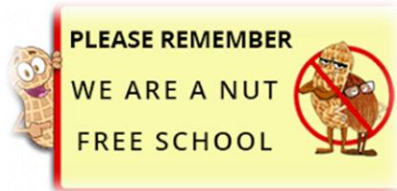




# The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

## PARENT BULLETIN No. 13 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021



Dear Parents/Carers

This week has been as busy as ever and we are now feeling more festive in school as our Christmas activities have started.

Whilst we are working really hard to operate as normally as possible I attended a meeting with all other Headteachers in Buckinghamshire this week which was a stark reminder of what the local picture truly is. The number of schools with classes, year groups and in some cases whole schools working remotely from home is increasing rapidly. This made me grateful for the precautions that we are all taking - including regular testing and being cautious when symptoms are present. With this in mind I would like to draw your attention to our Christmas calendar (if like me at this time of year it's a juggling act!).

We are striving to invite audiences in to school for the following events:

Thurs 2nd Dec - Year 6 Viking Day

Tuesday 7th Dec - Year 3/4 Christingle Assembly 10am (parents invited)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Preschool Christmas concert 2pm (parents invited)

Friday 10th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 10th Dec - Reception Christmas concert 10am (parents invited)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – Preschool Christmas concert 11am (parents invited)

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

The choir has been asked to perform at two local events in the run-up to Christmas. Please come and support us if you can. The two events are:

**Fairford Leys Christmas in the Square** - Saturday 11th December 2021 (meet at 4:30pm at the Community Centre, Hampden Square)

**Berryfields Christmas Carols** - Sunday 19th December 2021 (meet on Berryfields Green (Pippin Road/Russet Street) at 3:15pm)

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.



**Save the Date - Christmas Jumper Day –  
Friday 10th December 2021**

You're not just wearing a jumper - you're making the world a bit more magical for kids everywhere!

On Monday we enjoyed an assembly where we learned about the work of Save the Children and how they help children. We hope you will wear a Christmas jumper to school on the 10th of December to help raise money for their important work.

### **HOPE - A refection for the 1st Sunday of Advent - Sunday 28th November.**

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 first Sunday in advent, we light a candle to represent HOPE...

Light the advent candle one.  
now the waiting has begun.  
We have started on our way  
Time to think of Christmas Day

A prayer of hope...

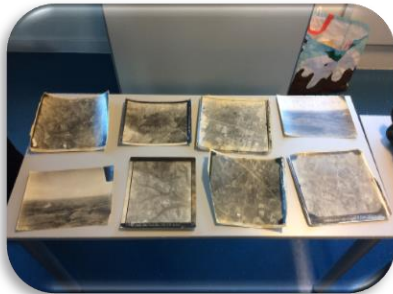
May we bring the light of God to the world this Advent.  
We pray for children near and far who are scared, upset or lonely.  
May they find hope in God's love and friendship.

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

On Tuesday evening many of our Reception children returned to school in their pyjamas, with their teddies and blankets to listen to bedtime stories. This event was magical and enjoyed by all - young and old! Developing a love of reading and storytelling from a young age is so important for children's education and personal growth. Thank you to all of the families who braved the cold to support us.



On Monday our year 5 children gathered in the community suite to view an amazing exhibition of WW1 memorabilia. This step back in history was fascinating. The stories behind the artefacts are so special and we are honoured that we were trusted with not only the objects but also the memories linked to them.



Our Falcons have loved their swimming lessons every Monday. The Swimming Instructors have asked us to remind you that on Monday 29th November the children need to bring their pyjamas (top and bottoms - not onesies) to swimming for their water safety and lifesaving lesson.

Unfortunately, the Year 6 Viking Escape Room Day had to be postponed due to the company's vehicle breaking down on the way to us. We can happily say that this has been rescheduled for Thursday 2nd December (in school) and that Year 6's can wear their Viking costumes to school to enjoy this experience.

This week we have been busy collecting items for the shoe boxes. Please send any additional items (especially for children) into school on Monday and Tuesday. We are aiming to fill 30 shoe boxes.

Please remember that the Flu Vaccines are on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Today we held out statutory lock down drill. This is to ensure that we are able to keep all children and adults secure within the building should we have an emergency. Children were informed of the practice before it took place and we used the scenario of an animal being in the grounds as our reason for needing to do this.

Although it is 3 weeks away I am sure time will fly....we finish for the Christmas break on Friday 17th December at 1.00pm for Reception, 1.10pm for Year 1 & 2, 1.20pm for Year 3, 4, 5 & 6. Normal end of day collection points will be used. PRESCHOOL will close on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.kooth.com)

NHS

EVERY MIND MATTERS

**Every Mind Matters**

[www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters)



**Mind**

[www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing](http://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.**