



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the November Arnold Update; I really can't believe we are now entering December! As we draw closer to the festive season, with just three weeks to go until the Christmas break, I am writing with a warm reminder about several important updates and to thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community.

You will find within this month's newsletter an update on our Community Fund for mental health support, expertly led by Poets In. This was previously introduced in July. As ever, this vital initiative relies on voluntary contributions from families who are able to help. If you feel able to support this brilliant work, please follow the link on Parentmail. Every contribution, large or small, makes a real difference to the wellbeing of our pupils! In addition to this, all pupils are now benefitting from monthly wellbeing, fun-focused community time activities, led by their tutors across the school.

Although the countdown to Christmas has begun, our commitment to learning remains as strong as ever. Over the next few weeks, we also have a wonderful variety of fun activities and events for the pupils, alongside our focus on academic progress. We look forward to another literacy-focused author visit. There are pantomime trips and Shakespeare company visits, along with a PTA disco and our Christmas jumper and dinner day. The autumn term House Sports event will close the term off brilliantly, although we will have to hold our breath and hope for reasonable weather! We are confident that with your support, our students will continue to thrive right up to the holiday.

We have taken onboard recent feedback about homework and the increase of logins from various platforms. We are sorry for the additional confusion this has caused at times for you and the children. Our IT support team are working hard on securing single sign-on via the school's Google accounts. However, this also requires a change in our management information software underneath. We will have to wait until this change to see the benefit of this alignment. Please bear with us; we will have further updates for you as we aim to streamline access and communication.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all parents and carers who recently attended the Parent Forum and the SNAP-led coffee morning. Your participation and feedback are so important to us, helping to shape and strengthen our community. Looking ahead, we will be combining our SNAP project with our forum, given the short spring half-term. Our next Parent Forum will be led by SNAP and will focus on neurodiversity. This is scheduled for Thursday 22nd January at 2.15 pm (please register your attendance

[HERE](#)). We very much hope for a strong parent/carer attendance — your insight and involvement are vital for making this session useful and meaningful for everyone. I really hope you enjoy reading about the news and activities in this edition!

Pete Roberts – Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

December

W/C 1st December

2nd - Year 5 & 6 Author Visit

W/C 8th December

9th - Year 5 Panto

9th - Year 7 Christmas Carol

W/C 15th December

15th - Year 5&8 House Sports Competition

16th - Year 5 Christingle Event

17th - Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

17th - PTA Christmas Disco

18th - Year 6&7 House Sports Competition

19th - PTA Tuck Shop

19th - Last Day of Term

W/C 22nd December

Christmas Break

W/C 29th December

Christmas Break

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

5RN

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

5CP

YEAR 6



Form with the Highest Attendance

6JW

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

6DD



YEAR 7

Form with the Highest Attendance

7SR

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

7SR

YEAR 8



Form with the Highest Attendance

8JMc

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

8DB



Ailing-Ellis



Attenborough



Rashford



Ailing-Ellis



HOUSE



COMPETITIONS

We're delighted to announce the winners of the October House Competitions — well done to everyone who took part! 🎉

Black History Month Poster:

★ Italia 6LN

★ Lola 6CHIL

★ Abigail 6DD



Diwali Cards:

★ Mia 7CR ★



Pumpkin Carving Competition (1st, 2nd and 3rd place):

Gilbert:

- 1st Reggie 5RF
- 2nd Charlie 5RF
- 3rd Effie 6CW

Ailing - Ellis:

- 1st Alfie 6FP
- 2nd Grace 6FP
- 3rd Oscar 6FP

Attenborough:

- 1st Harrison 6DD
- 2nd Harrison 7GL
- 3rd Olivia 5RN

Daley:

- 1st Jake 5CP
- 2nd Ronnie 5CP
- 3rd Scarlett-Louise 5CP

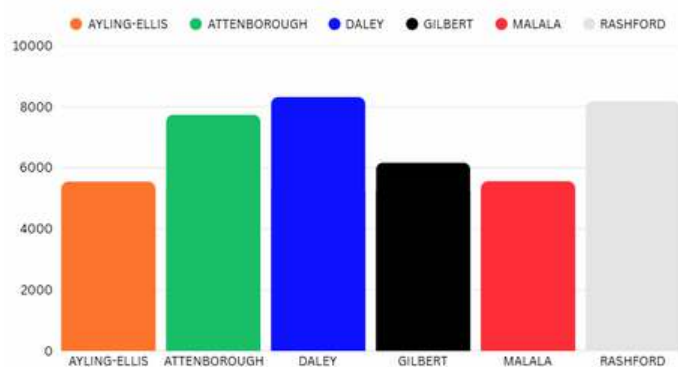
Rashford:

- 1st Cleo 5KM
- 2nd Elsie 6LN
- 3rd Thomas 8JMc



Attenborough

HOUSE NEWS



Author Visit – Jeremy Williams

We are excited to welcome children's author Jeremy Williams to school on Tuesday 2nd December. He will lead an assembly and creative writing workshops with Years 5 and 6.



Celebrating Our Arnold Values Achievers!

We are delighted to announce our recent Arnold Core Values Award winners:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| ★ Evie 8MH | ★ Saul 7GL |
| ★ Niall 6RW | ★ Khadeeja 8KT |
| ★ Edith 7CR | ★ Michelle 7JSE |
| ★ Hanna 5AT | ★ Leah 5KM |
| ★ Harriet 5CP | |

Congratulations to all of these pupils for being such excellent role models!

Accelerated Reader Library Quiz Raffle

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ★ Lydia 7CR | ★ Tiayah 5LH |
| ★ Edward 6FP | ★ Sienna 5KM |

Millionaires Row!

Congratulations to our new Millionaires for November:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| ★ Eva 7JSM | ★ Katie 5CP |
| ★ Beatrice 5AT | ★ Ethan 8MH |
| ★ Sophia 7CR | |

Reading Competition

Below are the winners for October congratulations to all the top readers! Keep up the fantastic work!

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| 🏆 5AT | 🏆 7JSM |
| 🏆 6LN | 🏆 8JMC |

Library Lunch Raffle winners (for reading 3 million or more words)

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| ★ Xander 8DB | ★ Connor 7GL |
| ★ Sophie 7JSM | ★ Chelsie 7JSE |

Halloween Reading Challenge Winners

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 🎃 Metib 8MH | 🎃 Joel 5CP |
| 🎃 Rafferty 7JSE | 🎃 Olivia 5RN |
| 🎃 Elsie 6LN | 🎃 Mia 5CP |
| 🎃 Ollie 6FP | |

⚽ Hatters Heritage Visit! ⚽

We were delighted to welcome Hatters Heritage from Luton Town Football Club to our school earlier this month! They shared some fascinating information about Harry Arnold, the founder of our school.

You can now find Harry Arnold's portrait and story proudly displayed in our school lobby, be sure to take a look when you're next in!

Keep an eye out for the upcoming L.T.F.C. programme, where there'll be even more about his incredible contribution to both the club and our school. 💙💛



✨ Children in Need Success! ✨

We had an amazing Children in Need day, with so many pupils embracing the spotty and Pudsey theme, our school was bursting with colour and smiles! 🐻💛

Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised an incredible £535.25 which will be split between Children in Need and School projects! ✨

Well done and thank you to our wonderful school community!



🌸 Remembrance Day 🌸

This month, our school came together to mark Remembrance Day, honouring those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

A few of our pupils proudly wore their uniforms, representing their organisations with pride, they looked fantastic! During our Remembrance Service, they delivered a beautiful poem, and our lovely Mrs Ashmore played a touching piece of music that made the occasion even more special.

We are so proud of everyone who took part and helped create such a thoughtful and meaningful service.

We will remember them. 🌹



Poppy Appeal Success!

Throughout October, our amazing pupils took part in the annual Poppy Appeal, selling poppies around school to raise money for the Royal British Legion. Their enthusiasm, kindness, and sense of community shone through every day.

Thanks to their fantastic efforts and the generosity of our school community, we raised funds to support this important cause.

A huge well done to everyone involved!



Free Parenting Courses Available Through Home-Start Bedfordshire

We are pleased to share that Home-Start Bedfordshire is offering a range of free courses designed to support parents and carers. These programmes provide practical advice, guidance, and a supportive space to explore different aspects of family life.

The available courses include:



Being a Parent - [CLICK HERE](#)

Being a Parent of a Child with ADHD - [CLICK HERE](#)

Being a Parent of an Autistic Child - [CLICK HERE](#)

Living with Teenagers - [CLICK HERE](#)

For more information and to book, please click on the links above.

🎄 School Christmas Dinner Reminder 🎄

A friendly reminder to all parents and carers to complete the Christmas Dinner form sent out via ParentMail. Please make sure the form is submitted by **Friday 5th December** so we can finalise numbers and preparations for our festive meal. 🍴🌟

Our school Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day will take place on **Wednesday 17th December**, and we can't wait to celebrate together! 🎅🌟

Thank you for your prompt responses and continued support.



Year 6LN Science Update

In Science this month, Year 6 pupils took on an exciting creative challenge! Their task was to design an original creature and explain how it would survive in a specific environment.

From scorching deserts to icy tundras and deep, shadowy oceans, the children carefully considered the adaptations their creatures would need. They explored features such as specialised limbs, unique body coverings, camouflage, and behavioural traits that would help their creations thrive in harsh conditions.

Well done to all our young scientists for demonstrating such enthusiasm and curiosity!



Willows Crochet Club Creates, Crafts and Fundraises!

Over the past few weeks, the Willows Crochet Club members have worked tirelessly not only on learning their stitches and creating various crochet items, but also on developing their entrepreneurial skills - they managed to pitch their business idea to Mr Roberts, set up a stall and raise just over £70 for the Willows, our SEND base, at the PTA's Christmas Shopping Event. Very well done, ladies!



Our School Trip - Faith Tour by Nicholas (Year 7)

This is my report about the Faith Tour 2025 on Tuesday 4th November 2025.

We started at school after form time in the morning, then we went to the hall and sat down in register order. After our register, we took the coach. After taking the coach, we walked from the gurdwara to the mosque (the Islamic place of worship), and we took our shoes off before entering (a sign of respect) and learnt about the religion of Islam. It took about thirty minutes, and he explained how Mecca is a city where Muslims have their pilgrimage. After the mosque, we walked to the church where we learnt about Christianity. We saw the place where they get baptised, the organ, and the choir seats. We learnt how Jesus gave his life and how he was the child of God.

After the church, we had a five-minute break at a park. As soon as five minutes was over, we went to the gurdwara. At the gurdwara we learnt how all are equal and about the five Ks. The five Ks are a sword of justice, a steel bangle, shorts, hair, and last but not least a comb. They are called the five Ks as they have names beginning with K in their language. Also, at the gurdwara we ate lunch.

After the gurdwara, we took the coach back to the school and spent the rest of period 5 in the back playground.

This is the end of my report. Thank you for reading!



Luton Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar

This year we're supporting the Luton Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar appeal. All donations should be brought in by 15th December 2025 and can be dropped off in the collection area just outside the hall.

Thank you for helping ensure no one goes hungry this Christmas!



Friendly Reminder: Please Label Your Child's Belongings

As we move further into the school year, we are seeing an increasing number of unclaimed items in our lost-and-found. To help us return belongings to their rightful owners quickly, we kindly ask all parents and carers to clearly label all items of clothing and personal belongings.

This includes:

- Coats and jackets
- Jumpers and cardigans
- Hats, scarves, and gloves
- Lunch boxes and water bottles
- Pencil cases
- PE kits

A simple name label or even a permanent marker can make a big difference!

Thank you for helping us keep our school community organised and ensuring children can easily find their belongings.



A Christmas Gift Lift! 📺

As the festive season approaches, we know many families enjoy giving practical gifts to support pupils in their learning. To help with ideas, we've put together a "Christmas Gift Lift", a simple list of useful items that students often need throughout the school year.

These small, everyday essentials make a big difference in keeping pupils organised and ready for learning.

Suggested Items:

- Pencil case
- Pencils
- Black or blue pens
- Rubber (eraser)
- Ruler
- Pencil sharpener
- Yellow highlighter
- Glue stick
- Whiteboard pen
- Reading book
- Basic set of colouring pencils
- Felt pens



For KS3 pupils:

- Scientific calculator

This list is simply to support families who may find it helpful when preparing for the term ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we wish all our families a warm and joyful festive season!



Poets In

This term, pupils have been enjoying inspiring wellbeing sessions with Paul from Poets In, who has been helping students build confidence and express themselves creatively.



These sessions have already made a noticeable difference, and we are grateful to everyone who has supported our Community Fund, which makes this work possible.

How You Can Help

If you are able to contribute, whether big or small, your donations help us continue offering valuable programmes like Poets In.

We would also like to ask whether you know of a local person or private company who may wish to make a non-taxable, charitable donation to support this work. For details, please contact Gail Williams in our finance team: gwilliams@aa.pstrust.co.uk.

Learn more about Poets In: <https://www.poetsin.com>

🔔 Attendance Matters at Arnold Academy 🔔

Parents, did you know that when you register your child at school, you have a legal duty to ensure they attend regularly? The Department for Education (DfE) research confirms that even small absences can negatively impact your child's grades and future opportunities. At Arnold Academy, we are committed to helping every student reach their full potential. The Government is clear: students should only miss school in exceptional circumstances.

Please note: Attendance records are shared with the Local Authority, DfE, and future educational and employment providers. Applications for a Leave of Absence will only be granted by the Headteacher for exceptional circumstances—it is highly unlikely a family holiday will be approved. Let's work together to achieve excellent attendance for every Arnold Academy student!

PUPIL SPOTLIGHT

Emily Dances Her Way to Championship Success!

We're thrilled to share some exciting news about Emily and her incredible achievements in Irish dancing! At the beginning of November, Emily took to the stage at a feis (competition) and danced beautifully, winning for the second time in just three weeks!

This remarkable success means Emily has now advanced to the Championship level, the highest tier of competition. She even joined the Parade of Champions at the end of the day, alongside several world champions, an unforgettable experience!

Adding to the excitement, Emily recently received a stunning new dress to mark this special milestone.

During November, she also competed at her local Oireachtas (the regional qualifiers for the World Championships), where she faced some of the best dancers in her age group including the reigning world champion.

We couldn't be prouder of Emily's hard work, talent, and dedication. Congratulations on this fantastic achievement!



🎵 Congratulations, Matilda! 🎵

We're so proud of Matilda for passing her Grade 2 Saxophone exam with a strong Merit – what a fantastic achievement! 🌟🎵

If your child is interested in learning to play the flute, clarinet, or saxophone, please get in touch with Mrs. Smale for more details at ✉️ jsmale@aa.pstrust.co.uk



Alfie Waves the Flag for Ampthill Rugby Club!

During half term, Alfie (Year 6) had an exciting opportunity to be a flag bearer for Ampthill Rugby Club ahead of their action-packed derby game against Bedford.

Since joining the Ampthill Rugby Club U11s in September, Alfie has thrown himself into the sport and is thoroughly enjoying every moment. We look forward to hearing more about his rugby journey and celebrating his future successes!

Here are some great photos of Alfie in action as a flag bearer! 🌟🏉



PUPIL SPOTLIGHT

IDTA National Grand Finals

We are delighted to share Italia's fantastic success at the IDTA National Grand Finals in Blackpool, where she achieved remarkable results across multiple categories.

Italia reached the finals in not one, not two, not three, but four categories! Italia placed in the top three for her solo, made the finals in both Rock n Roll events, and concluded the weekend by taking first place and being crowned National Champion with her partner — successfully retaining their title from last year.

We're so proud of her dedication, hard work and passion for dance, and we'd like to thank the school for your continued encouragement and support which play a significant role in helping Italia excel both inside and outside the classroom.

Celebrating Our Champion Dancer!

We are delighted to share some fantastic news from our school community. Our very own Thomas Shanley competed in the Southern England Regional Irish Dance Competition on Friday and danced his way to first place! 🏆

Thomas is now officially the Southern England Regional Oireachtas Champion and will be travelling to Chicago in March to represent the region at the World Irish Dancing Championships. This is an incredible achievement and a testament to Thomas's talent, dedication, and hard work.

If you see him around school, please join us in congratulating him. He is extremely proud of this accomplishment and we couldn't be prouder of him!

Well done, Thomas! 🎉🌟



Year 5 Cup Winners! 🏆

We are delighted to share some fantastic sporting news from the weekend! A huge congratulations to the Barton Rovers Whites U10, who won the Autumn Plate in a thrilling final on Saturday.

Well done to all the players involved, a brilliant achievement! ⚽🌟



SPORTS NEWS

Year 8B Football Team Shine in National Cup

A huge well done to the Year 8B football team for their outstanding performance in a thrilling 5–4 match against Northampton School for Boys in the National Cup. Despite a narrow defeat, the team showed incredible determination, skill, and teamwork throughout.

You were all fantastic and a real credit to the school – well played, Year 8B! 🏆🎉



🎉 Huge Congratulations to our Year 7A Football Squad! 🏆

A massive well done to the team, who put in a fantastic display and secured an impressive 4–0 away win against Hinchbrook in Round 3 of the National Cup! 🏆

We're incredibly proud of their hard work, teamwork and determination. Well done! 🎉



Year 7B Storm to a 5–0 Victory in the National Cup!

A huge congratulations to the Year 7B football squad, who delivered an outstanding performance in their National Cup fixture against Parmiter's School. The team secured an impressive 4–0 win, showcasing excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the match.

This result reflects the hard work the players have put into training, and we are incredibly proud of the way they represented our school both on and off the pitch.

Well done, Year 7B! Keep up the fantastic effort as you progress to the next round.



7A Football Squad Triumphs in District League!

A huge well done to the 7A football squad for their 3–1 win vs. Holywell on Monday night in a decisive district league fixture! 🏆

What a fantastic season it has been for the squad so far! ⭐



SPORTS NEWS

Year 7 Netball Team – League Progress Update

The Year 7 netball team have made an impressive start to their league campaign, winning two out of their first three matches. Their determination, teamwork, and growing confidence on court have made for exciting performances so far.

The team secured strong wins against Henlow and Parkfields, displaying excellent defensive pressure and some brilliant attacking play. Their passing accuracy and movement around the court continue to improve with each game, and their team spirit remains a real standout.

Their only loss came in a hard-fought match against RBA, where the team showed resilience and worked tirelessly to stay competitive throughout the game. Although the result didn't go their way, the girls' effort and attitude were outstanding.

★ Players of the Match

- Henlow – Maddy
- Parkfields – Maddy
- RBA – Maddy R & Aaliyah

A huge congratulations to our Players of the Match, who have consistently demonstrated skill, commitment and positivity on the court.

The whole team should be proud of their progress - keep up the fantastic work, Year 7! 🏐



PTA NEWS

We are very urgently seeking a new treasurer for the PTA, if you think you could help please get in touch, or maybe you know a grandparents, or other relative who may be interested in helping us.

ARNOLD ACADEMY PTA

WE NEED A NEW TREASURER!

CALLING SOMEONE WHO IS GOOD WITH MONEY TO HELP MANAGE OURS.

GET IN TOUCH AND FIND OUT MORE!

PTA@AA.PSTRUST.CO.UK

ARNOLD ACADEMY PTA

JOIN OUR PTA TEAM!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW TREASURER

to help manage our funds and support our amazing school community.

WHAT THE ROLE INVOLVES:

Record Keeping Keep simple, accurate records of all income.	Annual Accounts Prepare year-end figures for the AGM
Financial Reporting Share clear updates at PTA meetings	Compliance Ensure we meet charity requirements
Banking & Payments Make payments and bank funds safely	Bank Liaison Manage the bank account and transactions

INTERESTED?
PTA@AA.PSTRUST.CO.UK for more

PTA NEWS

What a busy half term we are having; we have been in full swing organising all the wonderful upcoming events.

Festive Shopping Evening

We had such a fantastic shopping evening last week — so many lovely stalls and lots of festive cheer! This event has raised over £365.00 for the PTA. Thank you to everyone who supported and turned up, and we hope you managed some great shopping.



Christmas Disco

Our Christmas discos will be taking place on Wednesday 17th December:

- KS2 (Years 5 & 6): 5 pm – 6 pm
- KS3 (Years 7 & 8): 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Tickets will go on sale Monday 1st December.

Tickets will be £3 per child; further info to follow.

Elfridges

Our wonderful Elfridges will be taking place once again. Our busy elves have been shopping and wrapping, ready for all the children to do their Christmas shopping.

Elfridges will be open Monday 8th December to Friday 12th December.

More details to follow.

My Child's Art

All submissions have been sent (albeit a little late). As soon as we have confirmation that the designs have gone live, we will let everybody know.

End of Term Tuck Shop

Once again, our ever-popular end-of-term tuck shop will be held on the 19th December during the lunch break. The children absolutely love this, and we will have lots on offer.

Pre-loved Uniform Flash Sale!

From now until midnight on Monday 1st December, pre-loved school jumpers will be just £2 each.

FLASH SALE

PRE-LOVED SCHOOL JUMPERS

WAS £4 NOW £2

BUY NOW VIA THE PARENTMAIL SHOP UNTIL MIDNIGHT MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER

