



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to 2025 at Arnold Academy!

We have had a successful start to the new year, we hope you have too! 2025 will be a year in which Arnold Academy makes effective strides in improving its work around carbon efficiency and improving our environmental curriculum for its pupils. We are part of a growing program called 'Our Schools, Our World'. As part of our groundwork, we are surveying the views of our community in regard to the environment and education. Please could I request that parents and carers complete the short survey [HERE](#), to help us gain your views. During this term we will be meeting with our 'Let's Go Zero' partner, to assist the creation of our Climate Action Plan. We will also be training staff to know how to have effective and safe discussions with young people around environmental issues.

Over the coming month, we have a number of excellent parent interaction events. This week we have enjoyed SEND Parent Workshops, expertly delivered by Hayley Dunnigan, who leads our Chiltern provision. Next week we have our Parent Forum, which will be led by Assistant Headteacher, Spencer Rudkin. The agenda will discuss both the rewards and house system. Ms Sealey will also be presenting as House Leader to showcase our impact plus further plans on the use of the house system across our school. To book your attendance to the forum, please complete the short form [HERE](#). Finally, prior to half-term, we have Parent Evenings for Years 6 and 8. Separate communication about how to book appointments was delivered to you at the beginning of the week. We are really looking forward to spending some time discussing your child's progress and continuing to build strong relationships between parents and staff.



We have continued our excellent wider curriculum opportunities this year with a great number of events and experiences for our pupils. We strongly believe middle school should provide a well-considered balance between strong academic development and excellent additional school opportunities for pupils. So far, since our return, pupils have enjoyed trips to see Matilda in London, the Tottenham Hotspur training ground and trampoline parks. We have also enjoyed some brilliant Northampton Saints rugby coaching on site. In the coming weeks we look forward to another author visit, a book fair, a Holocaust survivor visit, as well as our long-awaited Ski Trip.

As usual, we really hope you enjoy reading the Arnold Update this month. We also look forward to seeing you at the parent events in the coming weeks!

Pete Roberts - Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

February

WC 3rd February

5th - 11th - Scholastic Book Fair
6th - Y8 Holocaust Day
6th - Parent Forum 6:30pm

WC 10th February

10th - Y6 & Y8 Parents Evening
13th - Y6 & Y8 Parents Evening

WC 17th February

17th - February Half Term

WC 24th February

26th - UK Parliament Education
Centre Trip

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
eking@aa.pstrust.co.uk to be featured.

Year Group News

YEAR 5



Form with the Highest Attendance

5CE

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

5LH



YEAR 6

Form with the Highest Attendance

6JSM

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

6SR

YEAR 7

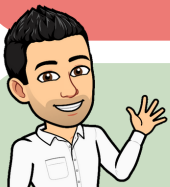


Form with the Highest Attendance

7DB

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

7CF



YEAR 8

Form with the Highest Attendance

8CW

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

8CW

Introducing Our New Pupil Reporters!

I'm thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Pupil Reporter Team! This talented group of budding journalists will be meeting every fortnight to brainstorm ideas, plan their articles, and work together as a creative team.

In our first meeting—held in our makeshift newsroom (which some of you might recognize as Lab 1!)—the team hit the ground running.

They explored ways to keep you all informed and entertained and even started mapping out their first articles.

Expect to see plenty of exciting content coming your way soon, as these reporters work to share the stories and voices that make our school so special. Keep an eye out for their debut articles!



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Pyramid Schools Trust

X: @ThePyramidTrust

Insta: pyramid_schools_trust

HOUSE NEWS

We are thrilled to announce an exciting lineup of house competitions for this term. Here's what's in store:

1. Duolingo Challenge

Test your linguistic abilities and compete against other houses on Duolingo!

2. £30 Charity Challenge

Each form will be challenged to raise £30 for the school's chosen charity. Not only will this gain house points but every penny raised will also support a great cause!

3. Eggstravaganza Challenge

A cracking good time awaits as pupils use an egg to recreate a significant historical figure – the best three will win a prize!

4. Countdown Competition

Channel your inner mathematician and wordsmith in this challenge inspired by the classic game show.

5. Chess Tournament

Compete in the school's chess tournament, champions to compete with other schools!

6. Art Competition

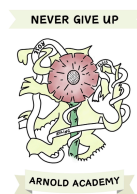
Create your own decorative Faberge egg using a medium of your choice! You could draw, paint or make a sculpture.

Attenborough



Head of House
Miss Ferrer
House Representatives
Charlotte S
Neve C

Ayling-Ellis



Head of House
Mr Norman
House Representatives
Thea S
Jess P

Gilbert



Head of House
Miss Sealey
House Representatives
Charli S
Daisy W

Daley



Head of House
Mrs Pound
House Representatives
Zaina Q
Chelsea S

Rashford



Head of House
Miss Northall
House Representatives
Brooke P
James F

Malala



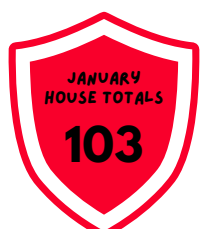
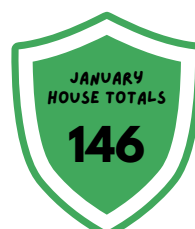
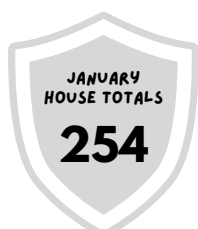
Head of House
Mrs Smale
House Representatives
Meliha B
Aariya P

House Points & Rewards Every competition offers valuable house points, and the house with the most points at the end of the term will win the coveted House Cup! Plus, there are individual prizes and recognition for outstanding participants.

Which house will rise to the top? It's time to get involved and show what you've got!

Good luck to all houses!

HOUSE POINT TOTALS



TT ROCKSTARS

To encourage our pupils to practice their timetables, we have now introduced an ongoing weekly competition between form groups. Each week there is a new winner which is displayed in school and the month's winners can be seen below.



Watermelon Sharks

Our talented Year 7 students have been showing off their creativity in the kitchen, crafting amazing watermelon sharks! They've challenged themselves and demonstrated fantastic skills and imagination.



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 December.



Reading Buddies at Arnold

We're excited to continue our Reading Buddies program in the library! This initiative pairs pupils together, with one supporting the other in developing their reading skills. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to build confidence, improve literacy, and foster a love of books in a friendly and supportive environment.

Reading Buddies is all about teamwork and encouragement—whether it's practising tricky words, exploring new stories, or simply enjoying a good book together.



Meliha Shines in Cinderella

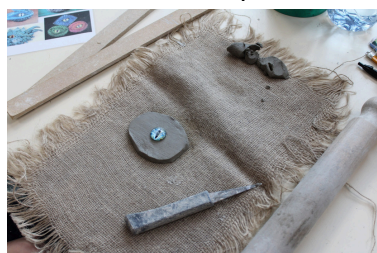
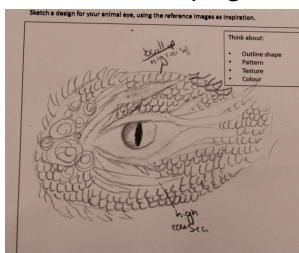
Congratulations to Meliha, who performed in Cinderella at the St Albans Arena, appearing in an incredible 26 professional shows! Highlights included the use of real ponies in the production, adding extra magic to the experience. Well done, Meliha, on this wonderful achievement!



Art Lessons Y8

Our Year 8 students have been hard at work in their art lessons, designing and crafting stunning clay animal eyes! Their creativity and attention to detail in their initial sketches have been truly impressive.

We can't wait to see their incredible clay designs come to life in the next few weeks—stay tuned on our social pages for the final masterpieces!



ENG Cup U10 Netball Qualifiers

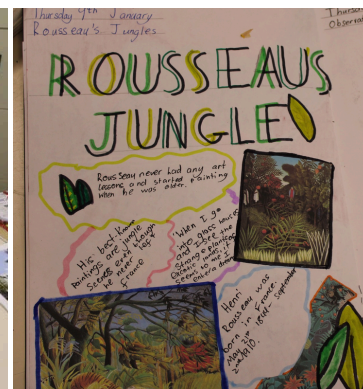
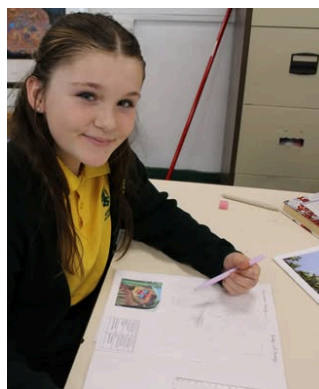
A huge congratulations to Tilly for her outstanding performance in the ENG Cup U10 Netball Qualifiers! She was awarded both Coaches' Player and Players' Player—a fantastic achievement that highlights her skill, dedication, and sportsmanship. Well done, Tilly!



Art Lessons Y5

Our talented Year 5 students have been exploring the imaginative world of Henri Rousseau, drawing inspiration from his iconic jungle scenes! Using observation drawing, they carefully captured the intricate details of nature, from vibrant leaves to hidden creatures.

The classroom was buzzing with creativity as pupils learned to observe closely, sketch with confidence, and bring their own jungle visions to life. Fantastic work, Year 5—we can't wait to see your finished masterpieces!



SPORTS NEWS

January has been an exciting month for the PE department, with a variety of District and National sporting competitions keeping us busy.

In curriculum PE, pupils have been actively engaged in Handball and Table Tennis, striving to improve their skills. Using the 'Head, Heart, Hands' assessment structure, each pupil received specific feedback on their learning and development.



Our rugby season has officially begun! We've been thrilled to welcome Northampton Saints Rugby Club coaches into curriculum PE every Wednesday and at our Key Stage 3 club on Mondays. With excellent attendance so far, we look forward to even more pupils joining as rugby lessons commence on Monday, 27th January.



Football Updates

- The Year 5A Lions have started their league season at Redborne Upper School with promising results, including a 0-0 draw against Parkfields and a 5-0 victory over Etonbury.
- The Year 6A Lions will kick off their County Cup campaign with an away game at Woodland School on Thursday, 6th February.
- The Year 8A squad advanced to the next round of the County Cup following an impressive 8-2 win against Sharnbrook Academy. They will now face Brooklands in the next round.

This term, we aim to expand opportunities for our B (Tigers) and C (Year 5 Pumas) teams. Notably:

- The Year 8B squad will visit the Tottenham Hotspur training facilities.
- The Year 7B team will play against Henlow.
- We're inviting schools in the Redborne Schools Sports Partnership to participate in football festivals hosted at Arnold Academy, offering more fixtures for all teams.



Expanding Sporting Opportunities

Our commitment to a diverse sports program continues with the return of Gaelic Football in partnership with the Hertfordshire Gaelic Football Association. Pupils will enjoy sessions on 5th and 6th February, with plans to field teams in regional and national competitions this academic year.

Thank you for your continued support in making this term a success. Stay tuned for more updates!

PTA NEWS

It has been a quieter start to the year for the PTA and we are now focusing on planning our activities for the rest of the school year. As a treat for the pupils, we will be running Krispy Kreme Thursday on 13 February 2025. As before, a Krispy Kreme doughnut will cost £1.50 each and can be ordered via Parentmail from Monday 3 February. Orders will close at 12 noon on Friday 7 February. Last time that we ran this event, we ordered over 500 doughnuts – pretty impressive!!



We have been delighted to support the purchase of new items to support the school. The pupils will soon see new 3D printers in design and technology, 30 new Ordnance Survey maps for Luton and Stevenage in Geography lessons and new table tennis tables in PE. None of these items can be purchased for the school without the backing of the school community, so as always, thanks for the continuing support.



As we look towards the new school year, existing PTA members will be stepping down from the Committee as their children move onto upper school. We will be communicating in the next few weeks about the details of a meeting being held to determine the future of the PTA. Do watch out for these details – we need parental support for the PTA to continue running as many activities as we do and fund all the extra curriculum items and workshops for the school.

Pre-loved uniform shop

Our pre-loved uniform shop goes from strength to strength. All monies raised from the sale of pre-loved uniform support the school. As a reminder, we will only accept good quality second hand branded uniform i.e. school jumpers, school cardigans, ties, yellow polo shirts and branded PE uniform. Branded items that need repair or have holes in them cannot be accepted.

Additionally, we would encourage parents to donate good quality white school shirts, trousers or skirts to a local charity shop.

Numbers club

Our 100 Club is a monthly draw. Each month, 70% of the entry monies are distributed back to three winners, with the remainder being used for the school to purchase some lovely new school library books for the pupils to borrow and enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who has joined so far. We do have some unallocated numbers if you would like to get involved. Entry is £5 per number, payable by standing order each month.

If you would like to join our 100 Club, please see the link in the 100 Club section of the PTA page on the Arnold Academy website (in Information for Parents) or contact the PTA for further details.