



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN 22

7 February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy week we have had with our parent consultations on Tuesday and last night. It is always lovely to meet our parents in person and be able to put a face to the name. Talking about how wonderful our children are is one of the most rewarding parts of the job we do. A huge thank you to our Primary and Secondary children who have helped on both nights and kept us well supplied with tea and biscuits!

We have an elevated level of sickness due to a vomiting bug that is going around. Please can we ask that children are not sent into school if they have had any vomiting or diarrhoea. Children need to be kept at home for **48 hours** after the last episode. We appreciate that this can be difficult for working parents, but we have a duty of care to all children to reduce the risk of the virus spreading throughout the school and to safeguard adults and children who are medically vulnerable.

Yesterday, we hosted the fantastic Jacob North who took our Year 4, 5 and 6 children on an exciting quest through the tundra! Jacob held the children's attention from his very first sentence and the children (and adults) were absolutely captivated as they had to make important life or death decisions! Thank you to all the parents who supported by buying a book – some of the children started reading whilst they waited for Jacob to sign it for them! As always, we would like to extend our thanks to *Our Bookshop* in Tring, who enable these author visits to happen.



We have had an incident where a 2-year-old has been hit in the face by a football and knocked over by a child going too fast on a scooter at collection time. We will be speaking to the children about being safe and mindful of all people at drop off and collection times. Please can we ask that parents do not allow their children to scooter or ride on school premises and that once they are at school they walk to the scooter/bike sheds to leave them safely locked away.

We will have a slightly quieter school next week when some of our Year 6's go away on residential. We know that they will have a wonderful time and we can't wait to hear all about the activities they will be doing. The remaining students will also have a fun filled week at school with a schedule of activities to do that have been planned by the staff staying here. We are always very jealous of this week and everything that happens but also so proud to see how well they do and how brave they can be.

We have recently had some Netball matches against local schools. We are so pleased to see the children participating in the team games and representing the school, well done!!

The hot meals for the next half will be loaded shortly we are just waiting for confirmation of the menu.

Upcoming Author Visit – Reception and Year 1

We are delighted to be welcoming Mevan Babakar into school to talk to our Reception and Year 1 children on Thursday 6th March 2025!

Mevan will be coming to talk about her life as a child refugee and the story of *The Bicycle*; a story of how a simple act of kindness changed a little girl's life. Based on Mevan Babakar's own childhood, this is a moving reminder of how powerful just one act of kindness can be.



If you want to purchase a book, follow the link below to buy it from **Our Bookshop** -the wonderful bookshop in Tring that organises these brilliant visits!

Mevan will sign every book that is bought.

Books need to be purchased by the end of Wednesday 5th March.

<https://www.ourbookshoptring.co.uk/product/the-bicycle-by-patricia-mccormick-and-mevan-babakar/>

World Book Day – Advanced Notice

To end our World Book Day celebrations, we are inviting children to dress up on Friday 7th March 2025. Our theme for this week is 'Little Red Riding Hood' and we would love to see lots of costumes based on this traditional tale. However, we welcome any World Book Day themed outfit. If your child does not want to dress up, they can wear their own clothes.



West End in Schools – March 2025

Hopefully you have seen the letter that went out at the beginning of January regarding the fantastic West End in Schools coming in to celebrate World Book Day again with us this year!

This exciting event runs over three days and is for all classes from Reception to Year 6.

Due to the scale of this, it comes at a substantial cost which breaks down to **£3.88 per child**.

As of this point, we still need to raise over £800 to be able to go ahead with the visit. If we do not receive the payment, we will need to cancel the workshop. This would be such a shame as children really benefitted from, and enjoyed, the workshops last year.

If you haven't already paid, please do so using School Gateway – it under the heading 'West End in Schools'.

Thank you for your support in running this event.

Reflection

This week in both Primary and Secondary Phases we marked Children's Mental Health Week 2025. The week is celebrated every February, with this year marking the 11th Children's Mental Health Week.

The theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Week was *'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'* which aimed to shine a spotlight on how we can build resilience, grow and develop by understanding who we are and what makes us tick. The more we understand about ourselves, the better we're prepared to tackle life's ups and downs. By understanding and accepting ourselves, we start to build self-awareness. This allows us to develop the skills we need to cope with what life throws at us.



As we end the week, we invite our AVA community to join with us in A prayer for mental health...

Dear God.

Thank you that you have created us with the ability to think, and to feel so many different emotions.

Help us to find safe and healthy coping mechanisms when we experience difficult situations.

Guide us towards the people and resources that can support us.

Help us to recognise when our mental health is suffering and reach out so that we might KNOW ourselves more deeply and GROW into the best versions of ourselves.

Amen.

Adapted from a prayer from © Copyright 2025 Arnold The Praying Penguin.

Best wishes,
Mrs C Baughan

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_VtsKSZm5ilcidJig5HIqRjQUZUMEVCUk1PMUZXRtg1UllUVVBaSFNYUFICMi4u&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 - where parents can submit FSM forms if you prefer to complete the paper version instead of the online form.