



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 15

10th December 2021



Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the last school week of 2021 I think it is fair to say that this week we have had ups and downs!

It was with much sadness that we had to close our Preschool for 2 days and cancel the live showing of their Christmas concert. As always we prioritise the health of all of community and with a significant number of staff and children needing PCR tests we followed the advice given to us. If a positive has come from the pandemic it is the ability to be able to record and send events, activities and learning virtually. Our Preschool families will have the recordings of the Christmas concerts shared with them via Evidence Me.



We were quite overwhelmed on Tuesday when our amazing children from Year 3 and 4 performed in their Christingle assembly. We were able to open our doors to a reduced number of visitors and celebrate this special time of year with them. Some of the children haven't spoken or sung in front of an audience for 2 years - since they were in Year 1. They were confident and brave when both speaking and singing. The performance was even more special this year and we would like to thank Revd Lane for joining us.

Today our Reception children performed in their Christmas concert. It was lovely to hear them sing and to see the happiness that this brought to our guests (and staff). Making memories like these are so important and we know that we are

very lucky to have both the space and facilities to do this as safely as possible.



The school was full of Christmas jumpers, pyjama's, tinsel, baubles and bells today in support of Save The Children's Christmas Jumper Day appeal. Thank you to everyone who donated £1 - if you forgot there is a pot in our reception.

A sad note is that we have been informed that another local school have cases of the Omicron variant and have had to close most of their classes until the New Year. Please remember to follow the guidance. We

will be asking all families with any symptoms to get a PCR test in order to ensure that we are protecting each other.

There are no clubs next week as it is the last week of term.

Swimming is still going ahead for Falcons on Monday.

Below are the last dates for this term. **Please note that the Nativity on Monday is now full.**

Monday 13th Dec - Year 1/2 Nativity 1.30pm (parents invited)
Tuesday 14th Dec - Year 1/2 Nativity 10.00am (parents invited)
Wednesday 15th Dec - Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 16th Dec - Class Christmas Activities
Friday 17th Dec - Celebration Assembly (9.30am)
Friday 17th Dec – End of Term Early Finish

If for any reason we have to change these plans, we will let you know with as much notice as possible. All events will have limited spaces - 2 guests per child- and we are unable to go above this allocation. Whilst I know this will not suit all families I ask that you respect that we are trying really hard to allow the children the opportunity to perform in these events. They have missed so much and we would like to create these memories with them this year.

We will ask all visitors to wear face masks and to sanitise when entering the building. We will be spacing seating out as much as possible. All performances will be within our 'old bubbles'. We understand that some families do not feel comfortable attending these events so close to Christmas, we will be recording the performances where possible. Please respect our children, staff and each other when in the building. It's really important that we continue to look after each other - especially at this special time of year.

Due to space we will not be able to have prams/buggies/car seats in the performance spaces (they will need to be left outside). If you choose to bring a smaller sibling with you, please sit with them on your lap and be mindful that many of the children performing have not done so before so may be nervous and quiet.

PEACE - A refection for the 3rd Sunday of Advent - Sunday 12th December.

The season of Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and lasts for 4 weeks. It is a time of preparation for Christmas and Advent symbols help us on this journey. The most recognisable of these symbols is the Advent wreath. Its circular shape represents God's never-ending presence. The evergreen leaves, which do not fade in colour, signify God's eternal nature. The four candles around the wreath are lit as we progress through the weeks of Advent and the central white candle is lit on Christmas day.



Candle, candle burning bright.
In the cold winter night.
Candle, candle burning bright.
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

On the third Sunday in advent, we light a candle to represent PEACE...

Light the advent candle three
Think of heavenly harmony
Angels singing peace on Earth
At the special baby's birth

A prayer for peace...

May we bring the light of God to the world this Advent.

May we always live in the peace of God's love.

May all children in the world share love, share friendship and live in the peace of God's love,
now and forever.

Amen.

Kind regards

Mrs C Baughan



HM Government



If you have any of the following symptoms:



A new, continuous cough



A high temperature



A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

**Get a test as soon as possible.
Stay at home until you get the result.**

Well-being Matters

The current situation is a challenge for all, and we appreciate our students may find the uncertainty of the pandemic difficult. The safeguarding team are always here to support our students and we can be reached directly using the following email address: safeguarding@theacademy.me

There are several charities who can support your child if you are concerned about their mental health, these are listed below:



Kooth - online counselling for young people

www.kooth.com



Every Mind Matters

www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters



Mind

www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing



Mental Health Foundation

<https://mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus>

**Thank you for everything you are doing at this difficult time in support the children at the
Aylesbury Vale Academy.**