

Goodbye Year 6!

We will soon be saying goodbye to our fantastic year 6 children. They have been an asset to the school and I have watched them develop and grow over the last two and a half years. We will really miss them and wish them all well.

Still to come....

14th July Year 5 Bright Day at Arnold Hill Academy
14th July Summer Fair.
18th & 19th July Year 6 performance of Alice in Wonderland
20th July School reports issued.

Sports

We have recently entered a team in a Boccia competition at Arnold Mill where our fabulous team were victorious! Our golf team represented the district at Nottingham Trent University and performed brilliantly coming 5th. Their fantastic sportsmanship was rewarded by being awarded 'Spirit of the Games'. Well done to all our marvelous sports people.

Arno Vale Junior School Newsletter July 2017

We are almost at the end of the school year, and what a year it has been! There is still lots going on over the next couple of weeks and we hope to see you at some of the upcoming events. I would like to thank you all for your continued support over the year and hope you all have a great summer holiday.

Zumbathon

On Tuesday, July 4th we held our Zumbathon to raise money for the Trim Trail. Claire did a fantastic job leading the children who all performed brilliantly. It wasn't easy as some of the staff can testify! Claire gave her time free of charge and we are very grateful to her and to you for sponsoring the event. So far, we have raised £1238 with some more cash still to come in.



The Helicopter Park

We have been contacted by a resident on Blakeney Walk regarding the behaviour of some children in the park. Fortunately, it was not children from Arno Vale. However, I thought it was appropriate to let you know what has been happening. Some children have been playing on the roofs of the garages that back onto the park and one child managed to fall through the roof. Fortunately, the child was not injured but the resident was very concerned that the accident could have been much worse than it was. I have spoken to our children in assembly and thought you should know just in case any of our children are tempted to copy the behaviour of other children.

Summer Holidays

There is a lot of work going on in school over the summer holidays. You may well remember the issues we had with the heating system over the winter period. The Local Authority have nominated a contractor to replace the entire system and boiler over the summer break. As you can imagine, this is a massive project but will mean we have an efficient, effective and functioning heating system for the next winter. On top of this, we are also refurbishing the Year 6 toilets, revamping the staff toilets and re-configuring some areas in school to create new learning areas. We have arranged for two inset days at the start of the autumn term so the first day back for the children will be Thursday, September 7th.

End of Term Picnic

To celebrate the end of term, the school catering team will be providing the children with a picnic lunch on the last day of term (Tuesday, July 25th). If your child has school meals, you just need to book your meal as usual via ParentPay. Weather permitting, we will all be picnicking on the school field. If you have a picnic blanket and your child would like to use it, please send it in but having it labelled with your child's name would be very helpful.

Senior Midday Supervisor

We are currently looking for a Senior Midday Supervisor to lead our team of dedicated and hardworking midday staff. If you are interested, please contact the school office for an application form.

Homework

Mrs Fearn and Mrs Morley have been doing a lot of research into the often controversial topic of homework. We have gained your views through the parent forum and are planning some changes as to how homework is set at Arno Vale from the autumn term. You can read all about this in the accompanying letter.

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Dear Parents

As you may know, earlier this year we carried out a review of the homework we set at Arno Vale.

From September the children will be receiving half termly homework. They will be expected to learn a set of spellings, some times tables and complete book reviews for all the texts they read. The children will be expected to be independent with these tasks and make sure they are practising the spellings and times tables regularly throughout the half term.

How you can help

- Put up the lists of spellings around the house, garden or car!
- Say the times tables out loud as many times as possible – over breakfast, before dinner or perhaps even to earn their pudding!
- Encourage reading, read yourselves, have books, comics, magazines out around the house. Even reading recipe books or instruction manuals is beneficial!

How your child's teacher will help

- Teaching strategies to help learn the spellings in weekly lessons and extending their understanding.
- Teaching strategies to consolidate their learning of times tables and deepening their understanding.
- Keeping a class book containing book reviews.
- Awarding certificates for high scores in spelling tests and times tables challenges
- Awarding certificates for most improved score in spelling tests and times tables challenges
- Awarding certificates for reading widely and regularly
- Awarding tokens at the end of the year for high scores, most improved scores and reading regularly

From time to time, we may also choose to set additional tasks that we feel will support what we do in class.

There will be no sheets to hand in at a particular time and no specific homework day. A copy of each year group's half termly homework will be on the website, so you can print it out or refer to it at any time throughout the half term.

Why the change?

The main reason behind the changes is that fact that current research suggests that homework at primary school age has little impact on an individual child's progress or learning. The best homework only takes a maximum of 10 minutes and is directly linked to the child's learning at school. The only extended activity out of school that has a positive impact on a child's progress is reading. Therefore, we have chosen to adapt our homework tasks to cover these very specific areas, that we feel will have the most impact in class.

From the parent forum and incidental conversations with parents, the overwhelming feeling towards homework from the parent community is negative. Many parents have commented on the struggle it is to get children motivated to do their homework, how it eats into family time and is the source of arguments and discontent.

However, we recognise that lots of children and parents like to do more at home and therefore we will also offer the children the opportunity to keep a diary of all the out of school activities they do, or special days out and put together a short presentation as a show and tell. This can be done at any time throughout the term.

As this is quite new to us all, there will be a review of how it has all gone at the end of the year, and we would of course welcome your feedback too.

Thank you for your continued support!