



Friday 22nd May 2026

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

May Edition

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share with you the May Arnold Update!

It has been another productive and busy half-term. Congratulations to Year 6 on finishing their SATs assessments. This is a significant milestone in completing the primary phase of education.

Although we do not want to create unnecessary anxiety around these tests, they are also an important opportunity for children to learn how to prepare over time for formal assessments in education, perhaps until such a time as the GCSE examination format changes. We were amazed and delighted by how mature, focused and resilient the pupils were. They have enjoyed a more relaxed end to the term and now look forward to either the PGL trip or some fun activities in school on their return after the break.

A huge thank you for your participation in Eco Week. It has made a massive difference to our local community and helped reduce emissions and road congestion. We would like these habits to continue, especially as we can enjoy the beautiful weather while walking across the village to school for the rest of the term. We kindly ask you to continue making arrangements to drop your child off at a suitable location and allow them to stride to school in the coming weeks and months.

Unfortunately, we have recently had to carry out formal sanctions for a small group of pupils following their behaviour choices. I feel it is an important topic to raise and share with you all. This behaviour took place outside school hours, was dangerous and unsafe, and brought the school's reputation into disrepute. We remain committed to investigating incidents such as these and upholding our standards and expectations within the local community.

During the summer months, we often see older children given a little more freedom during the lighter evenings. We have become aware of a growing number of children meeting to play at The Rec (the park at the bottom of Barton Hills), whether they live in the village or not. When children gather in large groups, this is often when we learn of poor behaviour choices or incidents where fun gets out of hand.

As an energetic child myself, I understand the value of fresh air and active play. We do not suggest that parents remove social opportunities during these formative years, and we certainly encourage children to spend time away from technology. However, please be mindful of where your child is going, who they are interacting with, and what they are getting up to. Please check in with your child regularly and ensure they are reminded to behave sensibly and stay safe.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Arnold Update. I hope you enjoy reading about the many wider activities in which our pupils have thrived. Have a lovely half-term break with your family and friends!

Pete Roberts
Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

June

W/C 25th May

25th - Half Term

W/C 1st June

1st - Pupils back at school

1st - Pride Month

1st - 3rd - Y6 PGL Trip

2nd - Y8 HPV Vaccinations (catch up)

5th - Y8 and Sports Team Photos

W/C 8th June

9th - Y5 Whipsnade Trip

11th - Art Exhibition 5pm - 6:30pm

12th - Y5 Cake/Cookie Sale for charity

12th - Y7 & 8 BAE

W/C 15th June

15th all week - PTA Fathers Day Stall library

17th & 18th - Y7 Warwick Castle Trip

18th - Parent Forum 6-7pm

W/C 22nd June

26th - Cultures Day

If you would like to support Team Arnold on our 17km fundraiser, donations can be made here. Thank you for your support.

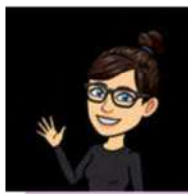


WANT TO SHARE AN ACHIEVEMENT?

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

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

Library Book Sale

Our school library is currently holding a book sale with lots of great reads available for pupils to enjoy at home.

Books are priced at just 50p each or 3 books for £1 a fantastic opportunity to pick up some new stories. Pupils can visit the library during the school day to browse the selection.

Arnold Book Shop

50p each or 3 for £1



Celebrating Our Arnold Values Achievers!

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

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ★ 8JF Leo | ★ 6JW Lara |
| ★ 6FP Harry | ★ 6LN Damian |
| ★ 8JMc Emily | ★ 8KT Aleeza |

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

Accelerated Reader Library Quiz Raffle

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| ★ Adam 8JF | ★ Neevah 5KM |
| ★ Ava 5RF | |



Millionaires Row!



Congratulations to our new Millionaires for May:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ★ Rocco 7JSE | ★ Aiden 5KM |
| ★ Xander 5KM | ★ Ellis 7JSE |



Library Lunch Winners



(for reading 3 million or more words)

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| ★ David 7SR | ★ Annabelle 8DB |
|-------------|-----------------|



Reading Competition



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



5RN



6LN



7JSM



8DB

Arnold Academy Reads!



In April 2026, students have read...

1,220 Books

13,487,654 Words

for **13** minutes/day!

(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®



NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

MONTHLY BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

 **KS2 Recommendation (Ages 9+)**

 **KS3 Recommendation (Ages 12+)**

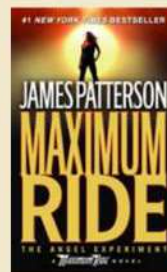
The Secret of Platform 13 - Eva Ibbotson

Every nine years, a secret doorway on a disused platform at King's Cross Station opens for nine days, connecting the mundane world to a magical island inhabited by mermaids, ogres, wizards and other fantastical creatures. When the prince of the island is kidnapped, it's up to a strange band of rescuers to save him. This is a lovely fantasy read, with likeable characters and an engaging storyline with each chapter ending on a note that compels you to read 'just one more'.



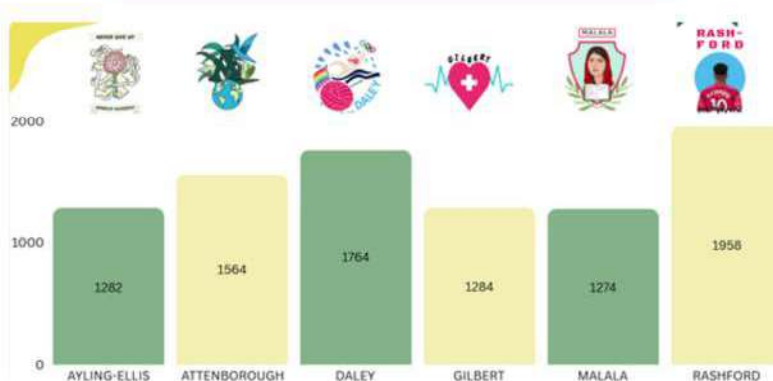
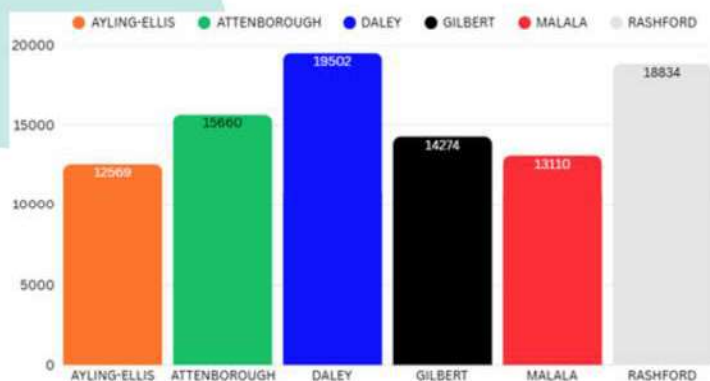
Maximum Ride- James Patterson (ages 12+)

Six children - with no families, no homes- are running for their lives. Max Ride and her friends have the ability to fly. And that's just the beginning of their amazing powers. However, they don't know where they come from, who's hunting them, why they are different from all other humans, and if they are meant to save mankind - or destroy it. A fast-paced, action-packed adventure which is gripping from beginning to end.



ACHIEVEMENT POINTS

HOUSE POINTS



ECO WEEK

We are pleased that so many families took part in our Eco Week Drop Off Challenge. Small changes to our daily routines can make a big impact on the environment, and it was fantastic to see so many pupils choosing active travel options.

As part of our ongoing commitment to healthy lifestyles, active travel, and reducing traffic around school alongside our 'Drop and Go' scheme, we are excited to introduce the Treetly Walking Challenge

Treetly is a free app that allows students to track their daily steps using a phone or smartwatch. Pupils who meet their half-term step goals will earn house points while developing positive daily habits.

Students without access to technology can still take part by recording the minutes they walk each day and emailing totals monthly to Miss Donovan. House points will then be awarded by the ECO Council.

House Codes:

Attenborough: ZM0RHZ

Daley: ODM75P

Ayling Ellis: RCAOMV

Rashford: E3L1NN

Gilbert: G7DNEX

Malala: 547D36

How to Join:

1. Download the Treetly app.
2. Create an account using your child's school email address (please ignore the age prompt).
3. Add your child's form after their surname.
4. Select TOGETHER from the bottom menu.
5. Press the + button and select JOIN Group.
6. Enter your child's house code.
7. Enable step tracking on the device.

We hope this initiative encourages more students to walk, supports wellbeing, and helps create a healthier, more sustainable school community. Thank you for your support.



House Eco Competitions

To celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, students are invited to take part in two exciting eco competitions.

100 Native Species & Eco Photography Challenge
Can our school identify 100 native species of plants and animals in our local area? Students can also enter the Eco Photography Competition by submitting a photo of their local environment with a short explanation. Winning entries will be displayed in the Art Exhibition in June.

Wildlife Documentary Competition

Students are challenged to create a 1-minute David Attenborough-style wildlife documentary using any creative format, including filming, animation, stop-motion, or comics.

Deadline: Friday 5th June

Send entries to Miss Donovan.

House points will be awarded for all entries, with prizes for Year Group winners.

Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday

Deadline: Friday 5th June
Email: Miss Donovan

Can you be **The Next Great Narrator?**

Your challenge is to reimagine a classic David Attenborough nature clip! You will create a 1-minute narration using any creative format you like - think stop-motion, comics, animation, or even filming yourself. Alternatively, feel free to head outdoors and film your very own original "scene in the wild."

House Points for entrants and prizes for Year Group winners

100 NATIVE species for Attenborough



As school can we find **100** different species of **animals** and **plants** in our school neighbourhood and local gardens and outdoor spaces.

Eco Photography competition: A picture of your **local environment**, with some information as to where and why you have chosen it. Winning entries will be part of the Art Exhibition in June.

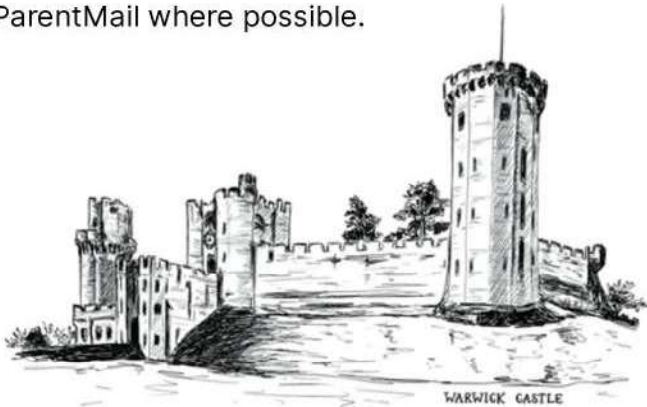
Half term competition: Produce a wildlife documentary with a David Attenborough style voiceover.



Warwick Castle Trip Information

We are excited for our upcoming trips to Warwick Castle for the X Band on 17th June and the Y Band on 18th June! Students are permitted to wear full school PE kit for the day and may bring a maximum of £10 in spending money; while Apple Pay and bank cards are accepted, please note that these remain the student's responsibility at all times.

Please ensure students are prepared for the weather with sun cream and a hat if the weather is warm. Students must bring a packed lunch and a drink - no fizzy/energy drinks. We will depart school as soon as the morning buses arrive, with a scheduled return time between 5:30PM and 6:00PM depending on traffic. To keep you informed, we will send out travel updates via ParentMail where possible.



Arts Exhibition at Arnold Academy



Food Tech Fun!

Take a look at just some of the amazing watermelon sharks our pupils have created in Food Tech!

A fantastic mix of creativity and skill on display – we think they look jawsome! 😊

Well done to everyone involved! 🌟



👏 Mr. Burr was also really impressed with the amazing decorated focaccia breads created by our Year 8 pupils this term! Fantastic creativity, presentation and baking skills on display - amazing!



Team Arnold Fundraiser

This June, members of Team Arnold will be taking on a 17km walk, run or jog in support of our brave and inspiring colleague, Annalisa, and in memory of Gorgeous George, who would now be 17.

Adding an extra challenge, Mr Lumley will complete the distance carrying 17kg! 🍌

The fundraiser is supporting Brain Tumour Research, helping to fund vital research and support families affected by brain tumours.

A huge thank you to Mr Lumley and Miss Howard for organising this event.

Thank you for your support. ❤️

Donate here: [Just Giving Page](#)

Read Annalisa's story: [Annalisa's Story](#)

From Arnold to the World of Social Media!

We were delighted to welcome former pupil Henry Wadsworth back to Arnold yesterday.

Henry spoke to our Year 8 pupils about his unconventional career journey into the exciting world of social media, sharing valuable insights and advice about following your passions and exploring different opportunities.

A huge thank you to Henry for taking the time to inspire our students!



🌍 Eco Council 🌍

Our Eco Council met with Councilor Liz Childs to finalise their exciting plans ahead of Eco Week on 18th May!

Pupils organised a change to school transport plans as part of their work to help make a positive impact on the environment... 🌱



Year 6 Champions League Reaches an Exciting Finale

Starting all the way back in September, the Year 6 Champions League has reached its final fixture for this year's competition. Pibble FC took on Teckers FC in the final. A large crowd gathered to watch the final and, after more than 70 matches played throughout the competition, it all rested on this match to see who would be crowned champions.

The competition was set up 2 years ago to give Year 6 footballers extra opportunities to show their football skills and knowledge. As well as getting to play regular matches in the competition, its aim is to build communication skills and resilience. This is achieved by allowing the children to select and manage their own team whilst sticking to the rules of the competition.

It has been great to see girls' and mixed teams in the competition, and Girls FC managed to reach the quarter-finals. The competition has also given many children the opportunity to play football in a competitive game just for the fun of it.



Champions League Winners 2026
Pibble FC



Thank you to members of the year 6 Girls football team for awarding the medals and winners trophy.



Year 6 Celebrate the End of SATs!

Last week, our fantastic Year 6 pupils completed their SATs tests, and we could not be prouder of the determination, resilience and positive attitude they showed throughout the week. The children approached each day with maturity and gave their very best effort in every test.

To celebrate all of their hard work, Year 6 enjoyed a well-deserved treat last Friday afternoon with ice lollies in the sunshine. It was a lovely opportunity for everyone to relax, celebrate their achievements and enjoy time together after a busy week.

A huge well done to all of Year 6, and thank you to our staff and families for the encouragement and support given throughout the SATs period.



WELL DONE!



PUPIL SPOTLIGHT

Sporting Success for Dunstable Dynamos Players

Congratulations to Ethan, Elijah, Kian and Ellis, who represented their team, Dunstable Dynamos, in the U12 Vase Final of the Chiltern Youth League last Sunday.

The team finished as runners-up against a very strong Biggleswade side, but the boys showed fantastic determination, teamwork, and resilience throughout the match.

They kept their heads up, dug deep, and delivered an excellent team performance.

Well done to all four students on this fantastic sporting achievement — we are very proud of you!



Barton Rovers Whites U10 Celebrate Spring Trophy Success

Congratulations to Barton Rovers Whites U10, who were crowned Spring Trophy champions following a thrilling final last Thursday evening. The team showed fantastic determination, teamwork and skill throughout the match to secure a well-deserved victory.

Well done to all of the players! We are very proud!



SPORTS NEWS

KS3 Athletics

A massive well done to all squad members who have been working hard in PE lessons and at after-school practice in preparation for the season's first triangular fixture.

Due to only having one minibus, all team members were required to compete in both a field event and their preferred track event. This challenged athletes to step outside their comfort zones and compete in events beyond their usual specialisms, which is no easy task.

However, I'm proud to say they all rose to the challenge and performed brilliantly. It was fantastic to see such strong support among teammates throughout the evening, with everyone encouraging one another across all events. We go again this week, starting with after-school training before heading into the second fixture of the season. Well done to everyone involved, such an enjoyable evening and we're looking forward to the next one!

🏆 COUNTY CUP CHAMPIONS – AGAIN! 🏆

Huge congratulations to our Year 7A Football Squad who have done it again!

After an outstanding 5–2 victory over Pix Brook in last week's County Cup Final, the team have been crowned County Cup Champions for the second season running!

An incredible achievement, an unforgettable performance, and a fantastic season from everyone involved. We are extremely proud of the whole squad for their hard work, teamwork and determination throughout the campaign.

🌟 Well done, Year 7A – champions once again! ⚽



Year 7 Rounders

Year 7 had a strong start against Holywell, scoring 11 rounders in the first innings, while Holywell finished on 18. The second innings was more challenging, with our team scoring 4 rounders.

Finishing the game 18 rounders to Holywell and 15 to Arnold Susanna was voted Player of the Match by the opposition for her excellent performance.



County Cup Champions Again!

We are incredibly proud to share that the Arnold Academy Year 6 (A) football team were crowned County Cup Champions this evening following a fantastic 7–0 victory over Brooklands in a derby final between two schools within the trust.

It was an outstanding performance from the whole team from the very first whistle through to the final minute. The boys showed excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout, making themselves and the school extremely proud.

Following the recent success of the Year 7 team also winning the County Cup, our Year 6 squad have now repeated the achievement, making this an incredible season for our pupils, PE department and the staff who have supported the teams along the way.

A special mention must go to team manager, Mr Murphy, whose dedication and commitment to the team, including many late nights, have played a huge part in this success. Congratulations to everyone involved on a brilliant achievement!



PTA NEWS

As we approach the end of May, we have a short but important update from PTA.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported our recent doughnut sales. We are looking forward to our next doughnut sale, which will take place on Friday lunchtime in the Quiet Area. We hope the students enjoy this tasty treat!



ARNOLD ACADEMY PTA

OUR EVER POPULAR DOUGHNUT Sale IS RETURNING!

SPRINKLE DOUGHNUTS FROM Sainsbury's

WHEN: Friday 22nd May

WHERE: Quiet Area

TIME: Lunchtime

Doughnuts are £1 each and are now available to purchase in the ParentMail shop.

Doughnuts will be available for the children to collect from the Quiet Area on Friday 22nd May at lunchtime.

ORDERS CLOSE: FRIDAY 15TH MAY AT 10AM

ARNOLD ACADEMY PTA

We are also continuing to collect donations of Arnold Academy uniform, particularly larger sizes. If you have any pre-loved uniform in good condition that you no longer need, please drop it off at the school office. Your donations are greatly appreciated and help support families within our school community.



WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS!

HELP US KEEP OUR PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP STOCKED!

Your donations help families save money, support our school community and reduce waste by giving uniform a second life.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

- ✓ Jumpers and cardigans
- ✓ Polo shirts
- ✓ Ties

PE KIT

- ✓ PE tops and hoodies
- ✓ Shorts and joggers

PLEASE NOTE:
We only accept Arnold Academy branded uniform and PE kit.

DROP DONATIONS AT RECEPTION

DONATE IT • SHARE IT • SAVE IT

Year 8 parents should now have received information regarding the Year 8 Prom. If you have not received this, please contact the school. We are delighted that this will be a free event for all Year 8 students, giving them the opportunity to celebrate their time at Arnold Academy together. Invitations will be sent out closer to the event.



You're Invited to

PROM 2026

Arnold Academy

Join us to celebrate on

1st July 2026

6:30 – 8:30 PM

★ Dress Code: Smart Dress

👉 Tuck Shop Available

📷 Rebecca Brennan Photography in Attendance

Walk the Red Carpet in Style!

Finally, please make a note in your diaries that our end of year school discos for Years 5, 6 and 7 will take place on **8th July**. Further details will be shared nearer the time.

We wish all our families a wonderful and relaxing May half-term break and thank you for your continued support.

THANK YOU!