



Bulletin: Friday 6th March 2026
(website version)

What a fantastic and busy week it has been at school! It was wonderful to see so many children celebrating their love of reading for World Book Day yesterday. It was especially lovely to see different classes buddying up to share stories together and children getting the opportunity to go and listen to an adult read to them. Even the Forest fans in my group seemed to enjoy my Derby County inspired choice of book! A huge thanks must go to Mrs Blakemore for planning the day. A lot of thought, time and effort went in to making sure we celebrated 'reading for pleasure' in a variety of different ways.

Your child should already have brought home their World Book Day token. The tokens are valid now and can be used until 15th March. Children can exchange their £1 token for one of the special £1 World Book Day books, or use it to get £1 off any full-price book or audiobook (priced at £2.99 or more) at participating booksellers.

Tokens can be redeemed at a range of retailers, including Sainsbury's, Asda, TGJones and many independent bookshops. Books can also be ordered online from Books2Door by entering the token barcode at checkout to receive a free World Book Day book.

It was great to see so many of you at the parent consultation meetings this week. If you weren't able to attend or feel a follow-up meeting would be helpful, please do reach out to your child's class teacher.

The most used phrase this week has definitely been, "Mr Baker, can we go on the field please?" Unfortunately, it is still quite muddy but I'm hopeful the nicer weather is on the way and we'll be able to have more space at playtimes soon.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

School wars

We are aware that several children have come into school today talking about "school wars" after hearing older siblings or others discussing it. We understand this may cause some concern, but we want to reassure you that local secondary schools have confirmed that it appears to be a rumour circulating on social media. There is no indication or information to suggest that there is any connection to primary schools. However, staff are aware and are monitoring conversations in school, and we will continue to remind children about the importance of not spreading rumours that may cause unnecessary worry. If your child mentions this at home, please reassure them and encourage them to speak to a trusted adult in school if they feel concerned. Again, this is another opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of regularly checking your child's use of devices and talking to them about online safety.

Annual Arno Vale Junior School World Book Day Competition

For the last two years we have run a writing competition to tie in with World Book Day. World Book Day is a day when we are inspired to read: why not be inspired to write as well?

Previous themes have included a short story and poetry and it has always been a very popular competition with lots of entries.

This year's theme is 'The Mystery of Arno Vale'. It could be a ghost story, it could be about a mysterious object found on the school field, or even a crime to solve....the choice is yours!

- *The story should be no more than 2 sides of A4.*
 - *It can be typed or handwritten and will be judged by a selection of school governors.*
 - *There will be a winner from each year group and an overall prize winner.*
 - *Entries should be submitted to Miss Oates by Monday 23rd March.*
 - *Winners will be announced that week.*
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We cannot wait to read your entries!

Easter Egg Competition

Once again, we are holding our decorated Easter egg competition this year. The children can decorate an egg or eggs (which should be hard boiled if using real eggs) and be as creative as they like. The standard last year was incredibly high and we are looking forward to seeing what the children can achieve this year. Entries can be brought into school during the week commencing Monday 23rd March and our egg-spert panel will be judging them on Friday 27th March.


Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

There are a few places left on the Wednesday but Thursday has now sold out. We will be serving a hot drink, scone and a piece of cake for £8.

 **Dates:** *Wednesday 11th (last few tickets available - deadline Monday) & Thursday 12th March (SOLD OUT)*

 **Time:** *2:30 PM – 3:15 PM*

 **Booking:** *Available to book on MCAS*

 **Spaces:** Limited to 60 mums* per day, allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. **Please note that due to limited space and to be fair to everyone, you can only purchase one ticket per family.**

**We understand that Mother's Day can hold different meanings for families based on individual circumstances. Our aim is to create welcoming events where those who wish to participate can do so. If you have any queries regarding these events, please don't hesitate to reach out—we'd be happy to discuss them with you.*

We look forward to welcoming you!

If you are attending one of our Mother's Day afternoon tea events next week and have any dietary requirements, please can you email office@arnovale.notts.sch.uk

Note: There will also be a Father's Day event later in the year (date TBC).

School Dinners

Next week's menu includes freshly baked baguettes with choice of filling and the return of our popular self-serve salad bar (Tuesday), spaghetti bolognese and garlic bread (Wednesday), 'kids favourite' homemade butterscotch tart (Monday) and 'Mrs Illingworth's favourite' chocolate chip muffins (Friday).

Full menu:

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

Our school dinners are freshly cooked on site each day and include a tasty main and a dessert, offering really good value for money. The menu is carefully balanced and runs on a three-week cycle, which is updated every term based on pupil and parent feedback. Families can choose to book meals for individual days or for the whole week at a time, as long as the booking steps are followed.

Staying for school dinners helps children enjoy healthy, nutritious meals, develop good eating habits, spend quality time with friends and stay focused and energised for afternoon lessons.

Booking and payment procedure:

- *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.

Celebration assembly

In today's assembly we celebrated the birthdays of Raife, Edee, Meredith, Jacob, Leon, Alfie, Evie, Toby, Teddy and Noah.

Stars of the week:

- *3 Grey – Joanna for determination and Essa for being ready to learn.*
- *3 White – Erin and Evelyn for respect.*
- *4 Orange – Ashton for independence and Amelia M for respect.*
- *4 Yellow – Zac W for curiosity and Leia for kindness.*
- *5 Green – Oliver and Imogen for respect.*
- *5 Red – Jacob for independence and Arabella for determination.*

- *6 Blue – Jasper and Eva for determination all the time.*
 - *6 Purple – Harriet and Theo for independence.*
 - *6 Baker – Maisie and Stanley for respect.*
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Mr Baker's special mention for kindness:

A note was left in the nominations box saying: "Reggie for being kind, polite and a wonderful person." Ivy also wanted to thank her class mates in 6 Blue for the kindness they are showing her at the moment as she is dealing with an injury.

Out of school achievements (photo to be uploaded shortly):

- *Amelia was awarded Player of the Game for her efforts in her most recent football match.*
 - *Zachary told us about an arts award he has been given.*
 - *Millie and Elsie were given a medal from their match referee who recognised their brilliant attitude in their most recent football match.*
 - *Bobby shared his hard earned swimming certificate with us.*
 - *Aliyah was proud to tell us about a Karate medal she has earned.*
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Well done all of you for your determination in an exciting range of activities!

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.

School sport:

You may remember that our Y5/6 athletics team recently qualified for the district final. On Wednesday, they won that event in style and have now qualified for the Nottinghamshire County Finals as Gedling representatives. This is a fantastic achievement! Mr Ward and Mrs Francis accompanied the team and both commented how brilliantly the children represented Arno Vale. We can't wait to see how they get on later this month.

INSET Days 2026/27

We understand that finding childcare is not easy and also that you might be making plans for next year, so we wanted to give you as much notice as possible. Next academic year, both Arno Vale Junior School and Woodthorpe Infant School will have the following INSET days:

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- *Tuesday 1st September 2026*
 - *Wednesday 2nd September 2026*
 - *Monday 22nd February 2027*
 - *Friday 2nd July 2027*
 - *Wednesday 28th July 2027*
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General messages

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- *Unfortunately, we are are not able to host Mr Ward and Mr Lindley's sports camp at Easter. We know this will be disappointing for some but we are having extensive interior work carried out by contractors during the holiday. This work can only be done when children are not on site. We are currently benefitting from tens of thousands of pounds worth of Trust investment to upgrade our windows, doors and perimeter security fencing.*
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Dates for your calendar:

Here are some important dates for this academic year:

New date to be added:

Class, team and Y6 leavers photos will be taken on Tuesday 19th May.

Arno Vale Junior School Diary Dates 2025 to 2026	
	2026
Friday 30 th January	Whole school Drumba workshops as part of our health and wellbeing day.
Tuesday 3 rd and Wednesday 4 th February	Road safety workshops for all children
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
Friday 27 th February	FOAV film night
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
Thursday 19 th March	Y3/4 Minecraft workshops
Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April	Easter holiday
Monday 13 th April	Return to school
Friday 24 th April	FOAV disco
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
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

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](#)
