



Friday 6th March 2026

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

February Edition

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to March, and it looks like we have also been blessed with the arrival of spring! We have enjoyed a jam-packed February, but with the much-needed respite of a half-term break.

Ramadan started during half-term, so Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim community! Once again, we will be supporting our Muslim families during their holy month, especially if this is the pupil's first experience of periods of fasting.

We hope parents of Year 6 and 8 pupils found appointments an excellent opportunity to review and discuss their child's progress at our recent parents' evenings. We had an unusually higher percentage of online appointments not attended on the Thursday. We will await the next event and then aim to carry out some feedback from you as parents to help plan impactful events moving forward. It is the turn of Year 5 and 7 at the end of this short half-term. Communication for booking appointments will be sent to you today.

Since the beginning of February, the pupils have benefited from the opportunity of a Book Fair, World Book Day, NSPCC visits to Year 5 and 6, a writing-focused trip to Harry Potter Studios for Year 6, the Holocaust Museum and a survivor visit and Careers event for Year 8, and World Book Day for all. In the next three weeks running up to Easter, we have an overseas trip to France, mental health workshops from BRIYM, and house sports competitions for all year groups.

Yesterday, we carried out our fourth Parent Forum of the year. We had an excellent 22 parents signed up for this event. Thank you so much for taking the opportunity to be part of these liaisons and help us work as a community. Our final two dates for forums are:

- Tuesday 5th May at 5pm
- Thursday 18th June at 6pm

We will remind you nearer the time and send out a booking form to register your attendance. Please reach out to me if you would like to see a particular topic covered in these summer sessions.

I would like to bring to your attention a separate communication that will be sent out next week by our PTA team. We have a number of Year 8 parents who have been significant leaders in the PTA organisation over these past few years. We now need to future-proof parent leadership over the coming years, with many of the Year 8 parents moving on with their children exiting Arnold at the end of this year.

We very much look forward to welcoming new parents, especially of Year 5 and 6 pupils. I know from personal experience that the feeling of being a Lower School parent to a Middle School parent can be quite different. The 'distance' felt as your child steps into a larger school is noticeable. Please strongly consider whether being a member of our PTA is something you can help support! It is a lovely way to get involved, meet other parents, and play an active role in your child's journey here at Arnold. As a school, we will also aim to make this voluntary role as easy as possible!

Thank you for taking the time to read the Arnold Update. I hope you enjoy it! I look forward to seeing you at our events in the near future.

Pete Roberts
Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

March

W/C 2nd March

- 5th - World Book Day
- 5th - Parent Forum (5pm - 6pm)
- 6th - Y8 Careers Day

W/C 9th March

- 12th - HPV Vaccine (Year 8)

W/C 16th March

- 16th - 19th - Y8 French Trip

W/C 23rd March

- 23rd - Parents Consultation Y5/7 - In Person
- 23rd - House Sport Y5/Y8
- 24th - House Sport Y6/Y7
- 26th - Parents Consultation Y5/7 - Virtual
- 27th - Break the Rules Day/Wear a Hat Day - Brain Tumour Research
- 27th - Last day of term

W/C 30th March

- Easter Holidays

PTA Newsletter

Next week the PTA we will be sharing their very own one-off newsletter, so please keep an eye out for it. It will be full of important information.

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

5RF

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

5CP

YEAR 6



Form with the Highest Attendance

6DD

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

8JMc

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

8DB

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

£30 Challenge in Full Swing!

Our forms have been busy taking part in the £30 Challenge to raise money for Brain Tumour Research. Pupils have shown fantastic creativity and teamwork, coming up with brilliant fundraising ideas to grow their £30 for this important cause.

6LN have been busy with their £30 Class Challenge!

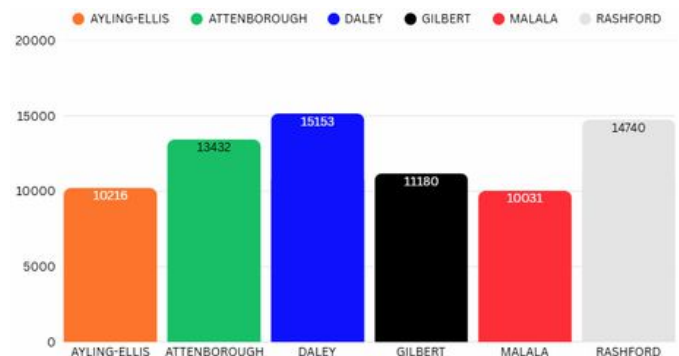
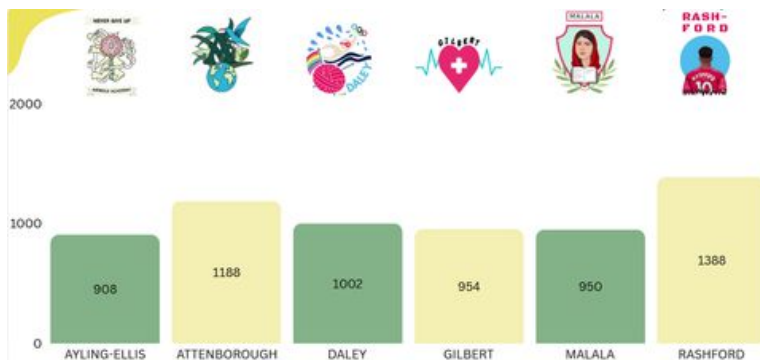
They organised a fantastic sweet and drinks stall and raised an amazing £350!!! 🎉

Well done, 6LN! 🌟



HOUSE POINTS

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS

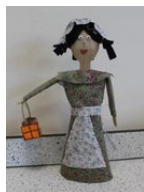


👩🏽🌟 Dress a Spoon Competition Winners 🌟👩🏽

Thank you to everyone who took part — the creativity and effort were fantastic!

🏆 1st Place

Florence (5RF)



🏆 2nd Place

Lydia (7CR)



🏆 3rd Place

Parker (5LH)



🌟 Year Group Runner-Ups 🌟

Y5: Aleah (5RF)



Y6: Grace (6FP)



Y7: Mae (7CR)



Y8: Sidney (8DB)



🌟 Special Recognition 🌟

Devon (6RW), Jacob (6LN), Betsy (5LH), Delphine (5KM), Tiana (5AT), Zahra (5AT), Victor (6RW), Lorelai (7SR), Seren (5RN), Olivia (5RN), Abigail (6DD), Jack (8DB), Ava (5RF).

🌟 Everyone who 'dressed a spoon' will receive a small treat — well done to all involved!



Celebrating Our Arnold Values Achievers!

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

★ 6LN - Ellie
★ 8KT - Emma
★ 6RW - Jude

★ 5AT - Ginny
★ 7CR - Yusuf
★ 8MH Amaan

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

📖 Accelerated Reader Library Quiz Raffle 📖

★ Eabha 7SQ
★ Ayaan 6LN

★ Lily 5KM
★ Annie 5LH

💰 Millionaires Row! 💰

Congratulations to our new Millionaires for December:

★ Joshua 5AT

★ Thomas 6DD

★ Louie 5LH

★ Zsanayah 6FP

📖 Reading Competition 📖

Below are the winners for January and February congratulations to all the top readers! Keep up the fantastic work!

January

🏆 5LH

🏆 7JSM

🏆 6LN

🏆 8DB

February

🏆 5LH

🏆 7JSM

🏆 6JW

🏆 8CF

📖 Library Lunch Winners 📖

(for reading 3 million or more words)

★ Connor 7GL

★ Dylan 7CR

Arnold Academy Reads!

In this school year, students have read...

9,953 Books

92,569,791 Words

for **14** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

MONTHLY BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

KS2 Recommendation (Ages 9+)

Murder on the Safari Star - M G Leonard (ages 9+)

Uncle Nat is taking Hal on a journey of a lifetime-on safari train through Africa but something suspicious is happening on board the Safari Star. A passenger is found mysteriously killed inside a locked compartment and it's up to Hal and his new friend to solve the murder mystery. As well as some fantastic messages about conservation, this gripping and fast-paced book is full of twists, surprises, and red herrings. A brilliant mystery read!



KS3 Recommendation (Ages 12+)

The Inheritance Games - Jennifer Lynne Barnes (ages 12+)

Avery has a plan: keep her head down, work hard for a better future. Then an eccentric billionaire dies, leaving her almost his entire fortune. And no one, least of all Avery, knows why. Soon she is caught up in a deadly game-just how far will people go to keep their fortune? This is a story full of puzzles, mystery and intrigue. The family drama combined with secrets and riddles makes for an exciting read.



Scholastic Book Fair Success! 📚

Our recent Scholastic Book Fair was a fantastic success and it was wonderful to see so many pupils excited about reading and choosing new books.

Thanks to your incredible support, the Book Fair raised an amazing **£681.45** for the school. This will be used to purchase new books and resources to further develop our library and support reading across the school.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event!



Year 8 Welcomes Survivor Hedi Argent MBE

Our Year 8s had a profoundly moving experience last week as we welcomed the National Holocaust Centre to Arnold Academy for the third year in a row. The day was dedicated to understanding the human stories behind history, focusing on the life of Steven Mendelson and the gradual impact of Nazi persecution on families.

We were incredibly honoured to be joined by survivor Hedi Argent MBE. Hedi shared her powerful testimony of fleeing Austria as a young girl after experiencing rising anti-Semitism under the Nazi government. She spoke about the heartbreak of leaving her home and the immense resilience it took to restart her life from scratch as a refugee in Britain.

This visit was a vital reminder for our students about the importance of empathy, standing up against prejudice, and the power of the human spirit.



Year 8 Youth Parliament Representative Announced 🌟

All of our Year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to stand for the important role of Youth Parliament Representative. We are delighted to announce that, following his interview this term, Ismail has been successfully appointed. Congratulations, Ismail - we are very proud of you! 🌟



Y6 school trip to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London

The Making of Harry Potter was an unforgettable experience. As soon as we walked into the Great Hall set, it felt like stepping straight into the world of Harry Potter. We explored real costumes and props used by characters like Harry Potter and Hermione Granger, and even saw how special effects brought magical creatures to life. Walking down Diagon Alley and tasting Butterbeer made the day even more exciting. It was amazing to learn how the films were made and to see the creativity behind such a famous movie series.



NSPCC "Speak Out & Stay Safe" Workshops

This week, our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils took part in special workshops delivered by the NSPCC, focused on their important message: "Speak Out & Stay Safe."

The sessions helped pupils to understand that they have the right to feel safe and that if something is worrying them, they should always speak to a trusted adult. The workshops encouraged children to recognise safe adults in their lives and reminded them that their voices matter.

Pupils were also reminded that they can contact Childline at any time if they need support. Childline is free, confidential and available by calling 0800 1111 or by visiting childline.org.uk/kids.

We are proud of how thoughtfully and maturely our pupils engaged with these important sessions.



Hertfordshire Team Maths Challenge

On 24th February, 12 Y7 mathematicians competed in the Hertfordshire Team Maths Challenge. This was four rounds of questions designed to test their maths problem-solving and critical thinking skills. After three tough heats, our teams didn't make the finals but achieved brilliant scores, with one team placing 19th, just three points away from qualifying!

Well done to them all!

Allergy Awareness

At the end of last term, the entire school community was lucky enough to receive training in allergy awareness from Tracey Dunn, Head of Education for Anaphylaxis UK. Pupils and staff learnt about allergy symptoms, awareness, and the use of Adrenaline Auto-Injectors. We are now working towards the AllergyWise® School Award – watch this space for more details.

If you'd like, I can also make it slightly more engaging for a school newsletter or Facebook post while keeping it concise.

WORLD BOOK DAY!



What a fantastic day we had yesterday celebrating World Book Day! The children truly went “All In” with their creativity, and it was wonderful to see so many amazing costumes, favourite characters, hobbies, and passions brought to life. 📖💡

Throughout the day, pupils enjoyed sharing their love of reading and taking part in activities that celebrated books, imagination, and storytelling. Our emerald-themed library also looked fantastic as we continued to highlight the joy that reading can bring. 📖💡

A huge thank you to all the children, families, and staff for making the day so special. We hope everyone has been inspired to pick up a book and keep reading!



Every Minute Counts: Building a Culture of Trust and Presence

We know that getting children out the door in the morning is not always easy. From lost shoes to last-minute anxieties, the "morning rush" is a reality for every family. However, we want to take a moment to talk about two vital ingredients for your child's success at school: Punctuality and Honest Communication.

Our goal isn't just to fill seats; it is to ensure your child feels settled, supported, and ready to learn.

The Importance of "Reasons Why"

When a child is absent, our first priority is their well-being. We understand that life happens - family emergencies arise, unexpected opportunities pop up etc.

However, we urge all parents to be **honest about the specific reason for an absence**.

Sometimes, there is a temptation to report a "stomach bug" when the reality is a family trip or a child refusing to come in due to anxiety. We ask for the truth not to judge, but to support.

- **If it is anxiety:** We have pastoral support and strategies to help them integrate back into the classroom.
- **If it is a family matter:** We can offer extensions on work or emotional support during the day.

When we know the real picture, we can work with you. When we don't, we can miss vital opportunities to help your child navigate challenges.

The Ripple Effect of Lateness

You might think, "It's only 5 minutes." But in a school setting, the first 10 minutes of each lesson are often the most critical.

This is when teachers set the tone for the lesson, explain the schedule, and deliver key learning instructions. When a child arrives late:

1. **They start on the back foot:** They miss the instructions and spend the first hour trying to catch up, which causes unnecessary stress.
2. **Social impact:** They walk into a settled classroom, which can feel isolating and embarrassing.
3. **Disruption:** It breaks the concentration of the other students who have already begun working.

Did you know? Arriving just 5 minutes late every day equals **3 days of missed learning** over a school year. Arriving **15 minutes late** adds up to **2 weeks** of lost instruction.

We Are on the Same Team

We are asking for your partnership.

- **Aim for 8:35:** Try to arrive 5 minutes before the start time to allow your child to decompress and socialize.
- **Talk to us:** If you are struggling to get your child to school, or if there is a deeper reason for an absence, please call us. We are here to listen and support.

Let's work together to make sure your child doesn't miss out on a single moment of their potential.



**ATTENDANCE
MATTERS.
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY**

PUPIL SPOTLIGHT

Walking on Fire for a Worthy Cause 🧯🔥

We are incredibly proud of Isaac (Year 7), who took part in a fire walk on Friday 6th February to raise money for SAASSBMK (Sexual Assault and Abuse Support Services Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes).

Demonstrating remarkable bravery, Isaac walked across hot coals in support of this important cause. He showed real strength, conquered his fears and proved that it truly is a case of "mind over matter"!

SAASSBMK supports survivors who have experienced sexual assault and domestic abuse, providing vital care and guidance to those in need. Well done, Isaac – an inspiring achievement for a very worthwhile charity. 🧯🔥

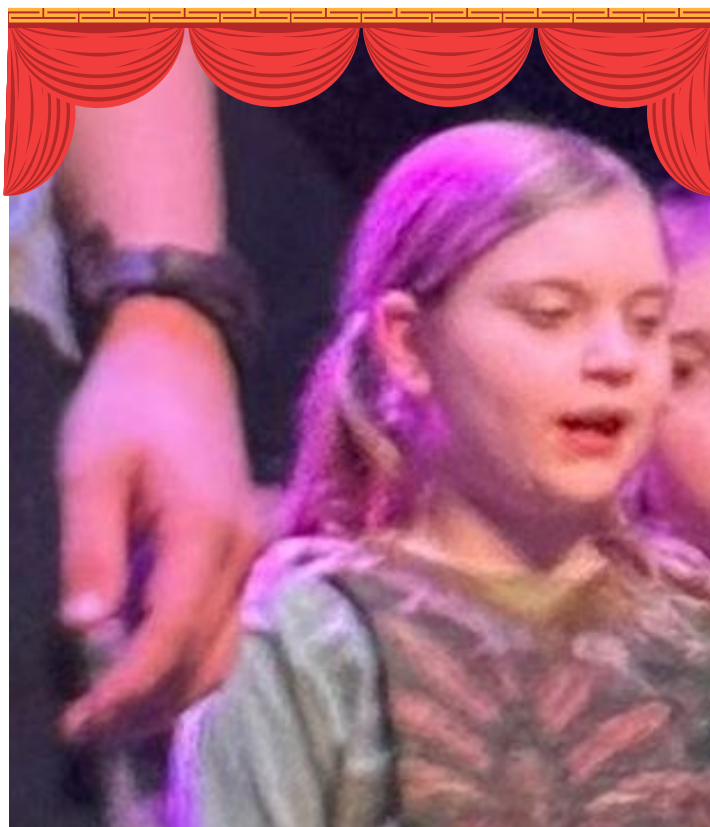


Pupil Achievement – Chloe Takes to the Stage! 🎭💚

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievement of Chloe (Year 5), who recently performed in the stage production of Peter Pan at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable.

Chloe starred as one of the Lost Kids and did an amazing job performing on stage in front of live audiences. Taking part in a theatre production requires confidence, dedication and hard work, and Chloe represented herself brilliantly throughout the show.

We are incredibly proud of her achievement and look forward to seeing what she does next. Well done, Chloe!



SPORTS NEWS

KS2 Dance Squad Shine at the Pyramid Schools Trust Dance Show! 🌟🌟

A massive well done to all members of our KS2 Dance Squad, who absolutely smashed their performance at the Pyramid Schools Trust Dance Show!

From the moment they arrived, the girls were focused, positive and full of enthusiasm. They even arrived early to fit in extra rehearsals, demonstrating fantastic dedication, teamwork and commitment throughout the evening. The group was expertly and passionately led by Miss Moncrieffe, whose energy and encouragement ensured everyone felt confident and fully prepared. When it was time to take to the stage, the dancers were outstanding. Performing with confidence, enthusiasm and beaming smiles, they truly lit up the stage from start to finish. Their High School Musical-themed routine was a real crowd-pleaser - and the songs are still stuck in our heads!

A huge thank you to Miss Moncrieffe for choreographing such a fantastic routine and supporting the pupils every step of the way. We are incredibly proud of every single performer. Stepping onto a stage in front of such a large audience is no easy task, but they did so with confidence and style.

Well done to everyone involved!



Year 6 (B) Boys Football

The Year 6 (B) Boys Football team faced Woodlands in a hard-fought match but were unfortunately defeated on this occasion. Playing in very challenging conditions, the boys showed great resilience, teamwork and character throughout, representing the school with pride.

Special mention goes to Freddie B and Jack S for their standout performances. Well done to all the boys for their commitment and positive attitude. ⚽



Year 7 Boys Rugby

The Year 7 Boys Rugby team faced a strong Pixbrook side in a tough fixture. Despite the result not going their way, the boys showed great courage, commitment and determination, with many experiencing competitive rugby for the first time.

After a challenging first half, the team responded brilliantly and dominated large parts of the second half with some excellent play. Special mentions go to Jasper, George, Brodie, Jake and Yousuf for their outstanding effort and attitude.

Well done to all involved — a promising performance with plenty to build on. 🏉



SPORTS NEWS

Year 7A Football

Although our National Cup journey came to an end against an exceptionally strong Aldenham side, we are incredibly proud of our Year 7A football squad for reaching Round 7 of the competition.

The team has shown great commitment, teamwork and determination throughout the season, achieving an excellent cup run along the way. Reaching this stage is a fantastic accomplishment, and the boys represented the school brilliantly.

Well done on a superb campaign, boys! 🌟



🏆 Cross Country Championships Success! 🏆

An outstanding day at the Cross Country Championships, competing against schools from across Bedfordshire and Luton!

🌟 Jake finished an incredible 1st place

🌟 Bella placed a fantastic 14th

💪 Tom battled hard to finish 34th

Amazing achievements - well done!



KS2 Netball Success! 🏐

Our KS2 netball team delivered a fantastic performance this week, securing brilliant wins against RBA (B) and Henlow.

A huge congratulations to our Players of the Match, Mabel and Izzy, who showed outstanding effort, teamwork and determination on court. We are incredibly proud of the whole team and their continued hard work and commitment.

Well done, everyone — keep it up! 🌟💚



⚽ 5B and 5C Shine Against Pix Brook! ⚽

A huge well done to our 5B and 5C football teams for their excellent performances in their matches against Pix Brook!

It was a fantastic and enjoyable evening of football, with great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship on display.

We're very proud of you all — keep up the brilliant effort! 🌟⚽



PTA NEWS

Mother's Day

We have had a busy few weeks preparing for the Mother's Day Shop. Our wrapping elves are busy working their way through the boxes of gifts, getting everything ready for all the children next week.

Every lunchtime from **Monday 9th – Friday 13th March** in the Library, children will be able to come and purchase gifts. All gifts will be under £5 each. We look forward to seeing the children.



Smarties Challenge

Thank you to everyone who has returned their Smartie tubes. These are currently being counted, and the results for the winning class will be announced soon. It's not too late to return yours if you would still like to take part.



100 Club Winners

Well done to all our winners!

We still have a few numbers left, so please email pta@aa.pstrust.co.uk if you would like one – at just £5 per month.



PTA Newsletter

Next week we will be sharing our very own one-off newsletter, so please keep an eye out for it. It will be full of important information.

Many thanks
PTA

