

PARENT BULLETIN 1

4 September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back!

The Newsletter will be slightly different this year as we will be doing a Headteachers update and then providing lots of information and updates from the rest of the Senior Leadership Team. This week's Newsletter will be shorter but over the next couple of weeks we will add in the calendar updates for you all and keep you informed of any changes.

Headteacher Update

A warm welcome to you all! I hope you had a fantastic summer break, enjoying lots of family time and making memories. I am so proud beginning a new chapter as Headteacher of this incredible school. From my time here a couple of years ago, I already know how amazing the children are, how dedicated and professional our staff are and what a brilliant support network the parents and community are for the work that we do. Thank you to those who have already introduced themselves and wished me good luck — I look forward to getting to know many more of you in the coming weeks.

Education has been my only career and I am passionate about both the personal development of children as well as their achievement, which comes through the teaching of new knowledge and skills. Adults have worked hard, not just during our training days, but also over the summer, to ensure a very strong, positive start to the year and it was wonderful to address the majority of students this morning and see lots of smiles. I spoke about this school being a place they can feel they really belong, even if they felt a bit nervous or down about the end of the holidays and the return to school. I've also spent time in Reception classes and Pre-School and have been really impressed with the way things have started.

AVA Primary has a fantastic tradition of fostering and nurturing young people; Mrs Baughan always spoke of the school as a "family". She also leaves a legacy of superb academic performance, with, as you will see, all performance data that is assessed externally being above National averages. These are two key things did not happen by accident. They were the product of lots of teamwork — adults working together, adults working with children and children working with other children. It is this teamwork that I look forward to most and I am committed to working together to ensure both the thriving academic success and the sense of belonging continue here throughout the year ahead.

I hope you find the information contained in this newsletter helpful — it is a start, and there will be much more to follow next week!

Best,
Mr Cooper

2025-2026 Successes

Once again, AVA Primary results for last academic year came in above national average in all areas!

- Reception's Good Level of Development was 70%,
- Year 1 Phonics Screening was 83.3%, the

- Year 4 MTC had an average score of 21.2
- Year 6 had a great set of results: Reading – 75%, Writing – 78.3%, Maths – 81.7%.

Congratulations to all of the children who sat these assessments, and a big well done to all of our staff; these results are a reflection of all year groups working together to build upon the progress children make year on year, and are testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff here.

Mobile Phones and Smartwatches

We do not allow children to have mobile phones and smartwatches in school. From Year 4 onwards, we understand the children who walk home by themselves may carry a device in order for you to know they are safe. If your child brings in a mobile phone / smartwatch (Year 4, 5 and 6 only), they need to hand them in to their class teacher at the beginning of the day.

All Year 4, 5 and 6 classrooms have a lidded box which will store these items – they will be locked away in the classroom cupboard and will be handed back to the children at the end of the day.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this.

Advance notice – author visits

We have already booked in the first of our author visits this year! On Thursday 24th September, Years 4, 5 and 6 have M.G Leonard visiting the school to talk about her new book.

On Thursday 8th October, Reception and years 1 and 2 have Rachel Bright and Jim Field in.

More information about these events will come out in due course.

11+

Year 6

On the morning of Tuesday 8th September and Thursday 10th September, Year 6's will be sitting their Secondary Transfer Test (11+).

Tuesday is the practise paper, and Thursday is the Transfer test. The children will be taking the test in our school hall.

Those that have withdrawn via the portal will be in class.

If you have any questions or concerns concerning the test, please talk to Mrs Stewart or Mr Jackson

Clubs

Clubs for wrap around care are all up and running. Please check your School Gateway app to book onto the wrap around provision.

Hot Meals

Hot meals should be accessible to everyone now. The menu's are on the website along with the theme days, please check them before you make your choices.

All children from Reception to Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals although you will not be charged for these meal you must still book them via the School Gateway app. Bookings can be made up until 6am on the day. We cannot add a meal after this time, you will need to provide a packed lunch if this deadline is missed.

Enrichment Clubs

We are still finalising the enrichment clubs and will send these out via email. Please keep an eye out and just a reminder that this are booked under the 'Payments' section of the app for the whole term. Once they are live if they aren't showing then they are full. These get snapped up really quickly, our quickest time to fill a club was 12 minutes once live.

PE Days for this term

Reception – no PE this term

Year 1 – Wednesday & Thursday

Year 2 – Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 3 – Tuesday & Thursday
Year 4 – Monday & Friday
Year 5 – Wednesday & Friday
Year 6 – Thursday & Friday

School Collection Times – all from the school gates

Reception – 14:45
Year 1 - 15:00
Year 2 – 15:00
Year 3 – 15:05
Year 4 – 15:05
Year 5 – 15:10
Year 6 – 15:10

Please note there is a late collection policy and charge if you are late to collect your child. Please can we also remind you that any secondary children collecting must be listed on the permission to collect list and must also adhere to the times listed above.

Reception and Preschool

It is so lovely to see our new Reception classes and Preschool children.

We just wanted to let you know and hopefully ease some concerns, for our medical process we do send an email out to parents if a child has come to medical. If your child has had a head bump we will always give you call and send you an email just to make sure that this is communicated quickly. Please rest assured if we thought that any medical incident needed care outside of what we can provide, we would always call to request they are collected for further checks.



<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/aylesbury-vale-academy-pta/j3tk26/at/EDA0jpqh/DM1329426/facebook/>

If you are interested in joining our wonderful PTA please email ava.pta@hotmail.com

Reflection

Starting a new school year is both exciting and challenging. It is a time filled with new opportunities, fresh goals, and the chance to grow as learners and as individuals. As we walk through the school doors once again, we bring with us a mixture of emotions. Some of us feel eager to see friends and meet new teachers, while others may feel nervous about the unknown. Yet every new school year is a reminder that each day offers a chance to learn something new and become a better version of ourselves.

The staff have already worked their socks off getting the classrooms and curriculum ready and we are very excited to welcome children back into the building!

We would like to invite you to join us in our School Prayer.

Loving God,
This is our school.
Let peace live here.
Let the rooms be full of happiness.
Let love live here: love of one another, love of mankind, love of life itself and love of God.
Let us remember that; as many hands build a house,
So many hearts make a school.
Amen.

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_VtsKSZm5ilcidJig5HIgRJQUZUMEVCUK1PMUZXRTq1UIIUUVVBaSFNYUFICMi4u&web=1&wdLOR=cA359AD1B-53A8-5F47-9B1A-80EC4AFA2E4C

Free School Meals

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 - where parents can submit FSM forms if you prefer to complete the paper version instead of the online form.

Report Parking Issues

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/parking/tell-us-about-a-parking-problem/>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Community Services in Bucks

Helping Hand: 01296 531151, helpinghands@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Anyone worried about food, and not sure what help is available, can contact Bucks Council's Helping Hand support line (above).

This line is open 9am – 5.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9am – 5pm on Friday. The out of hours team can be contacted in emergencies on 0800 999 7677.

Community Services in Aylesbury

Mind the Gap Peer Support: BBs Café, Aylesbury, Pauline Hayden, 07788438134.

St Mary's Aylesbury: 07714 246593 / 01296 437641.

House of Mercy: Aylesbury Tel: **Mobile 1:**07985636361 **Mobile 2:**07506680717. Weekly Food donation.