



Bulletin: Friday 23rd January 2026 (website version)

This week's bulletin will be slightly shorter than usual, but I want to begin by expressing how proud we are of our Year 4 children following their residential trip to Dukes Barn. I saw first hand how well the children embraced the activities, challenged themselves and overcame their fears. The children represented Arno Vale brilliantly and behaved superbly. They really impressed the Dukes Barn staff as well. Well done Year 4 - you have made us all very 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 Mrs Blakemore and Miss Jones

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 4 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. These changes were only temporary and things will be back to normal next week. I am also pleased to let you know that Mr Rossington will be back in school next week.

I'll be writing to you all in more detail next week about some ongoing parking issues but in the meantime, please could I remind you to park considerately and safely when dropping off and picking up from school. The school car park should not be used as it is often already full and creates additional risks for pedestrians.

Wishing you all a good weekend.

Celebration assembly

Stars of the week:

- 3 Grey – Charlie and Emilia for being respectful and ready.
- 3 White – Iylah for being ready and respectful and Ella for being determined.
- 4 Orange – The class are at Dukes Barn, so we'll hear about their achievements next week!
- 4 Yellow – Max and Teddy TC for being determined and respectful.
- 5 Green – Seb and Patrick for being respectful and kind.
- 5 Red – Tom for being kind and for Jacob being determined and kind.
- 6 Blue – Ronnie and Shanzay for determination and curiosity.

- 6 Purple – James and Adam for being determined and respectful.

Birthdays:

Miami celebrated her birthday this week. Happy Birthday!

Out of school achievements:

- *Katy and Bella play for the same football team, and both earned player of the game!*
- *Edith told us about her recent gymnastics award!*
- *Adrian showed us a video from his drumming performance at a recent festival!*

Well done for your hard work!

Sport:

Our cross-country team entered a competition last week and impressed everyone with their attitudes, determination and efforts. A great achievement by all!

Miss Oates also told us that the cross-country team were all respectful, and the team acknowledged how kind each other was towards their peers – well done everyone!

Health and Wellbeing Day

We are really looking forward to our 'Health and Wellbeing Day', which will take place in school on Friday 30th January. Miss Elliott has worked hard on putting together a brilliant selection of activities for each class including:

- *Drumba workshop (kindly paid for by FOAV)*
- *Bushcraft art*
- *Scavenger hunt*
- *Emergency first aid*
- *Positive mindset workshop*
- *Self regulation workshop*
- *Healthy eating quiz*

A message from Mrs Blakemore about reading homework:

Reading for pleasure has many benefits. Not only does it lead to academic success, it can improve mental health, develop social skills, broaden horizons and improve creativity. It is important that all children develop their reading skills. We strongly encourage all children to read for at least 10 minutes most days.

At Arno Vale, we encourage all our pupils to read for pleasure. One of the ways we do this is by giving children free choice in the books they read; either from our school library, a local library or those they have at home. Reading does not have to be limited to stories in books. It can be listening to audiobooks, reading ebooks, blogs or information books. Listening to an adult read, and sharing stories together is a key motivator in reading for pleasure.

To further support those children accessing the Little Wandle Fluency Program, Switch On Reading or reading with our reading volunteers, we will be sending home a book from a colour band determined by the child's reading age. We ask that these are read with an adult and returned each week. The books will be changed each week during one of their reading sessions.

Sports Camp

Unfortunately, there will be no sports camp at February half term due to work taking place on the school site. Thanks to Trust investment, our hall windows will be replaced and there

will also be upgrades to our green perimeter security fencing. More work is planned for later in the year.

FOAV

FOAV will be organising a film night for children after school on Friday 27th February. More information to follow next week.

General messages and reminders from previous bulletins:

- On Monday 26th January at 3.45pm, we are holding a meeting in school for Y5 parents about the Y6 residential to Willersley Castle.
- 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.

Dates for your calendar:

Here are some important dates for this academic year:

2026	
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 as part of our health and wellbeing day.
Monday 9 th February	Y5 trip to National Holocaust Museum
Monday 16 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 20 th March to Friday 24 th March	Easter holiday
Monday 3 rd April	Return to school
Monday 17 th April	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 1 st June	School Games afternoon
Monday 5 th June	M&M Productions Jungle Book (in school)
Tuesday 6 th June	Back up School Games afternoon
Friday 3 rd July	Inset day
Tuesday 10 th July	Y6 performance
Wednesday 11 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

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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
