



ARNOLD ACADEMY



Friday 19th December 2025

Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, Bedford, MK45 4JZ Tel: 01582 616400

December Edition

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the Autumn term has arrived. Pupils have had a lovely time this week enjoying Christmas events and celebration assemblies. We enjoyed two author visits in December, and all pupils took part in allergy workshops, training, and information sessions. A huge thanks to staff and parents who have contributed to a very vibrant term of activities. Pupils have enjoyed a vast array of events, trips, and visits across the half-term. Year 5 sang carols beautifully at St Nicholas Church this week, and all pupils enjoyed the Christmas dinner and jumpers on Wednesday! As always, on the sports field, we have had some excellence during December and head into the new year in great form!

In the new year, we will continue to offer a great array of parent and carer events. This will help you maintain an excellent relationship with our school community. Our next Parent Forum welcomes SNAP, who will be leading a session on neurodiversity. This will take place on Thursday 22nd January at 2.15pm. As always, please register your attendance by completing this [online form](#). Our parent forum sessions will be offered at different days and times of the week, each half-term, to increase the opportunity for all to attend at some point. An early date advertisement for Year 6 and 8 parents and carers: our progress evenings, to book appointments with your child's teacher, are scheduled for Monday 9th (in person) and Thursday 12th February (online). Year 5 and 7 will be in March, following the February half-term break. Notifications for bookings will be sent to you on Parentmail in due course.

Our fantastic PTA have once again delivered the very popular Elfridges, discos, paid for the Year 7 theatre visit, and ran a tuck shop on the last day of term. The team is keen to find a new treasurer to work alongside the current lead, so we can ensure we have a prosperous group to continue this work heading into the next academic year. If you know someone with a finance or bookkeeping background who can offer a short amount of time regularly to help with reporting, we would be very grateful. This would suit a member of the local community; a parent, carer, or wider family member!

I really hope you enjoy reading this Christmas edition of the Arnold Update! Our warmest regards to all of our Arnold community during the festive period. I hope you all have a wonderful break with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you in 2026!

Pete Roberts
Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

January

W/C 5th January

5th - First day back after Christmas break

W/C 12th January

14th - Y8 French Trip Parent Information Meeting (evening)

W/C 19th January

21st - Parent Forum
22nd - PINS - Parent SEND (Neurodiversity)

W/C 26th January

28th - Matilda The Musical Trip Year 6



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

8MH

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

8DB

🌟 Class teamwork and Christmas creativity 🌟

Our classrooms are looking fantastic thanks to the pupil's hard work on their recycled Christmas displays. It was a brilliant team effort across the school and choosing the winners was nearly impossible!

The winners were:

- ★ 5LH - striking recycled paper Christmas trees
- ★ Year 6 - the quality of the Y6 displays were wonderful & we were unable to choose one winner. Year 6 won the overall year group award.
- ★ 7SR - an expertly crafted Christmas tree with paper chains
- ★ 8MH - a spectacular snow scene

HOUSE COMPETITIONS



Connect 4 Competition



Connect 4 - KS2 Year 5

- 🥇 1 Joshua - 5AT
- 🥈 2 Archie - 5LH
- 🥉 3 Ronnie - 5CP

Connect 4 - KS2 Year 6

- 🥇 1 Abbey - 6RW
- 🥈 2 Jacob - 6LN
- 🥉 3 Evissa - 6JW

Connect 4 - KS3 Year 7

A three-way tie!

- 🥇 1 Emma - 7GL
- 🥈 1 Dylan - 7CR
- 🥉 1 Nyle - 7SQ

Connect 4 - KS3 Year 8

- 🥇 1 Jenson - 8JMc
- 🥈 2 Metib - 8MH
- 🥉 3 Layth - 8KT



Space Week Competition



Harrison 6DD



Khloe-Mai 6LN

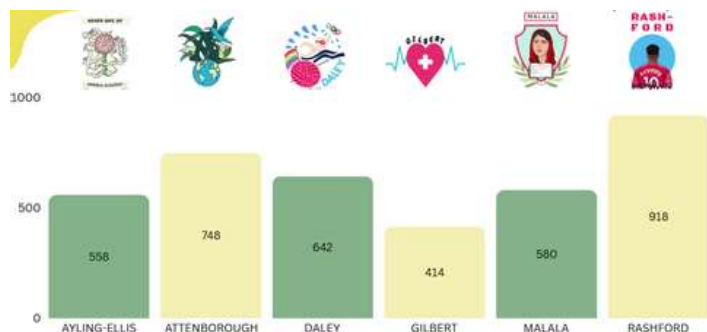


Ashton 6CHIL

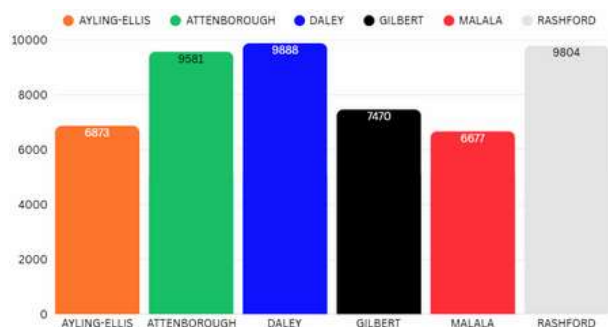
OUR CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS



HOUSE POINTS



ACHIEVEMENT POINTS



Author Visit Inspires Years 7 and 8

We hosted an author visit with Safiyya Umar for students in Years 7 and 8 on Friday 12th December. Safiyya delivered an engaging talk, followed by a question-and-answer session with students. The visit concluded with two creative writing workshops, where pupils had the opportunity to develop their ideas and explore their creativity under her guidance.



Celebrating Our Arnold Values Achievers!

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

- ★ Adeel 7JSM
- ★ Evelyn 5LH
- ★ Emma 7SQ
- ★ Lottie 5RF
- ★ Harry 5RN
- ★ Francesca 7SR

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

Accelerated Reader Library Quiz Raffle

- ★ Victor 6RW
- ★ Thomas 8JMc
- ★ Lucy 5LH

Millionaires Row!

Congratulations to our new Millionaires for December:

- ★ Heidi 6LN
- ★ William 5LH
- ★ Parker 5LH
- ★ Luna 8JF

Reading Competition

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



5AT



7JSM



6LN



8DB

Library Lunch Raffle winners

(for reading 3 million or more words)



Calista 7SR



Liam 7JSM

Harry Potter Winter Competition

Congratulations to Maci (Year 5), who won the Harry Potter competition! Her prize was a wonderful Harry Potter hamper – we hope she enjoys it! 🌟🎄



An Inspiring Visit from Author Jeremy Williams!

We were thrilled to welcome children's author Jeremy Williams to school on Tuesday 2nd December. Jeremy, writer of *Max Counts to a Million*, delivered an inspiring assembly for Years 5 and 6, followed by a book signing where pupils had the chance to meet him and get their copies personalised.

He then led creative writing workshops that really sparked our pupils' imaginations.

Thank you for an inspiring visit!



🌟🌟 The Star Weaver Tree 🌟🌟

We are so proud of our beautiful Christmas tree, creatively designed and decorated by our talented Art Club members. Our Key Stage 2 pupils worked incredibly hard, weaving stunning handmade snowflakes to bring the tree to life ❄️💙

We're thrilled to announce that our tree won 2nd place in the "Up to 10 Years" category in the annual Christmas Tree Festival at St. Nicholas' Church.

Well done to all the pupils involved, your creativity truly shines! 🌟



Year 5 Enjoy a Festive Trip to the Christmas Panto

Our Year 5 pupils had a fantastic time at the Christmas pantomime last week. The performance was full of fun, laughter, and festive cheer and to everyone's delight, even Mr. Taplin joined the cast on stage!

It was a memorable experience for all and a wonderful way to celebrate the season. 🎄



Thank You to Our PTA for Supporting Year 7 Shakespeare Production

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the PTA for once again funding a Shakespeare production for our Year 7 pupils. This afternoon's performance was thoroughly enjoyed by all and provided a wonderful opportunity for students to experience live theatre and deepen their understanding of Shakespeare's work.

We are extremely grateful for the PTA's continued support in enriching our pupils' learning experiences.



EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS



Thinking about requesting a term-time holiday? Please think carefully.

Headteachers can only agree to time off in exceptional circumstances. The Department for Education says that family holidays or trips for leisure aren't considered exceptional.







Every lesson missed impacts upon your child being able to reach their potential.

Why time in school matters:

- Even a few days away can leave gaps in learning, especially in maths and literacy
- Children can find it harder to catch up when they return, which can knock their confidence
- They may miss projects, group work or assessments that are difficult to repeat
- Being away can mean missing social moments with friends and classmates
- Teachers want every child to succeed, but it's hard to help one pupil catch up without holding others back

We know family time is important – but so is your child's education. Please plan holidays during school breaks so your child doesn't miss out on learning or friendships.

Unauthorised absences can lead to a fine.

Each parent may be fined £160 per child if a pupil misses 5 days of school without permission. Repeated absences could result in court action, larger fines, or a criminal record.

Every day in school helps your child build a brighter future.

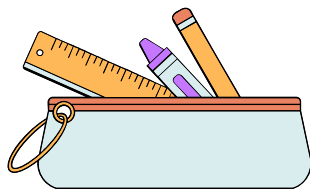
For more information visit:
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/school-attendance

Reminder: Please Check and Refill Student Pencil Cases

As we move further into the term, we kindly ask parents and carers to check that students have all the basic equipment they need for their lessons. Having a fully stocked pencil case helps students stay prepared, organised, and ready to learn each day.

Essential items include:

- Pens (black and blue)
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Highlighters
- Glue stick
- Calculator (if required for their year group)



We appreciate your support in ensuring students are well equipped for their learning.



Our Equality Leaders met this week for their first official gathering of the term, proudly wearing their newly awarded badges. The group has already begun preparing for a series of spring assemblies that will focus on three important themes: neurodiversity, racism, and LGBTQ+ inclusion.

Throughout the year, students involved in the Equality Leaders programme will also have the opportunity to participate in Trust-wide meetings, allowing them to share ideas, collaborate with peers from other schools, and contribute to meaningful change across our community.

We are incredibly proud of their commitment and look forward to seeing the positive impact of their work in the months ahead.



Charity Appeal - Cystic Fibrosis Trust

Mr O'Toole, Arnold Academy grandparent and well known for his amazing Christmas lights display in Luton, has kindly donated some lights to us to brighten up our school this year. Unfortunately he won't be decorating his house this year but he is still raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. If anyone would like to donate to this wonderful charity the link is below. Alternatively you can use the QR code at the reception desk.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/otoole-christmas-lights-2025?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=WA

Year 5 enjoyed a memorable day linked to their learning about traditions and celebrations. In the morning, the children made their own Christingles in school. They followed instructions carefully and learned about the symbolism behind the different parts, such as the orange representing the world and the candle symbolising light and hope. Everyone worked hard and took pride in creating their finished Christingle.

Later in the day, Year 5 walked to the local church for the Christingle service. The children behaved exceptionally well, listened carefully, and enjoyed the calm and reflective atmosphere. It was a valuable opportunity for them to visit the church and take part in a community event.

The day helped the children develop their understanding of cultural traditions, as well as encouraging reflection, teamwork and respect for others.



Last month, 120 pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 took part in the Primary Maths Challenge. Pupils competed against one another to earn gold, silver or bronze certificates, demonstrating excellent problem-solving skills and determination throughout the challenge.

The pupils awarded gold certificates in Year 5 were Keira, William, Archie, Jacob, Aiden and Joshua. In Year 6, the top-performing pupils were Ayaan, Harrison, Evisia, Evelyn, Sullivan, Daniel and Devon.

Well done to all the pupils who took part in the challenge – a fantastic effort from everyone involved!

Attendance Matters

FACT: Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, wider development and mental health. Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly.

The best place to be during term-time is in school, surrounded by the support of friends, teachers and other support staff.

There is plenty of time to do other things with friends and family. Did you know that children are only at school for 52% of a calendar year ... the rest of the time is theirs!



Be proactive and look on ClassCharts to find out what your child's attendance is...

Which category do they fall into in the table above? What can you do about it?

Chiltern Visit to Wrest Park

Last week, Chiltern pupils enjoyed a fantastic trip to Wrest Park, where they spent the day exploring both the beautiful gardens and the historic mansion.

The children discovered a variety of garden features, including the Bath House, the Chinese Bridge and Temple, and the Archer Pavilion. They also had the opportunity to explore the mansion itself, which was wonderfully decorated with festive Christmas displays, adding a special seasonal touch to the visit.

During their walk around the grounds, pupils followed a festive Shaun the Sheep trail, spotting different themed sculptures created by a range of artists. They also took time to observe wildlife in the gardens and enjoyed feeding the fish in the lake.

It was a memorable day filled with exploration, learning, and festive fun. All of the children had a wonderful time and represented the school brilliantly throughout the trip.



🎄✨ Getting into the Christmas Spirit! ✨🎄

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas in school! Year 8 did an amazing job decorating festive gingerbread, while Year 7 made delicious Christmas tree-shaped garlic and mozzarella dough balls. A wonderful effort from everyone involved! 🎄🍪🧄🧀



🎅🎄 Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day 🎅🎄

Our school was full of festive cheer as we enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner and celebrated Christmas Jumper Day! Pupils and staff wore their festive jumpers and came together to share a lovely meal, making it a special and joyful day for everyone. 🎅🎄



PUPIL SPOTLIGHT

Kickboxing Black Belt Achievement

We are extremely proud to celebrate a fantastic sporting achievement by Leo, who successfully completed his kickboxing black belt grading this month.

The grading was an intense challenge, lasting over five hours and demanding exceptional levels of skill, fitness, focus, and determination. Leo performed superbly throughout the day, demonstrating real resilience and commitment to his sport.

Gaining a black belt is a significant milestone in kickboxing, and this accomplishment is a credit not only to Leo but also to the support of his family and coaches. We are delighted to recognise his success and congratulate him on this outstanding achievement.

Well done, Leo!



Year 5 Football Success

We are delighted to share some fantastic sporting news from our school community. The Year 5 Barton Rovers Whites Under-10s team triumphed in the Autumn Cup Final on 22nd December 2025, securing an impressive 4-2 victory against the Luton Ladies Under-10s.

This is a wonderful achievement, and we are incredibly proud of the hard work, teamwork, and dedication shown by all the players involved.

Congratulations to the whole team on their well-deserved win! 🏆⚽

🎉 Celebrating Our Talented Pupils 🎉

We are delighted to share some photos of Ella in Year 6, who is currently performing in a pantomime. It is wonderful to see her talent, confidence, and hard work shining on stage.

We are also pleased to share that a couple of our teachers will be going along to watch her perform, which is a lovely way to show our support and celebrate her achievement.

Well done, Ella - we are very proud of you! ★



SPORTS NEWS

A Fantastic Term of Sport at Arnold Academy

This term has been an exciting and successful one within the PE department. Our pupils have taken part in a wide variety of sports during curriculum lessons, as well as enjoying an extensive range of extra-curricular clubs before, during, and after the school day. It has been incredibly rewarding to see so many pupils getting involved.

Competitive Success

We are extremely proud of the achievements of all our teams. This term has seen outstanding success at District, County, and National level. Pupils have represented the school in a number of sports, including:

- Football
- Basketball
- Netball
- Cross Country
- Swimming

Their commitment, teamwork, and enthusiasm have been exceptional throughout.

Looking Ahead to the Spring Term

The Spring term promises even more exciting opportunities. We look forward to:

- The start of the Year 5 Football League
- The start of the Year 5 & 6 Girls Football League.
- The start of the Year 7 & 8 Girls Football League
- The start of the KS2 Netball season
- The start of Rugby season
- Seeing our B and C football teams represent the school.

We can't wait to see our pupils continue to grow, develop, and enjoy their sport.

House Sports Competitions

We are also excited for our upcoming House Sports competitions. These events are always a highlight of the school year—full of energy, participation, teamwork, and enjoyment for all involved.

7A Football Squad Stage Stunning Comeback in National Cup

A huge congratulations to our 7A football squad, who delivered an outstanding performance in Round 4 of the National Cup with a remarkable away victory against Bishop's Stortford. Despite finding themselves 3–0 down, the team showed exceptional resilience, determination and teamwork. In an unforgettable turnaround, the boys fought back brilliantly to secure a 6–3 win, a testament to their spirit and skill on the pitch. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and sportsmanship.

On to Round 5! 🏆⚽



Year 6 District Final Against Alameda

A fantastic effort and team spirit were shown by our Year 6 boys in the district final against Alameda.⚽

With the game tied at 3–3, we went into extra time and were unlucky to lose 6–5.

There were some fantastic individual performances, with Zak awarded Man of the Match for his excellent finishing, dribbling, and bravery on the ball.★🌟



SPORTS NEWS

Middle School Swimming Gala Success

On 4th December, our KS2 and KS3 swimmers took part in the Middle School Swimming Gala held in Flitwick. All pupils were a real credit to the school, demonstrating excellent effort, sportsmanship, and determination throughout the event.

For several of our swimmers, this was their first experience of a competitive meet, and they performed brilliantly, showing great confidence and resilience.

 Results:

- KS2 Girls – 6th
- KS3 Girls – 7th
- KS3 Boys – 2nd

A huge well done to every pupil who took part, we are very proud of you! 🌟



🏆 National Cup Success for Year 7A Football Squad 🏆

Congratulations to the Year 7A football squad on beating The Boswells School in Round 5 of the National Cup!

An excellent performance to fight back twice and dramatically win the game 3–2!



🏆 Huge Congratulations to our Year 7B Football Team! 🏆

Our Year 7B team march confidently into Round 4 of the National Cup after an outstanding 2–0 victory against Ashlyns School!

A brilliant performance from the whole squad well done, everyone! 🌟🔥

🏀 Year 7 Basketball Success! 🏆

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 basketball team on winning their pool of the Year 7 Basketball Tournament, hosted at Alameda Middle School on Friday 12th December. The team showed outstanding teamwork, determination, and skill throughout the tournament to come out on top.

🌟 Well done, Year 7 – we're incredibly proud of you



🏆 House Sports Update

This week, Year 5 and 8 enjoyed an exciting House Sports event filled with teamwork and enthusiasm. Unfortunately, due to poor weather, the event for Year 6 and 7 had to be postponed. We will keep you updated on the results once the remaining events have taken place.



🎄 Spreading Christmas Cheer 🎄

This week, our pupils have been busy creating Christmas cards for our local retirement home and neighbours. It has been wonderful to see them putting so much care and creativity into spreading festive cheer.

We wish everyone in our community a very Merry Christmas! 🎅🌟📧



PTA NEWS

🌟 What a Term! 🌟

Well, we have reached the end of another term – and wow, has it been a busy one! A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our PTA events this term. Here's a little round-up of what we've been up to:

🎁 Elfridges

What a wonderfully busy time we had! From shopping for gifts, to wrapping and displaying them, Elfridges was a huge success. The children absolutely love choosing presents for their loved ones, and it was lovely to see how much thought and care they put into their choices.

Every year we think it can't get much busier, but this year we were very close to selling out – it was like a scene from the Next Sale! 😊

One thing we must mention is how polite and lovely all of the children were; every helper commented on this.

We hope you all enjoy the gifts they chose.

🎵 Christmas Disco

On Wednesday, we held our Christmas Disco, and once again it was a very busy and lively event! With lots of helpers serving sweets and snacks, it was clear just how much the children enjoy a bit of shopping.

We hope you managed to get them to bed after all that fun (and sugar)! 🧚🧚

🎁 Tuck Shop

As always, on the last day of term, we will be holding our tuck shop. Children will be able to purchase drinks, snacks, and sweet treats. Please visit us in the quiet area during lunchtime – we'll be waiting for you!

📅 Next PTA Meeting

Our next meeting will take place on 12th January at 7.00pm (venue to be confirmed).

If you'd like to come along and help support the PTA, we would love to hear from you.

✉ Email: Pta@aa.pstrust.co.uk

Thank you again for your continued support, and we wish you all a wonderful festive break! 🎄🌟

MERRY CHRISTMAS

