



## PARENT BULLETIN 17

### 10 January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all!

It is like a scene from a Christmas card outside as I am sat writing this and I am thankful that I'm inside in the warm, although it did look beautiful first thing.

I hope you all had a wonderful break; it is so lovely to see all the children back and excited to start a new year. It is increasingly cold so please send your child into school in jumpers and coats we do still have outside play and PE, so it is important that they are kept warm.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Girdler who has started with us in our preschool. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming her to our AVA family and community.

You should all have received your Phase Newsletter this week. Please can we encourage you to read through this to see what the children will be learning and any important information such as dates.

A reminder to all parents who are applying for our Reception class for September 2025, the closing dates for applications is the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 so please ensure that all applications are submitted before then. Our Preschool children do not automatically get a Reception place in the Primary school.

The portal link is below:

[Apply for a primary school place | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

All enrichment clubs start on Monday. Please note the weeks that the clubs are not running: 03/02/2025 & 31/03/2025

#### Parents Evening

The Parents Evening bookings are live and close on the 31<sup>st</sup> January. If you would like an appointment, please go into the school cloud system to book one with your child's teacher. If you are unable to make any of the days, you can request an email update on your child, but we will not be booking individual meetings with teachers outside of these times.

#### West End in Schools – March 2025

As part of our World Book Day celebrations this year, we are overjoyed to announce that West End in Schools will be returning to AVA Primary on Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th March 2025!

They will be coming in to run drama workshops with a focus on the traditional tale, Little Red Riding Hood. These workshops are for children in Reception to Year 6.



Hosting such a fantastic experience to the whole Primary Phase comes at a substantial cost and it can only go ahead if we can raise the funds required. A voluntary contribution of £3.88 is requested for your child and payment has been set up on School Gateway under the Payments section.

Please come and speak to us if you have any financial concerns regarding this experience and we will do our best to support you. If we do not raise enough money to cover this, we will unfortunately have to cancel the visit. We really don't want to have to do this as it was so beneficial and enjoyable for the children last year.



### Christmas Jumper Bank

If you have any Christmas jumpers that your children have grown out of over the Christmas period we are collecting donations. We would like to build up a bank of Christmas jumpers that people can borrow and return, please drop them to the school office and we would be happy to take them off your hands.

### Reflection

As we end our first week back, we invite you to join in a reflection on RESILIENCE.

For some of us, the break will have been a welcome rest, it will have restored our energy to show RESILIENCE in the New Year, but this will have not been the case for everyone. We ask you to remember those in our community and worldwide who must display RESILIENCE on a daily basis to accomplish basic tasks.

For example, many of us will have taken for granted being able to read a sign or a set of instructions over the holiday, but for those who are blind or partially sighted even tasks like this can present real challenges to daily life and these do not stop during a Christmas break from school.

Last week, January 4th marked World Braille Day, this has been celebrated since 2019 and is a day to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people.

Braille is a tactile representation of alphabet and number symbols using six dots to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols. Braille, named after its 19th century French inventor, Louis Braille, is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and texts as those printed in a visual font.

*As we reflect on the coming year, we invite our community to remember not only the RESILIENCE we must show personally but also the RESILIENCE others must display. The challenges others face are sometimes hidden from us but when we stop and consider their needs it enables us to show compassion, care and make the world a better place for everyone.*

Have a restful weekend.

Best wishes,  
**Mrs C Baughan**



**United Nations**

**World Braille Day  
4 January**

The infographic is titled "Braille system" and features a red header. It includes a small image of a Braille book. The main content is divided into sections: "History" which mentions Louis Braille (1809-1852) and his invention of Braille in 1825; "An interesting fact" which states that Braille is a tactile system that can be read by touch and is used for reading and writing; "Peace" and "Hello" sections which show Braille representations of these words; and "There are Braille letters for other alphabets" which shows examples of Braille for Celtic letters and punctuation marks. The infographic also includes a small illustration of a person reading Braille.

## **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

### **SEND Support Phone Line - 01296 382135**

We are open every day between 10am and 4pm and until 6pm on Tuesdays. The line is for parents, professionals and anyone with enquiries about SEND in Buckinghamshire.

Please note that the support line is open between 10am and 2pm during school holidays and is closed on Bank Holidays.

### **Primary SEND concerns**

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=vujYj3JiOk-ROacP9\\_VtsKSZm5ilcidJig5HlgRJQUZUMEVCUk1PMUZXRtq1UiiUVVBaSFNYUFICMi4u&web=1&wdLOR=cA359AD1B-53A8-5F47-9B1A-80EC4AFA2E4C](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=vujYj3JiOk-ROacP9_VtsKSZm5ilcidJig5HlgRJQUZUMEVCUk1PMUZXRtq1UiiUVVBaSFNYUFICMi4u&web=1&wdLOR=cA359AD1B-53A8-5F47-9B1A-80EC4AFA2E4C)

### **Free School Meals**

We now have an online free school meal application on our web site under the **Parents** tab. Please find the link below:

<https://www.theacademy.me/page/?title=SCHOOL+MEALS&pid=166>

We also have a dedicated FSM inbox - [freeschoolmeals@theacademy.me](mailto:freeschoolmeals@theacademy.me) - where parents can submit FSM forms if you prefer to complete the paper version instead of the online form.