



Bulletin: Friday 31st January 2025

I am delighted to share the fantastic work our class ambassadors have been doing to improve our playground and playtimes. They have conducted research across all classes, gathering insights on what children love about playtimes, what challenges they face and how we can make them even better.

After careful discussion and ranking of ideas, the ambassadors have put forward five key priorities:

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1. **More balls** – Dedicated playground balls separate from PE equipment, along with easy-to-use pumps.
 2. **More outdoor games and equipment** – Refreshing old chess and Connect 4 sets, plus additional skipping ropes and other activities.
 3. **An indoor club** – A quiet space with board games, colouring supplies and activities for those who prefer to stay inside sometimes.
 4. **Basketball improvements** – Installing permanent wall-mounted hoops instead of fragile stand-alone posts.
 5. **Clear playground zones** – Reintroducing designated play areas to ensure everyone has space to enjoy different activities.
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To make this happen, the ambassadors have been granted a significant budget from FOAV's fundraising efforts. They are eager to work together to choose the best equipment and make playtimes even more enjoyable for all.

I want to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you to FOAV and everyone who has contributed to fundraising. Your generosity has already funded a VR headset experience, a theatre group visit, new climbing holds, a magician, skipping sessions and transport to the pantomime. This year, FOAV has already committed to further exciting projects including trim trail repairs, another theatre visit, anti-racism workshops for the whole school and another VR headset experience.

Your support makes a real difference in enhancing the school experience for every child and we are incredibly grateful.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Mrs Burton's stress levels

I want to thank you for your patience as we migrate to MCAS. We know there have been some technical issues and a few unexpected bumps along the way but we really appreciate your understanding. A special thanks to the brilliant Mrs Burton in the office for her hard work behind the scenes (including late in to the night) to get the system up and running.

While the timing of this change may seem a bit random, it was necessary due to the end of our contract with Parent Pay. We are excited about the many benefits that joining White Hills Park Trust will bring to our school. Unfortunately, some administrative challenges like this are inevitable during the conversion process.

We had lots to celebrate in our assembly today.

Birthdays:

Rowan, Thomas, Gabe, Eliza, Eva, Freya, Florence, Edith, Ben and Evie all celebrated their birthday this week - happy birthday!

Stars of the week:

3 Grey – Alice and Edith for independence.

3 White – Coralie for independence and Izaan for determination.

4 Orange – Lucas and Tilly for determination.

4 Yellow – Miami and Elliott for independence and Alice for kindness.

5 Green – Dylan and Ibraheem for independence.

5 Red – Sid and Eliza for determination (in producing two FABULOUS pieces of writing).

5 Baker – Joseph W and Annis for independence.

6 Blue – Isaac for determination and Alfie for curiosity.

6 Purple – Eleanor and Jack for independence.

6 Baker – Edward and Oliver for determination.

Mr Baker's special mentions for catching people being kind:

Oliver A in year 3 for tidying away the play equipment. He does this without being asked and always takes the effort to do the best he can.

Alice in year 4 showed incredible kindness to another child when they were feeling sad.

TTRS:

This week's class champions are:

Miss Oates/Miss I's maths group - Freya

6 Baker - Joseph

Miss Fallon's maths group - Matylda

5 Baker - Phia

5 Red - Faris

5 Green - Olivia

4 Yellow – Adrian and Sum Yau

4 Orange – Hunter and Ben

3 White - Louis

3 Grey – Zac W

*The winning class is **4 Orange**. They win 5 minutes of reward time for having the most children logging on and playing.*

Out of school achievements:

Stanley has earned his 'Light Blue' award in gymnastics.

Faris achieved student of the week in karate.



Chinese New Year

This week is an important one for several members of our school community – the Lunar New Year (also known as Chinese New Year) began on 29th January and marks the transition from the Year of the Dragon to the Year of the Snake. This festive occasion is one of the most significant holidays in Chinese culture, celebrated with family reunions, festive meals, red envelopes, fireworks and traditions that symbolize prosperity and good fortune.

In today's assembly, Iris gave a wonderful speech about her celebrations, sharing insights into Chinese customs and the traditions that bring families together during this time.

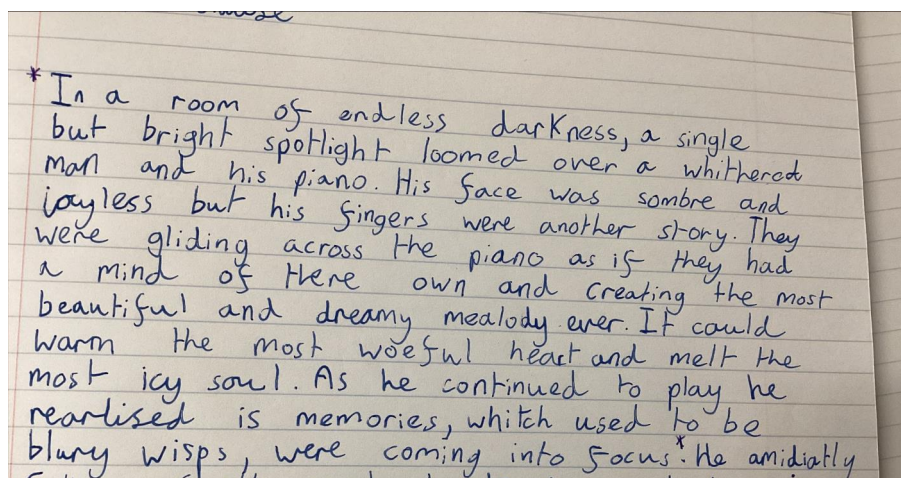


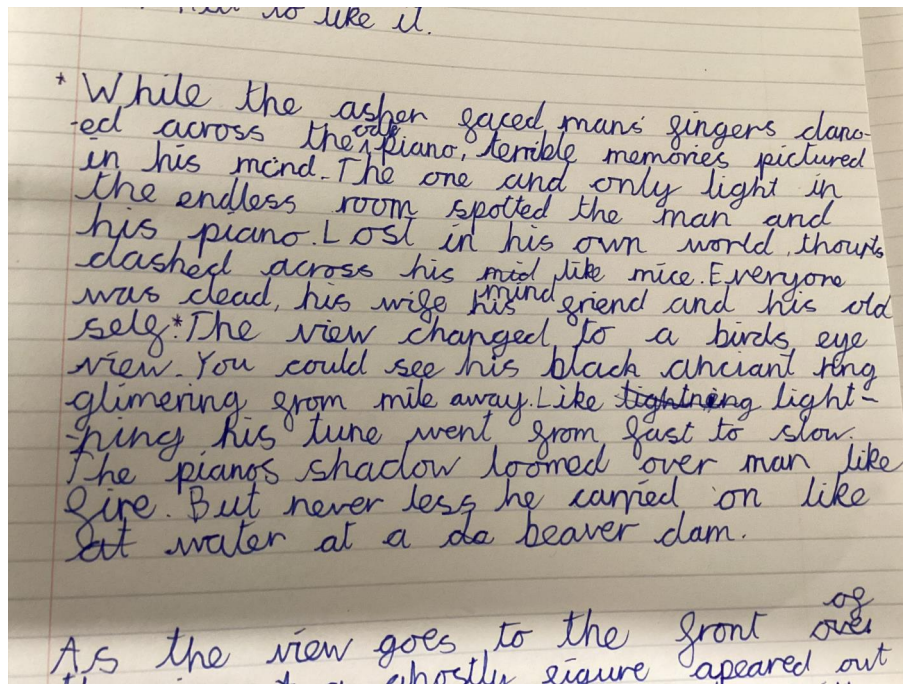
Sports news

Good luck to the children that will be competing in the cross country county final tomorrow. We know you'll be brilliant representatives of the school and look forward to finding out how you get on.

Year 5 writing

The children in Year 5 are really enjoying their current English unit of work, which is based on The Piano by Aidan Gibbons. Eliza and Sid had their fabulous pieces of writing read out in assembly today.





Multi Sports Camp

Multi sports camp, led by Mr Ward and Mr Lindley, will once again run this February at Arno Vale Junior School.

Dates: Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th February 2025

Sports include: Football, golf, basketball, hockey, cricket, dodgeball, tag rugby and tennis.

Time: 9.00am to 3.00pm

Price: £17 per day

Age: 5-11

Please follow this link to book your place. <https://forms.office.com/e/DRPHtpi7X>

Diary dates:

Arno Vale Junior School Diary Dates 31st January 2025

Arno Vale Junior School Diary Dates 2024 to 2025	
Mon, 17 th Feb to Fri, 21 st Feb 25	Half term holiday
Monday, 24 th February 25	Inset day
Tuesday, 25 th February 25	Return to school
Tuesday, 4 th March 25	Parent's consultation meeting – 3.40pm to 6.30pm
Wednesday, 5 th March 25	Parent's consultation meeting – 3.40pm to 6.30pm
Thursday, 6 th March 25	Parent's consultation meeting – 3.40pm to 6.30pm
Thursday, 6 th March 25	World Book Day
Mon, 7 th Apr to Mon. 21 st Apr 25	Easter holiday
Tuesday, 22 nd April 25	Return to school
Monday, 5 th May 25	May Day bank holiday
Mon, 12 th May to Thu, 15 th May 25	Y6 SATs week
Thursday, 22 nd May 25	Y3 trip to Cresswell Craggs for a stoneage experience
Mon, 26 th May to Fri 30 th May 25	Half term
Thursday, 19 th June 25	School Games afternoon
Tuesday, 24 th June 25	Back up School Games afternoon
Friday, 4 th July 25	Inset day
Friday, 11 th July 25	Non uniform day
Tuesday, 15 th July 25	Y6 performance
Wednesday, 16 th July 25	Y6 performance
Friday, 18 th July 25	FOAV summer fair
Tuesday, 22 nd July 25	Y6 leavers' festival
Friday, 25 th July 25	Last day of term

And finally...

The answer to last week's question was 9.

$$1 + 2 = 3$$

$$6 \text{ divided by } 2 = 3$$

$$3 \times 3 = 9$$

Here is another question that caused some interesting discussions in one of my Y6 maths lessons this week:

$$\frac{3}{4} \times \boxed{} = \frac{1}{4}$$