



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the December edition of the Arnold Update!

It has been a very long term, but we have kept the pace up during this final week with lots of brilliant learning, with a fine sprinkling of seasonal activities, plus a hotly contested House Sports competition! Many of you would have already taken note, Pyramid Schools Trust schools are consulting on amending the Autumn term school arrangements from 2025. Please ensure you review this information and provide us with your feedback and thoughts of the proposal before the deadline in January. If you haven't read this letter via Parentmail, it is available on our school website [HERE](#).

This term, pupils have enjoyed an increase in singing, music and performing arts performances. Two year groups have benefitted from live theatre performances and further year groups will do so in the new year. We are really keen to increase the use of music and collective singing across the school, as it brings joy and happiness as well as improving general wellbeing. Well considered songs will also contribute to solidifying excellent values within our young pupils through their lyrics. We look forward to sharing this with you as parents in the coming months. Year 5's trip to St Nicholas' Church, Barton this week, which taught them about a Christingle service, was an example of this!

You will already be aware of my stance and request to you as parents on ensuring sensible use of phones and technology with our young people. There was an excellent and very insightful documentary which, if you haven't already seen, is definitely worth a watch! It is available on Channel 4 and is called 'Swiped: The School that banned smartphones'. There is a link [HERE](#) to watch it online. Please note, many parts of the documentary are not suitable for the viewing of children.

Next term we will continue to invite you as parents to be part of our school via various events. We are bringing a new parent support event to you in January, which is based on feedback we are receiving, and following interaction with the school's link Education Psychologist. This session, led by our SEND professionals, will offer advice and support with coping with your child's emotional regulation and any after school meltdowns. This is now often termed 'After School Restraint Collapse'. The workshop will run twice; a morning and an evening opportunity. Dates are being finalised and will be shared to you via social media and Parentmail. Our next Parent Forum is booked for Thursday 6th February at 6.30pm. The focus will be on the School Rewards and our House System and will be led by Mr Rudkin and Miss Sealey. Please book your attendance [HERE](#).

This term we say goodbye to an excellent school servant, our brilliant music teacher Mr Stephen Hill. Steve retires this term having worked at Arnold for five years. Steve has supported many excellent school performances and he will be sorely missed! We hope he stays in touch and enjoys the travels he has planned!

As usual, we really hope you enjoy reading the update this month. I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all seasons greetings. To those celebrating Christmas, we wish you a 'Very Merry' period. The very best of luck and a Happy New Year to all of our Arnold community, we will see you all in 2025!

Pete Roberts - Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

January

WC 6th January

6th - First Day Back

WC 13th January

15th - French Trip Info Evening

WC 27th January

29th - Year 6 Trip to Matilda

PTA Hundred Club

For £5 a month, you can purchase a number in our 'Numbers Club' and be in with the chance of winning a cash prize. 50% of the monthly prize fund is returned to three lucky winners, with the remaining 50% used to support the purchase of new books for the school library.

WANT TO SHARE AN ACHIEVEMENT?



Whether it's a sporting, musical, writing, cooking or a painting success...
We want to hear about it!

Send in your news to admin@aa.pstrust.co.uk to be featured.

Year Group News

YEAR 5



Form with the Highest Attendance

5CP

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

5LN



YEAR 6

Form with the Highest Attendance

6CR

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

6SQ

YEAR 7



Form with the Highest Attendance

7DB

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

7DB



YEAR 8

Form with the Highest Attendance

8FP

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

8CW

The NOAH Collection: On Its Way to Make a Difference

We're excited to announce that our NOAH Collection has been picked up and is now on its journey to help those in need. Thanks to your incredible support, these essential items will soon bring hope and comfort to individuals and families in our community.

Together, we're creating a brighter future for those who need it most.

Thank you for being part of this meaningful effort! Let's continue making a difference, one step at a time.



History Comes Alive at the Natural History Museum!

Our recent school history trip to the Natural History Museum was a fantastic success! Year 7 had the opportunity to explore the wonders of the natural world, from ancient fossils to stunning exhibits showcasing the evolution of life on Earth. The trip provided a hands-on learning experience, sparking curiosity and deepening their understanding of history. A memorable day for all involved!



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Pyramid Schools Trust

X: @ThePyramidTrust

Insta: pyramid_schools_trust



HOUSE NEWS

Our Year 5, 6, 7, and 8 students braved the winter weather for an incredible two days of netball, football, and benchball during this year's Winter House Sport Competition. Despite the challenging conditions, their determination and enthusiasm shone through, making it a memorable event for everyone involved.

The PE department was especially proud of the outstanding sportsmanship displayed by all participants. A special thank you goes to our amazing Sports Leaders, whose support and leadership were invaluable—they truly were a credit to the school.



YEAR 5

	AT	D	A-E	G	R	M
GIRLS CUP	2ND	4TH	4TH	3RD	1ST	5TH
GIRLS SHIELD	4TH	4TH	3RD	2ND	1ST	5TH
BOYS CUP	4TH	5TH	2ND	3RD	6TH	1ST
BOYS SHIELD	1ST	3RD	6TH	2ND	4TH	5TH

YEAR 6

	AT	D	A-E	G	R	M
GIRLS CUP	5TH	4TH	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND
GIRLS SHIELD	2ND	3RD	6TH	1ST	4TH	5TH
BOYS CUP	3RD	2ND	6TH	1ST	5TH	4TH
BOYS SHIELD	6TH	1ST	3RD	2ND	5TH	4TH

YEAR 7

	AT	D	A-E	G	R	M
GIRLS CUP	5TH	2ND	6TH	3RD	4TH	1ST
GIRLS SHIELD	6TH	4TH	2ND	1ST	3RD	5TH
BOYS CUP	3RD	2ND	6TH	1ST	5TH	4TH
BOYS SHIELD	6TH	2ND	3RD	1ST	5TH	4TH

YEAR 8

	AT	D	A-E	G	R	M
GIRLS CUP	6TH	4TH	1ST	5TH	2ND	3RD
GIRLS SHIELD	4TH	5TH	3RD	2ND	1ST	3RD
BOYS CUP	5TH	3RD	4TH	1ST	2ND	6TH
BOYS SHIELD	4TH	3RD	6TH	2ND	1ST	5TH

This event also marked the debut of our stunning new house banners, featuring logos designed by our talented students. These vibrant banners added an extra layer of pride and unity, standing out beautifully on the field. Well done to all involved for making this event such a resounding success!

HOUSE POINT TOTALS



Singing at The Point

The school choir visited Luton Point for an opportunity to perform live to an audience. They sang a selection of Christmas songs to family, friends and the general public. The pupils were a credit to the school and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Year 7 Christmas Carol

Year 7 were transported to Victorian England as Quantum Theatre brought A Christmas Carol to life in a special in-school performance. The captivating adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale left pupils spellbound, bringing the timeless story of Scrooge and his transformation into a heartwarming experience. A big thank you to Quantum Theatre for an unforgettable performance!



Reading Competition

Each month the house with the most words read in each year group wins a point for their house and a 'Reading trophy' for their form tutor to display in their room. A reading badge of honour is then placed on the house boards for everyone to see and celebrate. Below are the winners of November.



Year 5 Christingle at St. Nicholas Church

Our Year 5 students had the opportunity to attend the beautiful Christingle service at St. Nicholas Church. The children created their own Christingles, learning about the meaning behind each symbol and reflecting on the message of hope and light.

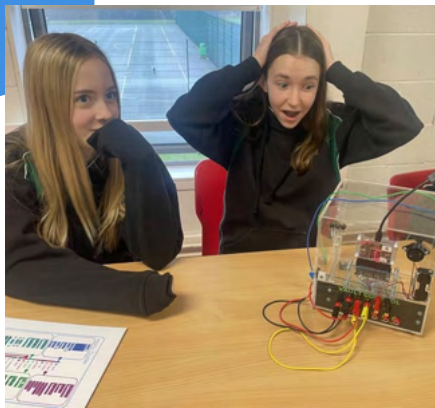
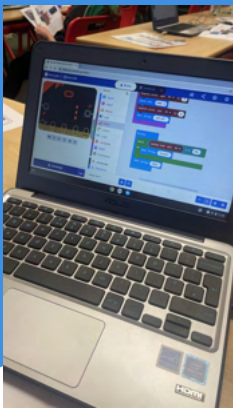
It was a special moment of togetherness and festive spirit, and we are grateful to St. Nicholas Church for hosting such a meaningful event. Well done to all Year 5 students for their participation!



Coding & Robotics

A group of year 8 girls, including me, went to Samuel Whitbread High School to do a coding experience which included doing Lua Java code on Minecraft. We had to code our character to escape a room and make a robot break down trees in Minecraft with the Lua code. We also did Mrs. Smart and the Diamond Thief challenge which was connecting and coding a BBC microbit to a safe which had a diamond inside and having to protect it with code. Overall it was a good trip and we learnt a lot.

By Kate



We went to Samuel Whitbread to do a coding experience today. First of all, we had a talk with the ambassadors of the stem company about their jobs and qualifications.

After that, we sat down at the computers and one of the ambassadors introduced us to a coding language: Lua. We then went on to a tweaked version of Minecraft where we had to code a 'turtle' to mine a tree using the language, Lua.

We then went into a new room with a new coding activity. We got into pairs and coded a security system, for a diamond in a safe, using a BBC microbit.

By Lottie and Maahi

Year 5 Enjoy a Magical Panto at the Grove Theatre

Year 5 pupils had a fantastic time at the Grove Theatre watching *Beauty and the Beast*. The colourful panto brought plenty of laughter and festive cheer, as the pupils were enchanted by the lively characters and hilarious performances. A highlight of the day was when Mr Norman was invited up to the stage to dress up as Ken, much to the delight of the pupils! A wonderful outing that added some extra magic to the holiday season!



AV1 Robot Joins Chiltern!

We're delighted to introduce the AV1 Robot, an innovative tool designed to help pupils who face challenges attending regular lessons stay connected to their learning and classmates. Thanks to the support of the LA, we are thrilled to showcase how technology like this can enhance the inclusive education we offer at Chiltern.

The AV1 Robot serves as a student's "eyes and ears" in the classroom, enabling them to join lessons in real time from the comfort of the Chiltern class. This means they can learn, participate in discussions, and stay connected with friends, ensuring no child feels isolated or left behind.

This marks a big step toward our vision of creating a truly inclusive learning environment, and we're proud to share this exciting innovation with our school community!



SPORTS NEWS

It has been a hugely eventful past month for our school football teams, with Years 6, 7 and 8 all being in competitive action.

It was a fantastic end to the year 6 league season, with a 4-0 home win over Pix Brook. The team were fantastic and played some excellent football throughout the game. The squad can now look forward to starting their County Cup group fixtures in the Spring Term with fixtures versus Leighton Middle, Woodland, Brooklands and Gilbert Inglefield, all to be played. We also look forward to arranging some competitive friendlies for our Year 6B Tigers team.



The Year 7A Lions squad have also been in action and were involved in a thrilling County Cup fixture versus Lincroft Academy. With two very good teams playing in difficult conditions, our team took the lead and showed great resilience throughout but ultimately lost the fixture 4-6. Well done to all for their efforts!



The Year 7B Tigers squad has also been in National Cup action and travelled to Northampton to play Northampton School. The boys were excellent in their first fixture together, but despite leading, they were hugely unfortunate to lose 3-2 and go out of the competition. There were so many positives to take from the fixture, and we look forward to organising some friendlies for this group in the Spring Term.



The Year 8A Lions squad have also been in action at National Cup level and continued their impressive run with an excellent 1-5 victory at St Ivo School in Huntingdon. This has followed two fantastic results over Henlow (8-0 in Round 1) and Wollaston School (6-0 in Round 2).



SPORTS NEWS

The Year 8B Tigers team have also been in National Cup action with an away fixture at Brooklands School. On the day the boys were fantastic and thoroughly deserved to win the match on the way in which they played. They were incredibly unfortunate to exit the competition through a penalty shoot-out. We look forward to arranging some fixtures for this group in the Spring Term.

A special mention must also go to all the year 5 pupils who attended the year 5 session in recent weeks. With such vast numbers interested in representing the school, it was fantastic to see so many in attendance. The three squads, Lions, Tigers and Pumas, were all selected predominantly through lessons, with this session providing pupils with an opportunity to play with different pupils and staff with an opportunity to pick balanced squads. We do appreciate that there are many strong footballers within the year group and try to always provide a pathway for pupils to move into a team or progress. We look forward to our Year 5A Lions fixtures that start at Redborne Upper School in January. We are also looking to arrange B and C fixtures in the Spring Term as unfortunately the fixtures we had arranged for this Autumn Term had to be rearranged with our opponents.

We now look forward to the Spring Term and our Year 5 & 6 Girls team and Year 7 & 8 Girls team starting their district league competitions in February. The girls have been training, with our KS3 squad having already competed in County competitions and looking forward to a fixture versus Robert Bloomfield.

In the Spring Term, we look forward to our Year 7 and Year 8 rugby squads starting their league seasons. These fixtures are due to start in February, and we will be teaching rugby on the Spring Term curriculum so we can once again create a safe and enjoyable pathway for our pupils into competition level. As a department we are keen for our pupils to develop an interest and passion for rugby, and will be welcoming in Northampton Saints community coaches on numerous days in the Spring Term.

Key Stage 3 Girls Football

The ks3 girls football team made it through to the next round of the county cup in an amazing 7-1 display. The pitch was a mud bath but that didn't stop the girls from slotting away 7 amazing goals. As always our defence played remarkably not letting much but the goal through them. Their goal was an unlucky one to concede but Lizzie's foot got stuck in the mud whilst trying to dive, in return we scored 6 goals. Our goal scorers were Abi, then 2 for Olivia then 1 for Lottie just before half time. Within seconds of the second half kicking off Olivia dribbled through the whole team effortlessly before securing her hat-trick. Our goal scorers in the second half were Mila on a perfect penalty and Aine slotted away our seventh. An amazing performance from the girls meant we are going through to the quarter-finals against a strong Robert Bloomfield side soon.

Written by Lottie



Black Belt in Kickboxing

We're incredibly proud to celebrate ViraaJ from 5RF, who has been awarded his Black Belt in Kickboxing! This outstanding achievement is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Well done, ViraaJ!



PTA NEWS

As the festive season is upon us, we at the PTA want to share our heartfelt gratitude and reflect on what has been an incredible term. Thanks to your amazing support, we've achieved so much together, and we couldn't be prouder of our school community.

This year, our Elfridges stall was an absolute triumph! Seeing the children's excitement as they selected gifts for their loved ones was magical, and the smiles on their faces made all the hard work worthwhile. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organize, set up, and run the stall—your efforts made it a truly memorable event.



We're also overjoyed to report on the success of our very first Christmas disco! From the music to the decorations and the fantastic energy on the dance floor, it was a night to remember. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we're delighted to announce that this will now become an annual tradition. Let's make next year's disco even more spectacular!



In addition to these highlights, we want to acknowledge the incredible support we've received for all our fundraising events this term. Whether you volunteered, donated, or simply turned up to cheer us on, your contributions have made a real difference. Together, we've raised vital funds that will go toward enriching our children's educational experiences and supporting school projects.

As we close out the term, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your holidays be filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments with your loved ones. Thank you for being such an integral part of our PTA's success—we couldn't do it without you. We look forward to an exciting new term ahead!

Warm festive wishes,
Arnold Academy PTA