



Bulletin: Friday 28th February 2025

This week began with an INSET day—a vital opportunity for staff training and development. INSET days allow us to refine our skills, update essential training and ensure we are providing the best possible education for our pupils. In the morning, we joined forces with colleagues from Woodthorpe Infant School to refresh our training on key areas such as safeguarding and fire safety. In the afternoon, we returned to Arno Vale, where subject leaders focused on monitoring activities to assess the impact of teaching and learning in their areas.

It was great to welcome the children back on Tuesday and it has been another really positive week in school. A particular highlight has been the outstanding achievement of our Year 5/6 athletics team. On Wednesday, they qualified for the Nottinghamshire County Finals as

Gedling representatives. They will now compete against the best young athletes from across the county, which is an incredible accomplishment—we are all very proud of them!

Speaking of talent, our drumming students are making fantastic progress. I caught up with their teacher, Dan, and we are keen to arrange another showcase performance later in the year—something we also hope to do for our guitar students. We'll communicate the dates for these events as soon as possible. Meanwhile, our Year 3 pupils have been proudly exhibiting their artwork in their very own art exhibition, demonstrating creativity and dedication. I know lots of you have enjoyed popping in to visit.

Finally, I want to share some sad news. We learned this week of the passing of Russell Morley after a very short illness. Russell was the husband of Mrs Lisa Morley, who retired last summer after more than 20 years of dedicated service to Arno Vale. I know many of you remember her fondly, so our thoughts are with the Morley family and all those in our community who have recently lost a loved one.

Wishing you all a good weekend.



Parent Consultation Evenings

You should now have completed your booking link for the upcoming Parent Consultation Evenings, which will take place next week on 4th, 5th and 6th March. I know that class teachers are looking forward to meeting with you and as always, they 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. If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to complete this electronic form and let us know if there is anything specific you would like to discuss during your 10-minute appointment.

<https://forms.office.com/e/4xykGywMhe>

Thank you for helping us tailor your meeting to address what's most important to you and your child.

Notes:

If you have more than one child at the school, please complete a separate form for each child.

If you haven't received the booking link or need to change your appointment, please contact the school office.

Mother's Day and Father's Day Events

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Join us for a special afternoon tea to celebrate Mother's Day. We will be serving a hot drink, scone and a piece of cake for £7.

 **Dates:** Wednesday 26th & Thursday 27th March

 **Time:** 2:30 PM – 3:15 PM

 **Booking:** Available on MCAS next week

 **Spaces:** Limited to 60 mums per day, allocated on a first-come, first-served basis (one ticket per family*).

Father's Day Coffee & Cake

Celebrate Father's Day with us over coffee and cake!

 **Date:** Thursday 12th June

 **Time:** 2:30 PM – 3:15 PM

 **Booking:** Available on MCAS next week

 **Spaces:** Limited to 60 dads, allocated on a first-come, first-served basis (one ticket per family*).

**We understand that Mother's Day and Father's Day can hold different meanings for families based on individual circumstances. Our aim is to create welcoming events where all 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!

A message from Mrs Blakemore and Miss Oates - World Book Day

As you may be aware, World Book Day is next week on Thursday 6th March. Throughout the week, each class will be doing various activities to promote reading for enjoyment. However, we will not be asking the children to dress up.

Please keep an eye on your child's class page to see what the children have been up to. As part of our celebrations for World Book Day, and after a very successful competition last year, we are holding an Arno Vale poetry writing competition. All children are invited to submit an entry if they wish. The poem can take any form and can be about any subject. We just want to see your creativity and enjoyment of writing. Entries can be handwritten or published on a computer, and should be submitted to Miss Oates by World Book Day (Thursday 6th March), either in a paper copy or via Dojo.

We cannot wait to see the children's work, especially as last year's entries were fantastic!

We had lots to celebrate in our assembly today.

Birthdays:

Paige celebrated her birthday over half term and Jessica, Patrick, Raife and Edee celebrate(d) their birthday this week.

Stars of the week:

- *3 Grey – Toby D for curiosity and Leia for determination.*
 - *3 White – Ashton for independence and Harry for curiosity.*
 - *4 Orange – Harry for curiosity and Molly for independence.*
 - *4 Yellow – Theo for determination and Arabella for respect.*
 - *5 Green – Noah P and Sofia for determination.*
 - *5 Red – Faris for determination and Edee for independence.*
 - *5 Baker – Isla M for curiosity.*
 - *6 Blue – Ollie and Jasmine for respect when working in a group.*
 - *6 Purple – Reuben M for determination and James A for respect.*
 - *6 Baker – Sienna for determination and believing in herself more.*
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Mr Baker's special mentions for catching people being kind and/or respectful:

- *Nathaniel helped Miss Oates when she accidentally dropped her lunch all over the floor.*
- *Teddy B and Eliza always have excellent manners and are so polite around school.*

- *Joseph B, Ruben I, Jessica and Elizabeth have been giving up some of their time this week to help with some jobs at lunchtime. This has been a huge help to the midday supervisors and kitchen staff – thank you all very, very much.*
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TTRS:

This week's class champions are:

4 Orange. *They win 5 minutes of reward time for having the most children logging on and playing (100%). Individual winners in each class will now be announced at the end of each half term rather than weekly.*

Class Challenge:

- *In today's assembly, we launched a new class challenge, focused on consistently taking pride in work and striving for the highest standards of presentation. We'll find out the class winners in a few weeks.*
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Out of school achievements:

- *Nathaniel was really proud to tell us about ANOTHER Player of the Match trophy!*
- *Adrian told us about meeting a Derby County legend (David McGoldrick) at a presentation ceremony.*
- *Alex shared her medal from a gymnastics residential she'd recently attended.*
- *Georgia shared a certificate from a swimming gala.*

- *Molly told us about an acrobatics competition she'd taken part in.*
- *Oliver told us about his recent taekwondo grading.*
- *Caleb has completed stage 5 swimming.*

Well done everyone!







General Messages

- A MCAS 'how to guide' is now on the school website. [Click here to access it.](#)
- Photograph dates this year have been confirmed as follows:

- Tuesday 20th May - Sports teams and class photos.

- Monday 6th October - Individual photos (siblings welcome from 8.30am)

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- A reminder for the parents of children in Year 5 that the deposit for the Willersley Castle residential in October is now due. Payment for the Space Centre trip on 20th March is also due. Both can be paid via MCAS.
 - We have now had confirmation that, after an extremely lengthy process, we will officially be joining the White Hills Park Trust on 1st May 2025. Due diligence and all other legalities are now being finalised. More information to follow in the coming weeks.
 - Another polite reminder that parents should not be parking in the school car park at the start and end of the day unless permission has been obtained from the Headteacher. We really do need everyone's cooperation on this as the issues it is sometimes causing are taking a disproportionate amount of our time to resolve.
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Online safety

As you know, we place a strong emphasis on educating our children about responsible and appropriate use of digital devices. We appreciate that managing your child's online activity can be challenging, but regular checks of their devices are essential to ensure their safety and wellbeing. Many children may not yet fully understand the risks associated with online communication and it is our shared responsibility to guide them in developing safe and responsible habits.

At school, we take a proactive approach to online safety through:

- *Regular online safety lessons as part of our curriculum, where children learn about privacy settings, the impact of their digital footprint and the consequences of inappropriate online behaviour.*
- *Discussions on cyberbullying and online conduct, helping children understand the importance of respectful communication and the potential dangers of social media and messaging apps.*
- *Assemblies to reinforce the importance of staying safe online.*
- *Constantly encouraging children to talk to a trusted adult if they encounter anything that makes them uncomfortable.*

To support this work at home, we strongly encourage you to:

- *Regularly check your child's device, including messages, apps and social media accounts.*
- *Set appropriate screen time limits to ensure they are getting enough rest.*
- *Discuss with them the importance of respectful online communication and the risks of late-night messaging.*
- *Encourage open conversations about any concerns they may have regarding their online interactions.*

Your support is invaluable in ensuring that the children develop safe and responsible online habits. If you would like any further guidance or support in managing online safety at home, please do not hesitate to contact us

Diary dates:

We are currently updating this and the full list will return next week.

And finally...

The answer to last week's question:

Magnitude is the size of the earthquake.

This week's question comes from the Y6 teachers, who have picked this out from one of the recent SATs papers they have been using with their classes.

Which two sentences contain a **preposition**?

Tick **two**.

Kelly wrote a poem on Tuesday night. ☐

She worked very hard all evening. ☐

Her mum read the poem before school. ☐

Kelly's mum said it was excellent. ☐

Kelly really enjoyed writing her poem. ☐