



SEPTEMBER



AJA News – 13.09.24

A message from Mrs Bower

It has been a wonderful start to the school year. You will have seen our latest Ofsted report that was emailed to you last week. If you would like a paper copy, please ask in the school office. In the report, it states that pupils feel safe and happy at AJA and that they enjoy attending. It describes AJA as *calm and orderly*, and *a place where pupils can learn*. This is exactly what I have seen this week. Behaviour across the academy, and in every classroom, has been excellent and our fabulous new Year 3 pupils have settled in well. To expand our personal development offer, we have made improvements to the after-school clubs. All clubs are now free. We have increased the number of places to 110 pupils each term which is nearly one third of the school. This term, Mr Bhogal, Miss Gladsby, Miss Thompson and Premier Sports will all be delivering sports clubs, and Mrs Banjanin will be running art and needle crafts. You can sign up for clubs on Parent Pay. Should your child miss the opportunity this term, please let me know and I will ensure they have a place next term. Clubs will change on a half termly basis to provide new activities and to ensure that all children have the opportunity throughout the year to attend a club. I really enjoyed seeing fencing and dodgeball after school today. It looked great fun!

I was very pleased to hear that one of the swimming instructors at Moorways said that Alvaston Juniors were the best-behaved school in the pool on Thursday. Well done Year 4!

A polite reminder that dogs are not allowed on the playground or by the school pedestrian gates. Some of our pupils are frightened of dogs and some have allergies.

I enjoyed visiting Year 3 this morning to see their English writing about Mr Twit. Pupils were describing his appearance and personality. Mrs Peach joined me also to see how the children have settled and to look at their super work in their new Year 3 books.

A message from Mr Scott

We've had a fantastic first week back, despite the ever-changing weather! It's so heartwarming to see all the children full of enthusiasm for their learning, with big smiles on their faces! On Thursday 10th October, we invite the pupils to join us in supporting **Wear Yellow Day** as we come together to raise awareness for **World Mental Health Day**. Let's brighten up our school with a splash of yellow and show our support for mental health!

Find out more about World Mental Health Day here: [Young Minds - Hello Yellow](#)

Important Dates

Tuesday 17th September
Individual school photographs

Thursday 3rd October
Y6 history trip to Beaumanor Hall

Tuesday 8th October
3.30pm – 5pm
Current Year 2s Welcome Evening who are looking to join Year 3 next year

Thursday 10th October
World Mental Health Day
Option to wear yellow

Tuesday 15th October
Wednesday 16th October
Parents' Evening

Friday 25th October
Last day of term

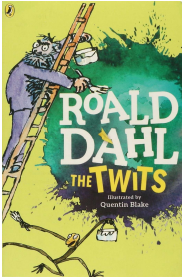
Attendance

This week's attendance
95.66%

Highest class attendance
Ms Paul's class
99.55%

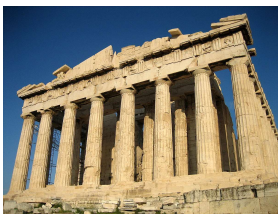
What's been happening this week?

Year 3



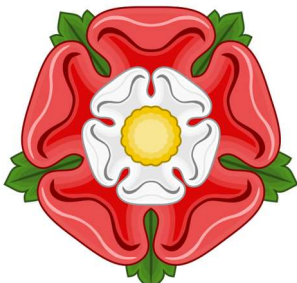
Our new year 3 children have been absolutely incredible this week. The standard of work, their behaviour and their resilience in adapting to a new school environment has been exemplary. They are a credit to you. This first full week back, we have been getting our teeth into place value in maths and studying the delights of Roald Dahl's *The Twits* in reading and English. We have started our topic work on the British Isles and Forces and Magnets in science. We will hopefully have our iPads in the next week or two (keep your fingers crossed) and reading records are due out in the next few days as well. If there is one thing that you can do to really help your children with their education, it is to read regularly with them at home. Have a great weekend! See you all next week.

Year 4



What an incredible first full week of curriculum work we've had! Our Year 4 pupils are truly shining in their learning journey! In maths, the children have been consolidating their understanding of place value from Year 3. They've been busy comparing and ordering numbers all the way up to 10,000— what fantastic progress! In history, we kicked off our exploration of the Ancient Greeks! The timeline of their fascinating history sparked plenty of curiosity and discussion among the pupils, making for a lively and engaging lesson. And for half of our cohort, we had an excellent swimming session where the children's behaviour and attitude were simply exemplary! We're so proud of their commitment to learning and teamwork in the pool.

Year 5



Year 5 have made a fantastic start in their first full week this week! They have shown how much they have matured and are ready for all the challenges in Year 5. In English, we have started studying Terry Deary's *The Pirate Queen*. The children have enjoyed hearing about her exploits and are looking forward to writing a character description of her next week. In maths, we have started with place value: reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers up to a million! Our history topic of the Tudors started really well with a timeline of major Tudor events. Ask the children how many they can remember! In science we started our topic of forces with a study of gravity, looking at Isaac Newton and how gravity works. It's been great to see how many children are reading regularly. Thank you for your support. Have a great weekend.

Year 6



What a fantastic start to the year our new Year 6 pupils have had! They have approached their first week with impressive maturity and have seamlessly adjusted to the school routine. We began the year with baseline testing to identify and address any gaps in knowledge, and we have been truly impressed by their resilience and determination. Our creative Blitz pictures have sparked lively discussions and insightful questions about our World War II topic, fuelling their curiosity and engagement. An exciting opportunity for two Head Pupils to serve as exemplary role models and leaders of the Children's Leadership Team has been announced on Dojo. These roles will involve collaborating with the Principal to represent and enhance our school community. If your child is interested in applying, please review the application process with them. We eagerly anticipate their submissions and look forward to the new school year ahead. Have a wonderful weekend.