



Bulletin: Friday 5th December 2025
(website version)

I can hardly believe a whole week has passed since our wonderful Christmas Fair! Another huge thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success. It was incredibly well attended and, thanks to your support, we raised another significant amount of money. We are so grateful for the fantastic work that FOAV do—your efforts allow us to provide exciting additional opportunities for the children and to invest in whole-school projects that benefit everyone.

Thanks to the funds raised over the past year or so, we are delighted to share that we have several enriching experiences booked for the children:

- *Friday 12th December – STEMdrones workshops for Year 6*
 - *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 - Theatre production in school for all year groups (Jungle Book)*
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In addition, the money raised helps to fund our Christmas parties, the Year 6 leavers' celebrations and a variety of other activities. We're also excited to announce that some of the funds will be invested in improving the visual, lighting and sound systems in the school hall—an upgrade that will enhance events and performances for years to come.

Exciting times ahead!

Have a lovely weekend!

Christmas concert

The Christmas Concert at St Mark's Church, Woodthorpe will take place on Tuesday 9th December. It is always a lovely, festive event and we hope that you can make it.

To help manage the crowd, and in light of another large attendance last year, it has been agreed that we can hold two performances again this year. The first performance will start at 10.00am and it will then be repeated at 2.00pm. We expect each performance to last for about 50 minutes.

Here are some key points to note:

- *Despite the fact that there will be two showings of the performance, we anticipate that church will still be very busy and there is a chance that there will only be*

standing room for some people. We do not allocate tickets. We kindly request that people only attend one of the shows in order to maximise opportunities for everyone.

- Please do not sit in the reserved seats at the front unless one has been specifically allocated to you.*
- Parking is limited so if you are able to walk there, please do so. Please be mindful of local residents when parking.*
 - Photos can be taken but please do not post anything on social media.*
- Please ensure your child's coat has their name in. This will help us at the end when we are handing coats back to them.*
 - Children may wear a santa hat to church if they want to.*
- After the performances on Tuesday, we will ask you to leave the church first, keeping doors and pathways clear. That will give us the time and space required to get the children organised to return to school safely. Children will be dismissed from school as normal at 3.35pm. For safeguarding reasons, they cannot be collected from the church.*
- Please note that we will also be taking the children to the church for a full dress rehearsal the day before (Monday 8th December) in the afternoon.*

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation with the above.

Christmas cards

We now have a postbox in school if children want to send Christmas cards. Please ensure all envelopes are clearly labelled with the recipient's name and class. Class ambassadors will be responsible for emptying the box regularly and delivering cards to classrooms.

Electronic sign in system

We now have a new electronic sign-in system in school. When visitors arrive, they will be given a sticker instead of a visitor lanyard. For children who arrive late or are collected early, we ask that parents use the new system at the office. This automatically updates our records. Of course, the office team will be on hand to assist.

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! We're also excited to announce that at some point 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 more details once the system is ready to launch, as we're still ironing out a few logistical issues.

As always, we had lots to celebrate in our assembly today.

Birthdays:

This week we celebrated the birthdays of Jasper and Leo.

Stars of the Week:

- 3 Grey – Mollie and Eric for independence.
 - 3 White – Evelyn for kindness and Aliyah for independence.
 - 4 Orange – Leon for curiosity and Alfie for respect.
 - 4 Yellow – Max and Eliza for determination.
 - Year 5 - Molly and Annabelle G in 5 Red and Ella and Eva in 5 Green for respect towards their year group (by being chief choreographers)
 - 6 Blue – Maisie for curiosity and Betsey for determination.
 - 6 Purple – Harriet and Dylan P for independence.
 - 6 Baker – Poppy and Eva for determination.
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Mr Baker's special mentions for being kind:

- *James in Y6 realised his friend would not be able to make their waistcoat in a DT lesson, so he offered to help with this.*
 - *Seb in Y5 helped a friend when they were hurt.*
 - *Hunter was a particular help to Mr Manchester in selling items on the stall at last week's fair.*
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TTRS

- *5 Red 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:

- *Grace earned player of the game from her football team for playing lots of different positions.*
 - *Meredith also earned player of the game from her football team for lots of effort and running up and down the wing.*
 - *Reuben was proud to share his latest swimming certificate.*
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Y4 Dodgeball:

A group of Y4 children represented our school at a dodgeball event last Friday. Miss Jones was hugely impressed with their effort, determination and positive attitudes. Well done!

Mr Manchester's Volunteer Squad

The team were busy making willow stars in the build up to the Christmas Fair and these proved to be very popular. They raised £25 which will now be reinvested. The children have plans to buy vegetable seeds as well as more gardening tools and equipment to help them with their upcoming projects.

Parent Governor Vacancy

In the New Year, we will have a vacancy for a parent governor to join our governing body. School governors play an important role in supporting the strategic leadership of the school, helping to ensure we provide the best possible education and opportunities for all our children. We will share more detailed information in the New Year, but if anyone is interested and would like to discuss the role further, please do get in touch.

General messages and reminders from previous bulletins:

- *Tuck shop for the spring term - payment is now available on MCAS.*
- *Message from the Cauliflower Group - playing card orders will be shipped separately and are expected to arrive before the end of the second week of December.*
- *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](#)*
- *Please note that dogs are not allowed on the school site. This includes the entire site, which means they can't be tied up on the grass patch near Saville Road or carried on to the playground.*
- *A reminder to regularly check your child's online activity. We've had some reports of inappropriate language and behaviour online, and your vigilance helps us keep everyone safe and respectful.*
- *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.*

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 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 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 Crag
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
