



Friday 30th January 2026

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

January Edition

Dear Parents and Carers,

A belated Happy New Year! Pupils and staff have returned in good spirits here at Arnold. We have spoken about New Year goals with our children, as well as scientific advice about how to break down and achieve aspirations, during assemblies. Our termly focus for Spring is:

1. Excellent attendance for all – driving the importance of good attendance at school in order to achieve well. Mr Rudkin has also introduced some termly attendance rewards for those achieving high standards or improving their attendance.
2. Adapting lessons for our pupils – we continue to strive for the highest standards of teaching and support in lessons. We want to teach to the top and stretch our pupils, whilst considering the needs of all children.
3. Linking subject areas to careers – we are fostering discussions and opportunities for pupils to think about future careers in their learning.

This term, we have hosted a training event for other local education establishments. This is harbouring the good work we have achieved in our Climate Action Plan. During this term, our Eco Council will be reviewing transport to school and our car park. I very much hope this will also help us with plans to achieve greater car-pooling to alleviate congestion, as well as improve the environmental impact of cars in our car park.

As always, over the coming month we have a number of excellent parent interaction events. Year 6 and Year 8 Parents' Evening letters and bookings will launch imminently. Next week, we have another Parent Forum, led by SNAP, focusing on neurodiversity. Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance. To assist with early dates for your diaries, our next two Parent Forums are 5th March (5pm) and 5th May (5pm). Agenda and booking links will be shared with you in due course.

You will, no doubt, have read and heard about government considerations to move social media access from 13+ to 16+. I would implore you to act on this now. We are delighted that the hugely harmful impact of social media on children is finally being noted. Please continue to recognise the importance of decision-making as a parent with technology. We are proud to share that we are leading work with other schools on a community strategy towards safer internet and mobile phone use. More details will be shared with you as part of Safer Internet Day on 10th February. This will once again provide you with a parent event to gain further information and advice.

We have continued our excellent wider curriculum opportunities this year with a great number of events and experiences for our pupils. This month has seen an incredible number of PE fixtures from our brilliant team. We have also enjoyed trips to the theatre, hosted professionals from the Holocaust Museum for Year 8, and welcomed speakers from Brain Tumour Research for our School Charity Assemblies.

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

W/C 2nd February

- 4th - 10th - Book Fair in the Library
- 5th - PINS - Parent Forum SEND (Neurodiversity)
- 5th - Y8 Holocaust Memorial Day
- 6th - BRIYM Workshop

W/C 9th February

- 9th - Y6 & Y8 Parent Consultation - In person
- 11th - Harry Potter Trip - Year 6
- 12th - Harry Potter Trip - Year 6
- 12th - Y6 & Y8 Parent Consultation - Virtual

W/C 16th February

- 16th - Half Term

W/C 23rd February

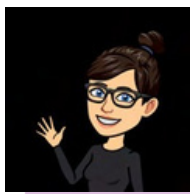
- 23rd - First day back after half term
- 23rd - Y6 NSPCC Workshops
- 24th - Y5/6 NSPCC Workshops
- 25th - Y5 NSPCC Workshops

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

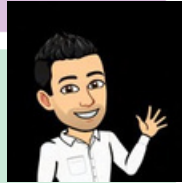
Form with the Highest Attendance

5RN

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

5CP

YEAR 6

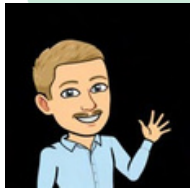


Form with the Highest Attendance

6JW

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

6LN



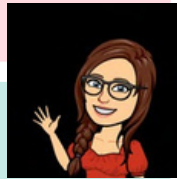
YEAR 7

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

HOUSE NEWS



Here are our House Leaders for the year!

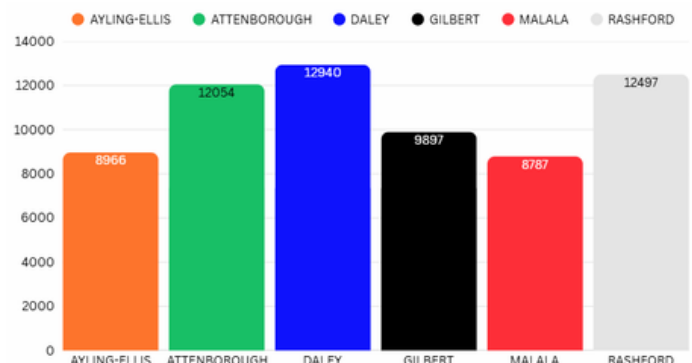
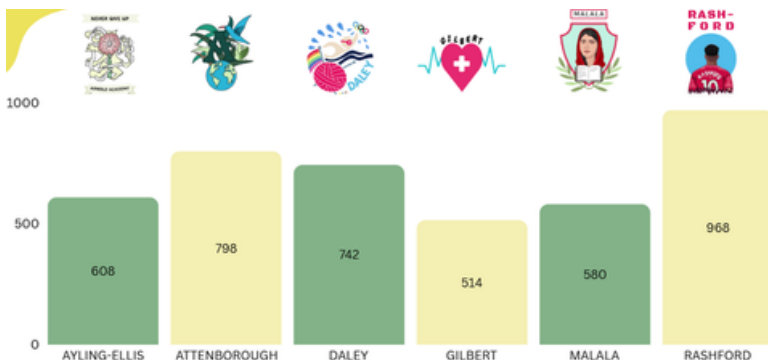
We are proud to introduce the pupils who have been selected to represent and lead each house. These pupils will help organise events, support their peers, and demonstrate our school values throughout the year.

- **Daley House:** Sid and Cara
- **Ailing Ellis House:** Evania and Andrew
- **Rashford House:** Monty and Max
- **Malala House:** Layth and Yusuf
- **Gilbert House:** Valeria and Georgia
- **Attenborough House:** Violet and Kyle

Congratulations to all of our House Leaders. We look forward to seeing their leadership, teamwork, and enthusiasm in action this year.

HOUSE POINTS

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS



Scholastic Book Fair: 4th – 10th February

We are delighted to announce that our Scholastic Book Fair will be running in school from 4th – 10th February.

During this week, pupils will have the opportunity to browse and purchase books during their English Library lesson. Books have been specially selected by Scholastic for our school, with prices starting from £2.99. Pupils wishing to make a purchase should **bring cash** with them on the day of their visit.

2026 has been designated by the government as the 'National Year of Reading', making this a perfect opportunity to inspire a love of reading while also raising much-needed funds for our school library. Every purchase helps us to invest in exciting new titles for pupils to enjoy.

We look forward to welcoming pupils to the fair and hope it will be as popular as ever! 📖



Thank You to the PTA 100 Club

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the PTA 100 Club for their generous support in funding a selection of new books for our school library. These new additions are a wonderful way to start the New Year and will be enjoyed by pupils across the school. We are very grateful for the PTA's continued commitment to enriching our children's learning and love of reading.

Upcoming Library Competition – World Book Day

Keep an eye out for more details about our next library competition as we prepare for World Book Day. This year's theme is "Best Dressed Spoon", and we can't wait to see the creative ideas our pupils come up with. More information will be shared soon – get those imaginations ready!

Celebrating Our Arnold Values Achievers!

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

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| ★ 8CF - Oliver | ★ 6DD - Gurkirat |
| ★ 6CW - Daisy | ★ 8JF - Andreea |
| ★ 8DB - Amelia | ★ 6FP - Paddy |
| ★ 6JW - Luke | ★ 8JMC - Arabella |

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

Accelerated Reader Library Quiz Raffle

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| ★ Bella 6RW | ★ Japneet 8JF |
| ★ Freddie 5AT | ★ Ellis 5CP |

💰 Millionaires Row! 💰

Congratulations to our new Millionaires for December:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| ★ Jacob 6LN | ★ Isabelle 6LN |
| ★ Edward 7SR | ★ Emma 7SQ |
| ★ Andreea 8JF | |

📖 Reading Competition 📖

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

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| 🏆 5KM | 🏆 7JSM |
| 🏆 6LN | 🏆 8DB |

📖 Library Lunch Winners 📖

(for reading 3 million or more words)

- ★ Victoria 6LN

Arnold Academy Reads!



In this school year, students have read...

7,456 Books
70,797,252 Words
for **13** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

MONTHLY BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

2026 has been named the National Year of Reading, and to celebrate, we will be sharing monthly book recommendations throughout the year. Each month, we will recommend one book for Key Stage 2 and one for Key Stage 3, helping to inspire a love of reading across all ages. We hope pupils and families enjoy exploring these fantastic reads, and we look forward to sharing more recommendations throughout the year. Here are our book recommendations for this month:

KS2 Recommendation (Ages 9+)

The Wrong Shoes – Tom Percival

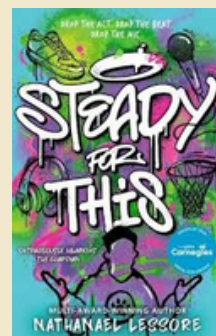
A beautiful and sensitive exploration of childhood poverty, perfect for fans of *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. Will knows he has the wrong shoes but doesn't know how to change his situation. As he navigates the challenges of home and school, friendship and empathy help him find confidence and hope. This is a powerful, thought-provoking read that builds empathy and heart.



KS3 Recommendation (Ages 12+)

Steady for This – Nathan Lessor

A truly funny, heart-warming, and brilliant book. Shaun, also known as MC Growls, dreams of winning prize money to avoid eviction, but an online situation involving him and his best friend quickly spirals out of control. With an infectious main character and engaging writing, this is an enjoyable read that tackles important issues with both sensitivity and humour.



Pyramid Schools Trust EDI Event

This term, pupils from across the Pyramid Schools Trust came together for a special Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) event. Children shared ideas, celebrated what makes us unique, and explored how to create welcoming, inclusive school communities.

The enthusiasm, empathy, and respect shown by pupils were inspiring and reflected our belief that we are stronger together. Thank you to all the staff and students who helped make the event such a success.



Free Courses for Parents: Helping Children with SATs

Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy (BESA), part of Central Bedfordshire Council, is offering free courses for parents and carers who want to build their confidence in supporting their children as they prepare for KS2 SATs exams.

We have already shared details of the February Maths course via ParentMail, and we will send information about the April English course closer to the time.

More information, including how to register, can also be found the course flyers below:

Helping Children English SATs – Teams, 01.04.2026

Helping Children Maths SATs – Teams, 25.02.2026

Alternatively, parents can contact BESA directly through their online enquiry form: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/besa-contact-us



Year 8 Careers Speed Networking Event

As part of National Careers Week (2–6 March), we will be holding our annual Year 8 Careers Speed Networking Event on Friday 6th March, 8.50am–11.00am, in the school gym.

The event gives pupils the opportunity to speak with volunteers from a range of careers in short, informal conversations, helping to broaden horizons and raise aspirations.

We would love to hear from parents, carers, or workplace contacts who may be willing to take part. If you are interested, please complete [THIS FORM](#) by Friday 13th February. Further details will be shared closer to the event.

For more information, please contact Miss Boston (aboston@aa.pstrust.co.uk).

Our Charity of the Year: Brain Tumour Research

We are proud to announce that our chosen Charity of the Year is Brain Tumour Research, a cause that is incredibly close to our hearts.

This term, we were delighted to welcome Nicola and Michelle from Brain Tumour Research to Arnold Academy. They spoke to our pupils about the vital work the charity does, helping to fund life-saving research and raise awareness of brain tumours. The pupils were inspired to learn how even small actions can make a big difference.

We are very much looking forward to supporting this fantastic charity through a range of fundraising activities throughout the academic year.

Our first event will be the February £30 Class Challenge - your child will be sharing more details with you over the coming days. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Attendance Update: Understanding EBSNA

We would like to provide some important clarity regarding the term EBSNA (Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance). While we work closely with families to support pupils facing these challenges, it is important to understand that EBSNA is a statement of fact describing a situation (that a pupil is not attending school); it is not, in itself, a valid statutory reason for absence.

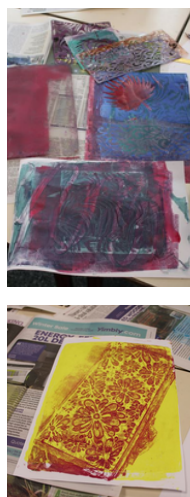
For safeguarding purposes, our school has a legal duty of care to know the specific reason why a child is not in the building. Therefore, we require parents to contact the school on the first day of absence—and every following day—to provide a clear reason why the pupil is unable to attend. Simply stating "EBSNA" does not provide the specific detail required for our registers or our safeguarding protocols. We appreciate your cooperation in providing this daily information, as it allows us to ensure our records are accurate and, most importantly, that our pupils are safe.

Art Department Donation Request

The Art Department is currently looking for old CDs, DVDs, and video games that are no longer needed at home to support an upcoming art project.

If you are able to donate any items, we would be extremely grateful. Our aim is to collect around 500 items in total to support this project.

Donations can be brought to the main school office. Thank you for your continued support of the Art Department.



Support for Parent Carers in Bedfordshire

We would like to share information about Carers in Bedfordshire, a local charity that supports unpaid carers across the county.

Many parents of children with additional needs may not realise they are classed as unpaid carers and that free support is available. Carers in Bedfordshire provide wellbeing support, benefits advice (including help with DLA applications), one-to-one support, groups, activities, and parent carer networks.

If this support may be helpful to you or your family, please visit their website to find out more:

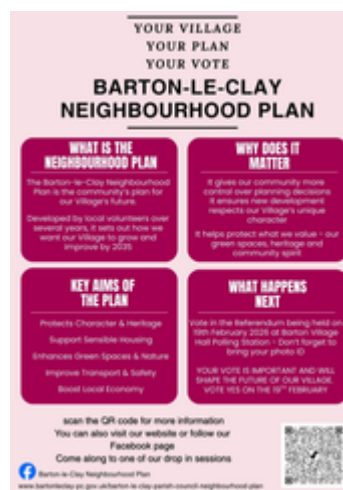
<https://carersinbeds.org.uk>



Barton-le-Clay Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

The Neighbourhood Plan sets out how our village will grow and develop up to 2035. A referendum will be held on 19th February 2026.

Please see the explainer and poster below for more information.



Year 7 Art Update 🎨

As part of their Architecture project, Year 7 pupils have been experimenting with Gelli printing, using stencils and mark making to create bold and colourful prints. A big thank you to the PTA for their support in purchasing the materials! ✨

SPORTS NEWS

It has been another busy and exciting period for school sport, with students representing the academy superbly across a range of competitions.

⚽ Football Successes ⚽

Year 5 (A) Boys Football

The Year 5 (A) Boys Football squad made an excellent start to their first-ever competitive fixtures, winning both matches with some fantastic football on display.

- Alameda – won 1–0
- Holywell – won 3–0

*Player of the Match: **Harley T (Year 5)***

The Year 5 (A) Boys Football team continued their unbeaten fixtures at Redborne, with both matches ending in well-fought draws.

The first was a tight 2–2 draw against Parkfields in a local trust derby, followed by another competitive 2–2 draw against a strong Etonbury side.

Player of the Match: **Henry S (Year 5)**, whose outstanding goalkeeping kept the team in both games.



Year 6 (A) Boys Football

The Year 6 (A) Boys Football team delivered a dominant 14–0 County Cup victory against Henlow, underlining the quality within the squad.

With such a complete team performance, PE has chosen to award a Manager of the Week, which goes to Mr Murphy, who now extends his managerial role with the squad into the next round.

Year 7 (B) Boys Football

The Year 7 (B) squad reached Round 4 of the National Cup, narrowly losing 3–1 to Kings Langley Secondary School. Despite the result, the team showed outstanding determination and resilience.

A bus full of drenched players and staff returned at 6:15 pm, but it was certainly worth it!

Player of the Match: **Frankie D (Year 7)**

Frankie received a well-deserved recognition email home that evening and has earned the opportunity to join the A squad, with Mr Tfifha praising his hard work and leadership.

Year 7 (A) Boys Football

The Year 7 (A) team continued their County Cup journey with a strong 3–1 victory against Kempston Academy, progressing confidently into the next round.

*Player of the Match: **Jake S (Year 7)***

They have progressed to Round 7 of the National Cup after an incredible away victory.

After a tightly contested match that finished 1–1 at full time, the boys showed great resilience in extra time, with Patrick scoring twice to secure the win.

Outstanding teamwork, determination and some brilliant goalkeeping ensured a memorable result.

Every player represented the school with pride, and this achievement is a testament to their hard work and commitment.

Next up: Round 7 vs The Aldenham Foundation (date TBC).

Please join us in congratulating the team on this superb achievement! ⚽🌟



SPORTS NEWS

Year 7 Girls Basketball

The Year 7 Girls Basketball team proudly represented the school at the County Final Tournament, finishing 5th out of 8 schools and competing at the highest level. The girls showed excellent teamwork, attitude and enjoyment throughout the day.

Player of the Match: **Maddy M (Year 7)**.

Year 7/8 Boys Rugby

The Year 7/8 Boys Rugby squad took part in their first friendly fixture against Sharnbrook, gaining vital experience! Despite both teams losing, the boys demonstrated great spirit and enthusiasm, with high morale continuing on the minibus journey home (very late return for the squad).

A special thank you to Miss Nicholls for organising the fixture! Players of the Match: **Yusuf Q (Year 7) and Finlay P (Year 8)**.



Autumn Term House Sports – Year 6 & Year 7

We were finally able to run the Year 6 and Year 7 Autumn Term House Sports competition after several weather-related postponements. Although the weather continued to challenge us, the event was well worth the wait.

The day began with an early 7 am pitch inspection at Arnold Academy, with the PE Department hoping the sun might make an appearance. There were many discussions across the school, some more light-hearted than others, with Mr Davis joking that Factor 50 sunscreen might be required! Thanks to the teamwork of staff across the academy, the event was delayed until Period 2.

The competition was a great success, with students enjoying an inclusive, friendly and energetic day of sport. There were plenty of goal celebrations, last-minute surprises and fantastic examples of teamwork and sportsmanship.

A huge thank you to all staff who supported the event and to our young leaders whose encouragement and organisation made a real difference.

🏆 House Sports Winners 🏆

Year 7

- **Boys Cup:** Rashford
- **Boys Shield:** Rashford
- **Girls Cup:** Rashford
- **Girls Shield:** Gilbert

Year 6

- **Boys Cup:** Rashford
- **Boys Shield:** Ayling-Ellis
- **Girls Cup:** Rashford
- **Girls Shield:** Gilbert

Well
done



PTA NEWS

A Busy Start to the New Term!

Wow - what a busy start to the new school term we've had!

Although we haven't hosted any activities just yet, we've been working very hard behind the scenes planning lots of exciting events and fundraising ideas for the months ahead. We can't wait to share them all with you!

🌸 Smarties Challenge – February Half Term

Our first activity will be launching during February half term - the Smarties Challenge!

More details will be coming very soon, so keep an eye out and get ready to take part in this fun fundraising challenge.

🌸 Mother's & Others Stall – March

We are excited to be running our Mother's and Others Stall, where children can buy gifts for the special ladies in their lives ❤️

- 📅 Every day for one week
- 📍 School Library at lunchtime
- 🛍️ All gifts will be under £5
- 📅 Starting 9th March

Children will be able to come along during lunchtime and choose a lovely gift themselves.

☕ Parent Consultation Evenings

We will be attending this year's Parent Consultation Evenings, serving:

- ☕ Tea
- ☕ Coffee
- 🍪 And maybe some cheeky biscuits!

We'll also have information about:

- How to join the PTA
- How to support future events
- How to join the 100 Club

Please do come along and say hello - we'd love to meet you!

📅 Upcoming Diary Dates

Keep an eye out for more information on our:

👤 Father's and Heroes Stall — coming soon!

💼 Treasurer Role – We Need You!

Unfortunately, once again we are on the hunt for a Treasurer - an imperative role that the PTA cannot run without.

Our current Treasurer will be leaving at the end of the school year, so we really need to find someone as soon as possible who can work alongside them and take over the role.

If you think this might be something you'd be interested in, please contact us at:

✉️ pta@aa.pstrust.co.uk

This role could be filled by a parent, uncle, auntie, or even a grandparent — anyone with a little spare time and some bookkeeping or accounting experience would be amazing!

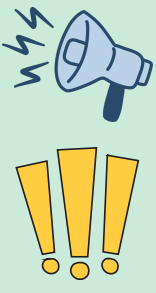


JOIN OUR PTA TEAM!
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW TREASURER
to help manage our funds and support our amazing school community.

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



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



PTA NEWS

📧 100 Club – Numbers Available!

We currently have lots of numbers available on our 100 Club due to families moving on to other schools.

If you would like a number, please contact us at:

✉️ pta@aa.pstrust.co.uk

Every month we have 3 winners, and the extra money raised goes towards purchasing new books for the school library 📖 - so it's a win-win!



👕 Uniform Donations & Sales

Our uniform shop continues to be very popular - thank you!

Please keep your donations coming of:

- ✓ Good condition
- ✓ Clean and wearable
- ✓ With school logos

And thank you to everyone who keeps us busy by purchasing items from our ParentMail shop — every purchase supports the school.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We couldn't do this without you ❤️

Arnold Academy PTA

THANK
YOU