



Bulletin: Friday 17th October 2025 (website version)

This week, I want to begin by expressing how proud we are of our Year 6 children following their residential trip to Willersley Castle. The staff who accompanied them have been full of praise for how well the children embraced the activities, challenged themselves and overcame their fears. Well done Year 6 - you have made us all proud!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who gave up their time to make the trip such a success. A special mention must go to Miss Oates and Miss Fallon for their hard work in organising this residential. The level of planning and attention to detail

required was significant and their hard work ensured that everything ran smoothly. I think it's safe to say that everyone in Year 6 (and the staff) will sleep well this weekend after such an exciting and busy experience!

To our parents, thank you for your understanding and support with any staffing adjustments we've had to make this week to accommodate the trip (and cover staff illness). These changes were only temporary and things will be back to normal after the half term break.

Meanwhile, back at school, it has been another fantastic week. I've thoroughly enjoyed each and every one of my conversations with the children - it's always a pleasure to hear their thoughts, ideas and stories.

Wishing you all a safe and happy half term break.

A reminder that Monday 3rd November is an INSET day for staff training, so we look forward to welcoming children back to school on Tuesday 4th November.

Farewell to Mrs Tait

After 12 years of dedicated service in the Arno Vale kitchen, we will soon be saying a fond farewell to our Catering Manager, Mrs Jane Tait, as she begins a well-earned retirement. Jane has also brought her skills and kindness to several other local schools over the years and now feels the time is right to enjoy more time with her family. Just imagine how many meals she has prepared and served in that period!

Jane has been an invaluable part of our school community—not only in the kitchen, but also as member of the Club Vale team and as a parent before that. Her superb organisational skills, reliability and warm rapport with both staff and pupils have made her a popular member of the Arno Vale family. We will miss her and wish her all the very best in her retirement.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Natalie Hooper has been appointed as Jane's successor. Many of you will already know Mrs Hooper well, as she has worked closely alongside Jane for a number of years. She is excited to step into her new role and continue providing the excellent service our children enjoy every day.

As Mrs Hooper moves into her new position, this does mean she will no longer be able to continue her duties as one of our Club Vale Supervisors. As a result, we are now recruiting for this role, along with a catering assistant position and a midday supervisor vacancy.

If you are interested in joining our fantastic team, or know someone who might be, full details of the vacancies can be found on the links below. We'd also be happy to chat with anyone who would like more information about any of the roles.

[*Out of School Club Supervisor - Nottinghamshire County Council*](#)

[*Midday Supervisor - Nottinghamshire County Council*](#)

[*Catering Assistant - Nottinghamshire County Council*](#)

School Dinners

Whilst on the topic of school dinners, please take a few moments to complete our short survey. We're keen to find out which dishes your children enjoy most—and which are less popular. This information will help our catering team when planning the menu and will hopefully be another step towards reducing food waste.

Even if your child doesn't currently have school dinners, your feedback is still valuable. We'd like to understand why and explore how we might improve the service.

Thank you for your time and support!

[*https://forms.office.com/e/scEHBAYvFz*](https://forms.office.com/e/scEHBAYvFz)

Parent Consultation Evenings

At approximately 6.00pm tonight (Friday 17th October), you'll be sent a booking link by email for the upcoming Parent Consultation Evenings, which will take place on Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th November. This system has always worked well in the past, but if there are any technical glitches, the office staff will be able to help you and answer any of your queries when school reopens on Monday 3rd November.

During your 10 minute appointment, the class teacher will provide you with a general overview about your child and their academic progress. However, we want to ensure that the discussions are as productive as possible and we'd like to focus more on the areas that matter most to you. Therefore, a bit closer to the time, we'll send you a separate form to give you the opportunity to let us know if there is anything specific you would like to discuss during your 10-minute appointment.

Book Fair - Competition

As parents' evening approaches, so does our annual book fair. Last year, we took over £1200 which meant we could buy £700 of books for our school library. If you are unable to attend the book fair in person, you will be able to order books using a wish list.

In preparation for the book fair, we are having a competition to design a poster advertising the fair. If you'd like to enter, please design a poster on an A4 piece of paper. You will need to include the following information:

Dates: Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th November and Monday 17th November

Venue: The library

Time: 3:40pm

Payment will need to be made on a card. We cannot take cash.

You will need to return your poster to Mrs Blakemore on Tuesday 4th November. There will be one winner per year group and an overall winner. Winners will get a £5 voucher to spend at the book fair.

Clay Creators - New Club

Following the success of the recent Clay Creators Club, we are pleased to be able to offer another set of sessions for after half term. The club has always generated a lot of excitement and the feedback has been very positive. The theme of the new sessions will be STORY BOOK CHARACTERS.

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.claycreators.com/bookings/course-info/1891>

*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, so we are not able to assist with bookings and payments.***

Notes from the instructors:

Your child will be building models that allow them to not only be creative but gain knowledge. Each week they'll build another model to add to their collection that they can then play with at home, it's theirs to keep! They may even teach you something you didn't know!

The first class will be learning how to weigh, measure and mould so that they can carry those skills forward into the coming weeks. They'll also get to free-play to create something from their imagination to bring home from that first class!

We email you before each class to explain what your child will be building, plus we also send an email after class explaining the skills used and some related facts about that sessions model.

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 set up in one of the classrooms in the school. 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 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.

All queries and communication should be with us and not the school.

Date	Time	Theme
Friday 7 th November	3:35-4:35pm	Learning / catch up and free play
Friday 14 th November	3:35-4:35pm	Tin Man
Friday 21 st November	3:35-4:35pm	Paddington
Friday 28 th November	3:35-4:35pm	Peter Pan
Friday 5 th December	3:35-4:35pm	Shrek
Friday 12 th December	3:35-4:35pm	Harry Potter

General messages

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- *We're currently in the process of updating photo consents on our new administration system. 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.*
 - *Making Sense of Autism: Unfortunately, the person delivering the session is off sick at the moment so we are having to postpone the session on 5th November. We are hoping to be able to rearrange this before Christmas but we don't have a date yet. We will keep you updated.*
 - *On Wednesday, we delivered the Harvest Festival donations to Arnold Food Bank, where they were gratefully received. We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone for your generosity and support. Your kindness will make a real difference to those in need.*
 - *Because the trust now receive all childcare voucher payments and this results in slight delays in us getting the information, can we request that all parents using the voucher schemes please include on the Arno Vale Club Vale booking form or email to clubvale@arnovale.notts.sch.uk the following information: the voucher company name, reference number, date and amount paid. This will help the office staff enormously.*
 - *Payments for the Y5 trip to the Holocaust Centre and Year 4 residential to Dukes Barn (installment 2) are due by Friday 31st Oct.*
 - *Payments for guitar and ukulele autumn term lessons are now also due (via MCAS).*
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As always, we had lots to celebrate in our assembly today.

Birthdays:

This week we celebrated the birthdays of Phoebe, Chloe and Amelia. Happy Birthday! We'll celebrate half term birthdays (and those who have been away at Willersley Castle) in our next celebration assembly.

Stars of the Week:

- *3 Grey: Reuben and Robyn have impressed everyone all week showing great readiness and respect.*
- *3 White: Thomas earned this last week but wasn't here! Was a great role-model by being ready for his learning. Oscar for being ready and having a great positive attitude. Ava-Belle for being helpful, ready and showing great participation.*

- *4 Orange: Alice for always showing the school rules and values. Coralie for always being ready to learn.*
 - *4 Yellow: Ellie for being ready and showing great determination. Evie for being kind and caring towards everyone.*
 - *5 Green: Xavi for his efforts and work rate in maths this week. Annabelle for her work and determination in English.*
 - *5 Red: Theo and Louie for showing determination and great learning behaviours.*
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Mr Baker's special mentions:

- *Molly (in 5 Green) for helping others outside by ensuring other children are included in games.*
 - *Alice (in 4 Orange) helped by making a new chess piece as one was missing!*
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TTRS

- *3 White and 4 Yellow earned 5 minutes of reward time for having the most people logging on to play this week.*
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Out of school achievements:

- *Olive showed us a second-place medal that she won at a recent gymnastics competition.*

- *Charlie stood up to tell us that he has been signed by the greatest football club in the world: Derby County.*
 - *Oliver showed us his blue tag for Taekwondo.*
 - *Maya earned a mindfulness badge at Brownies.*
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Well done all of you for your effort and determination.

Challenge results:

5 minutes of reward time: 6 Blue, 6 Purple, 5 Green, 4 Yellow, 4 Orange

3rd place (10 minutes of reward time): 3 White

2nd place (15 minutes of reward time): 3 Grey

1st place (20 minutes of reward time): 5 Red

October Sports Camp with Mr Ward & Mr Lindley - PLACES STILL AVAILABLE

Looking for some half-term fun? Join Mr Ward and Mr Lindley for an action-packed October Sports Camp!

- ***Dates:*** *Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd, Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th October 2025*
 - ***Time:*** *9:00am – 3:00pm*
 - ***Activities:*** *Cricket, Dodgeball, Tag Rugby, Tennis*
 - ***Ages:*** *5–11*
 - ***Cost:*** *£18 per day*
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🔗 Sign up here: [Register Online](#)

Don't miss out—spaces are limited!

Saville Road / Arno Vale Road:

Parking and congestion continue to be ongoing challenges for our school and others in the local area. We are once again asking for everyone's support in keeping the area around our school safe for all children, families, staff and residents.

Please help us by following these important guidelines:

- ***Walk to and from school whenever possible*** – it reduces traffic and supports healthier lifestyles.
 - ***Do not use the school car park at drop-off and pick-up times unless you have been granted prior permission by the Headteacher.***
 - ***Be respectful to our neighbours*** – please avoid blocking driveways or causing obstructions.
 - ***Drive slowly and with care*** – children can be unpredictable near roads.
 - ***Observe road markings*** – particularly the zigzag lines on Saville Road, which must be kept clear for safety.
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Children Using Bikes or Scooters

If your child travels to school by bike or scooter, we strongly recommend they wear a helmet. Research shows that helmets significantly reduce the risk of serious brain injury and death in the event of a fall or collision. A helmet can absorb most of the impact, protecting the head and brain. We also ask that bikes and scooters are not ridden on the school grounds.

School Car Park

Please remember that the school car park is for staff use only, unless specific permission has been given by the Headteacher. This helps us maintain a safe environment for everyone on

site. In exceptional circumstances, where permission has been granted, we ask that you park with the utmost care and consideration.

Attendance - term time holidays

We understand that attendance can sometimes be a sensitive and contentious subject. However, as a school, we are required to follow the national and local authority guidelines regarding attendance and the issuing of penalty notices. The law now states that parents can be fined for taking their child or children on holiday during term time. These rules are in place to support every child's education and ensure consistency across all schools.

Please know that if you receive a penalty notice, it is not intended as a personal judgement or criticism. We are simply fulfilling our legal obligations and following the procedures we are required to uphold.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support in helping us promote excellent attendance for all our pupils.

For more information, please see the [attendance policy](#) on the school website. A summary of some important information on page 4 can be seen below.

In August 2024, the Department for Education issued the document 'Working together to improve school attendance'. This details the **statutory guidance** for schools and local authorities and includes when parents may be subject to attendance contracts, Education Supervision Orders, attendance prosecution, parenting orders and penalty notices.

The law now states that parents can be fined for taking their child or children on holiday during term time without the headteacher's permission.

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- The threshold for Penalty Notice fines is 5 days (10 sessions) of unauthorised absence over a 10 school week period. Working Together to Improve School Attendance (August 2024) states the following:

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- The threshold is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. A school week means any week in which there is at least one

school session. This can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 4 sessions of holiday taken in term time plus 6 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

- The threshold mentioned above also covers transition periods, for example when a child leaves one school to go to another (in year transfers and from one education phase to another).*
 - First penalty notices are currently set at £160 per child, per parent / guardian / carer and must be paid within 28 days. If the notice is paid within 21 days, the amount is reduced to £80. A penalty notice can be issued to any adult who has responsibility for a child.*
 - If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent /guardian /carer, the full amount of £160 must be paid within 28 days.*
 - A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same adult who has received a first and second penalty notice for the same child within 3 years of the date of the first penalty notice. In such a case, alternative action will be taken instead; this will often include considering prosecution.*
 - Once three years has elapsed since the first penalty notice was issued, a further penalty notice can be issued.*
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Further information can be found by clicking the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

To repeat, please know that if you receive a penalty notice, it is not intended as a personal judgement or criticism. We are simply fulfilling our legal obligations and following the procedures we are required to uphold.

Attendance	Missed learning	Impact
Above 97%	Less than 6 days of absence a year and minimal lost learning time. Excellent attendance!	Pupils with this attendance should achieve the best outcomes they can.
95%	Less than 10 days of absence in a year.	
90%	Approximately 20 days of absence over the year. This equates to around 110 hours of missed learning.	This is classed as persistent absence. Pupils with this level of absence will fall behind in all curriculum areas. It will be very difficult for them to catch up and achieve their intended outcomes.
85%	Approximately 30 days of absence in a year. This equates to around 165 hours of missed learning.	
80%	Approximately 40 days of absence in a year. This equates to around 220 hours of missed learning.	

Important Dates:

A full list of dates can be viewed on our website by clicking [here](#).









Community Links

Please check out our website for details about lots of things taking place in our community.

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

And finally...

Fantasy Premier League Football returns this weekend. Managers, this is your reminder to pick your team. We have 26 people enrolled in the league. Here is part of the leaderboard, showing the top 8 positions.

Rank	Team & Manager	GW	Total
1	 Sesko Medal Deal Katie Soroczyn	73	477
2	 Forward Planning Ben Horsey	73	438
3	 Tot of the Hotspurs Chris King	75	418
4	 Goals Aloud Kaitlin Jones	88	412
5	 GrimReap Dean Grimshaw	63	411
6	 Toby's Tinklers Toby Joddrell	82	386
7	 Strawberry Place Chris Gillespie	62	372
8	 Murillo Kintyre Matt Wilson	70	372