
 - Wednesday 2nd September*
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Year 6 Residential - Willersley Castle

The next installment for the Y6 residential is now due. Payment can be made on MCAS.

Nut Free Site

*To ensure the safety of all our children and staff, please do not send any items containing nuts to school. This includes snacks, packed lunches and birthday treats. Even trace amounts of nuts can cause severe allergic reactions in some children, **so your cooperation is essential in keeping our school a safe environment for everyone.***

Bikes and scooters

To ensure the site is as safe as possible at the start and end of day, please could you remind your children not to ride their bikes and scooters through the grounds. Also a reminder that the climbing equipment is for use under staff supervision only.

Club Vale

A reminder to parents that children should be collected from Club Vale by 5.30pm. Please ensure the school office is informed in advance if someone different will be collecting your child. For full details, including terms and conditions, please visit: [Club Vale \(Wrap Around Care Facility\) | Arno Vale Junior School](#)

Year 3 – Creswell Craggs Trip

Please remember to make payment for the Year 3 trip via MCAS. You will also need to complete and submit the form indicating whether your child will require a packed lunch.

Booking and payment procedure for school dinners:

- *Log into MCAS.*
- *Navigate to the dinner menu.*
- *Select add dinner money (£3.00 per day) if needed.*

- From the main menu, click on the day you require, select main menu and press submit. This will turn the day green.

- Repeat the previous step for all other days that you require.

Note: Meal bookings must be completed by midnight on Saturday for the following week.

Menu: [School Meals | Arno Vale Junior School](#)

Dates for your calendar:

Please note that the FOAV disco, which was pencilled in for Friday 24th April, has been postponed. A new date will be set soon.

Arno Vale Junior School Diary Dates	
2026	
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
Tuesday 19 th May	Class, team and Y6 leavers photos
Thursday 21 st May	Y3 trip to Cresswell Crag
Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May	Half term
Thursday 18 th June	School Games afternoon (sports day)
Monday 22 nd June	M&M Productions Jungle Book (in school)
Tuesday 23 rd June	Back up School Games afternoon
Thursday 25 th June and Friday 26 th June	Arnold Hill Y6-7 transition days
Friday 26 th June	Moving up morning (new classes)
Wednesday 1 st July	Dukes Barn 2027 meeting (for current Y3 parents)
Wednesday 1 st July	New parent meeting (for current Y2 parents)
Friday 3 rd July	Inset day
Friday 10 th July	FOAV summer fair
Tuesday 14 th July	Y6 performance
Wednesday 15 th July	Y6 performance
Wednesday 22 nd July	Y6 leavers' foam party
Friday 24 th July	Last day of term
Date TBC	Y3/4 Minecraft workshops
Date TBC	FOAV Disco
Tuesday 1st September 2026	Inset Day
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	Inset Day
Wednesday 14 th to Friday 16 th October 2026	Willersley Castle Y6 Residential
2027	
Monday 18 th to Friday 22 nd January 2027	Dukes Barn Y4 Residential
Monday 22nd February 2027	Inset Day
Friday 2nd July 2027	Inset Day
Wednesday 28th July 2027	Inset Day

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](#)