



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

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Phase Newsletter September 2024

Welcome to the Autumn term!

A warm welcome back to the start of the new academic year - we hope you had a fantastic summer.

We are all very excited about the start of term and we have lots of exciting things planned. Please see the key information below. If you have any questions, please do hesitate to contact us.

Upper Key Stage 2 has 4 classes:

Red Squirrels, Hedgehogs, Gorillas and Orang-utans, Miss Parker, Miss Granville, Mrs Foulger, Mrs Benson and Mr Wright make up the Year 5 team and Mr Jackson, Miss Bennett, Mrs Nicholls, Mr Cooper and Mrs Stewart make up the year 6 team.

On Friday's (Year 5) will be taught by Mr Wright and Mr Trundley and on Thursday afternoon (Year 6) will be taught by Mr Trundley and Mrs Longmate.

On Friday, Orangutan Class will be taught by Mr Cooper.

We are also very lucky to have a Secondary MFL teachers who will be teaching French and Spanish throughout the year and Mr O-Leary who will be teaching a PE slot each week.

Curriculum

As a Key Stage, we have worked hard to ensure that we provide a rich and stimulating curriculum. Our topics change throughout the year. To kick off the autumn term, Year 5 will be learning all about Black History and Year 6 topic will be finding out about the Vikings. Both year groups are really excited to be starting the year with such interesting topics. You can find an overview of each topic in the primary curriculum area on the school website.

School Equipment

Children are allowed to bring in their own pencil cases – these could contain a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and sharpener. Any additional equipment will be provided by the class teachers.

If your child brings a mobile phone into school, the phone must be turned off and left in the box which is then kept in the office.

Homework

Children will have 2 pieces of homework a week. One homework will be linked to our topic, which they will choose from a grid, the second piece will be linked to arithmetic or grammar. Children have the opportunity to gain achievement points for the homework they produce. Homework will be sent out week beginning 18th September. Homework will be sent out on Friday and needs to be returned on Wednesday.

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Paradise Orchard • Berryfields • Aylesbury • Buckinghamshire • HP18 0WS

01296 428551(Secondary) • 01296 674263 (Primary) • enquiries@theacademy.me • www.theacademy.me

Aylesbury Vale Academy, Company Limited by Guarantee Company Registered in England and Wales No 06745367 Registered Office: Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX5 1GF



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Spellings

Weekly spellings are not sent home. Spelling patterns and rules will be taught over the week and will culminate with an unseen test at the end of the week.

Reading Expectations

Children are expected to read a minimum of 4 days every week, for at least 10 minutes. Ideally, children will be heard to read at home, with an adult signing their reading records at least 3 times a week. Children in Years 5 and 6 can sign their own records three times a week with an adult signing the reading record once a week.

There are a selection of reading books in each classroom, but we always welcome children bringing in their own books to read.

Times Tables Practice

We will be working with children on their multiplication tables throughout the year. The expectation is that all children should know their tables off by heart by the end of year 4. If your child does not know their times table off by heart, it would be very beneficial to spend 5 – 10 minutes a day helping your child to memorise their times tables:

- ❖ **Look, Cover, Write, Check** is a strategy used to help children learn their spellings, it can also help children to learn their multiplication tables.
Children need to write the times table out fully i.e. $1 \times 3 = 3$ $2 \times 3 = 6$ $3 \times 3 = 9$
This helps embed the relationship between the numbers. So if I know 2, 3 and 6 go together then I know $2 \times 3 = 6$, $3 \times 2 = 6$.
This then builds onto understanding the inverse. $6 \div 2 = 3$, $6 \div 3 = 2$.
- ❖ Get children to write out their multiplication tables on a piece of paper then cut them up to make cards. Play pairs to match the calculation with the answer.
 2×3 needs to be paired with 6
- ❖ Playing games on the computer, tablet or phone is another way to help memorise the tables. Top marks has many games – hit the button is one of my favourites.
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>.
<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/>
<http://www.mathsisfun.com/tables.html>
www.mathszone.co.uk
- ❖ The pixl times table app is also a great way to learn and recall the multiplication tables.
- ❖ Quick fire questions – whilst washing the pots, cooking dinner spend 5 mins testing each other - how quick can you answer? If there are more than 3 of you, Splat is also a fun way to help learn and recall the facts.

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PE sessions

Year 5 have PE on the following days:

- Wednesday
- Friday

Year 6 have PE on the following days:

- Tuesday - Gorillas
- Wednesday – Orangutans
- Friday Gorillas and Orangutans

Children should come into school in their PE kits on their PE days. As it begins to get chillier, children will need a long-sleeved top under their PE shirts or a black/navy jumper/hoodie. Water bottles are advisable and a hat if we are lucky enough to get some September sunshine.

Rewards

Throughout the year, children can receive achievement points from members of staff for demonstrating an excellent attitude, creating excellent work or representing the school. Points are also awarded daily in class for getting Star of the Day / Maths Star of the Day / Star of the Week certificates. Children build up their achievement points to be able to receive a Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum badge which are awarded in Friday's celebration assembly.

Pick up

Year 5 and 6 are dismissed from the front of the school. Year 5 leave at 3pm and Year 6 3:10pm.

Snacks, water bottles and coats

Children are allowed to bring in a snack for break time. This should be fruit, vegetables or a cereal bar – chocolate / crisps are not allowed.

Children should be bringing their own water bottles in – they can be re-filled during breaks and lunchtimes if needed.

As the weather is turning cooler now (and the rain is creeping in), children should bring in a coat to wear.

Booking online

Please remember to book online for school lunches and wraparound care as you need to. You can find more details on this on the Academy website.

Secondary Transfer Test

Year 6 pupils will be taking the practise test on the morning of Tuesday 10th September and the Secondary transfer test the morning of Thursday 12th September.

NO Nuts or Sesame

Please be aware that we are a nut free school. This means NO NUTS, SESAME OR NUT/SESAME PRODUCTS should be brought into school. We have staff and children in the school who will need

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hospital attention if they come into contact with nuts, sesame or nut/sesame products such as peanut butter, chocolate spread, hummus etc. We really appreciate your help in keeping everybody safe.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email the school office and these will be forwarded to the class teacher or myself.

Mrs Stewart
Upper Key Stage 2 Phase Leader

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