



Dear Parents and Carers,

A slightly shorter version of the Arnold Update for you to enjoy this month, as it was only a few weeks since the November edition was published! The end of a long term is upon us and I am sure we will all benefit from a slowing of pace, the alarm clock being turned off and some rest and relaxation over the school break!

It has been a very settled, calm and happy term here at Arnold. In this Arnold Update you will once again enjoy reviewing much of what pupils have been up to in their learning and extra-curricular activities. Lessons have been very focused until the final week of term. In these final few days pupils will enjoy some fun activities in lessons and events such as House Sports competitions, which have been superbly prepared for by Mr Norman. I am extremely proud that staff have maintained such a wonderful wider curricular offer across this first term of the year. We set a high bar with various clubs and activities being introduced last year, it has been impressive that these have not only been maintained, but extended further!

We completed the annual staff survey in November and results were shared with staff, the governing board and Pyramid Schools Trust. The results were really pleasing and it is worth sharing with you the outcomes from some of the areas. There was strong feedback on the clear vision and togetherness we feel as a team. Staff feel supported in regard to their wellbeing, they are proud to be a member of staff here at Arnold! Staff feel pupil behaviour has improved across this last year. They also note there is greater clarity in our expectations around the language used between and toward pupils. Further stakeholder surveys will continue each term and I will continue to update you with results in due course.

We carried out our Parent Forum last week and enjoyed wonderful discussions between a small group of parents, Ms Boston and myself. This is a group we are really keen to grow as we feel strongly about offering parents the opportunity to help us drive change and improvement here at Arnold. While we understand a midweek date in December may have presented various clashes with family commitments and events, I would like to challenge parents to have as many people attend our next meeting. This is booked for Wednesday 31st January at 5pm. Please book your attendance [here](#).

Our school car park has remained busy during the autumn and winter periods at both drop-off and pick-up time. In the mornings, please be considerate that some staff have also been on the 'school run' and are often arriving at the same time you may be dropping your child. Therefore, please do not use spaces which staff need access to in order to get parked and start their working day. Thank you for your patience and consideration of each other during these busy periods. We will continue to maintain a high staff profile at the start and end of the day, on both front and back gates, to assist with safety.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Arnold Update. I hope you have a restful and fun festive break with your family and a happy new year!

Pete Roberts - Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

December

Wc 18th Dec

21st - Christmas Holidays

January

Wc 1st Jan

3rd - Staff Training Day

4th - First Day Back

Wc 22nd Jan

22nd - Yr 7 & 8 Flu Vaccinations

25th - Yr 6 SATs Evening

Reminders

Please name all uniform so that it is easier to return lost property to the correct child.

It has come to our attention that some children are not coming to their lessons with the correct equipment. Please remember that the essential stationary will be needed in all lessons.

Attendance

Please note, if a pupil is reported as ill on the days prior to or after an authorised or unauthorised holiday, parents will be asked to provide medical evidence of the illness. If this is not forthcoming, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. 5 days unauthorised will result in a fine.

Year Group News

YEAR 5



Form with the Highest Attendance

5CP

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

5LN

Announcements

Christmas Carol Concert - Tuesday 19th December

If you have any unwanted board games, please may the year 5 team have them.



YEAR 6

Form with the Highest Attendance

6KM

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

6CF

YEAR 7



Form with the Highest Attendance

7DD

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

7CW

Announcement

Quantum Theatre Company are presenting 'A Christmas Carol' on Friday 12th January.

Thank you to the PTA for funding this performance .



YEAR 8

Form with the Highest Attendance

8SQ

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

8CR

Seasonal Concert

Arnold's Music department performed their seasonal concert to the parents this month.

There was a mix of singing, soloists and the school orchestra performing a range of musical numbers as well as a raffle to raise funds for some new instruments.

We'd like to thank our audience for supporting the pupils and joining in at the end. Special thanks go to Mr Hill, Mr Smale and Mrs Smale for organising this event. Merry Christmas Everyone!!



The Dance Studio

Congratulations to Ella who won 'The Dance Studio' gift voucher. This competition was part of the lunchtime dance club. Everyone that attends the KS2 and KS3 lunchtime club were entered in to a draw to win this voucher. Mr Roberts very kindly picked out our winner, Ella!



December's Spotlight Subject

FOOD

Year 5 Christmas Biscuits

Year 5 have been busy baking festive biscuits in their food lessons. They used a variety of biscuit cutters such as snowflakes and Christmas trees. Some pupils cut a hole in the middle and crushed boiled sweets inside. These melted in the oven to create a stained glass window effect.



Year 6 Gingerbread Men

Our year 6s have also been baking festive treats. They used lots of skills which they have learnt to help them make their gingerbread dough. Their class took inspiration from the boiled sweet windows and decided to use this decoration on some of their biscuits.



Victoria Sponges in Year 7

In year 7, they were set the challenge of making a Victoria sponge cake in their food lessons without a demonstration from Mr Burr. The pupils were asked to research what a Victoria sponge was and then they were given a recipe sheet in their lesson.

Well done to all pupils that were involved. The class had a variety of decorations on their cakes including; fruit arrangements, Christmas tree shapes, and a dusting of icing sugar with the silhouette of a Christmas tree.



'Bake Off' Challenge in Year 8

The year 8s took part in a 'Bake Off Challenge' in their food lessons. The challenge this time was to make some piped Viennese Biscuits.

This was a great way for the year 8s to show off all of their skills which they have been practicing throughout their time at Arnold Academy.

Below are some photos of the Viennese biscuits, which look delicious!





CHRISTMAS AT ARNOLD



Festive Jumpers

It was lovely to see so many of our pupils in their festive jumpers this year. We would like to give a huge thank you to the kitchen who cooked our pupils and staff an amazing Christmas dinner. It was lovely to see so many members of staff helping out in the kitchen as well.



Panto

On Thursday 14th December, our year 5s had an amazing time at The Grove Theatre pantomime watching 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. There were lots of brilliant actors including Steve McFadden (EastEnders), Jaymi Hensley (Union J), and Will Kenning.

It was amazing to see Savanna on stage performing in this years pantomime. Meliha is another one of our pupils involved in the pantomime this year.



PTA Elfidges

On behalf of the whole of Arnold Academy, we would like to give a big thank you to the PTA for organising Elfidges this year. It has been a huge success from day 1. I am sure our pupils can't wait to hand out their gifts to their loved ones at Christmas.



Festive Display Competition

Year 5

- 1st - 5RF
- 2nd - 5LN
- 3rd - 5CP

Year 6

- 1st - 6KL
- 2nd - 6DB
- 3rd - 6KM

Year 7

- 1st - 7CW
- 2nd - 7JW
- 3rd - 7RN

Year 8

- 1st - 8KT
- 2nd - 8GL
- 3rd - 8SQ





SPORTS NEWS



Assessments in PE

The PE department are pleased to share that all pupils at Arnold Academy will now be assessed using the 'Head, Heart, Hands' assessment method. This will involve pupils being assessed in each and every one of the sports taught on the curriculum. Within each sport, pupils will be given a grade in each of the three areas. Please see below the criteria against which pupils will be assessed:

Head: (areas assessed) leadership, decision making, knowledge, communication, analysis, rules.

Heart: (areas assessed) effort, confidence, respect, commitment, resilience, motivation.

Hands: (areas assessed) fitness level, performance, technique, tactics, competition, problem solving.

This assessment method, which is also used at Harlington Upper School, will provide staff with the opportunity to provide more specific feedback to our pupils regarding their strengths and required areas of improvement.

Year 7 Girls Basketball

Congratulations to our year 7 girls basketball team who have reached the basketball play off finals. The winner of this final will be crowned league champions and will go on to represent the Redborne Partnership in the County finals in January. We wish all the girls the best of luck in their next fixture.



Year 6 Netball

On Wednesday 13th December, our year 6 netball team played against Henlow and finished with an amazing win of 8-6. All of the girls played well but the overall player of the match was Blossom.

Our girls have managed to win all three of their fixtures this half term.



Norwich City Football Festival

On Monday 11th December, our Year 7 football squad were one of six schools to take part in the Norwich City U12 Football Festival at the Norwich City Training Centre.

Playing 5 matches both on the inside and outside state-of-the-art pitches, the team performed absolutely superbly, playing some incredible football throughout the day and drawing praise from opposition, officials and Norwich City staff.

A fantastic day was had by all and thank you to the parents for their fantastic support!



DECEMBER COMPETITION WINNER

The competition this month was to write a short story using the prompt given.

Our winner for this month's competition is 7DD who worked together to create a story. They have chosen a book that they can all enjoy together.

If you would like to have a go at being next month's winner, have a read of the competition below. If you win, you will receive one of five £5 vouchers which can be used at the book fayre that Arnold will be hosting in February.



COMPETITION

Have a go and hand it in to the front office to be entered for a chance to win one of 5 £5 vouchers for our book fayre in February!

You've been given the task of redesigning the front cover of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the wardrobe. It is up to you to decide what the new cover will look like.

**Competition closes
on 26th January.**

Wrest Park Christmas Light Trail

Silsoe's Wrest Park are hosting a Christmas light trail this year. Work your way around the gardens as you follow the lights. Enjoyable for all the family with festive food and drinks on offer at the venue.

If you are interested, book your tickets through their website www.christmaswrestpark.com or through the QR code below. If you are an English Heritage member don't forget your 33% off.

**IT'S BACK!
WITH A BRAND NEW
TRAIL FOR 2023**

**Christmas
AT WREST PARK**

An Enchanted Christmas Light Trail

Christmas at Wrest Park is a brand new light trail, packed with colour, lights and interactive play. Step into an enchanting winter wonderland and discover surprises around every corner, including the sensational Starburst Garden, the beautiful Creek Chorus, the mysterious Shadow Pavilion and the Disco Fountains. Many more surprises await you including the stunning Continuum by Illumaphonium. Enjoy some festive food, warming cocktails, hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows as you embark on an unforgettable journey and immerse yourself in a world of sparkle and cheer.

This magical light trail is full of picture perfect moments as you make memories with family, friends and loved ones at this seasonal classic with a contemporary twist. Book now to secure the date and time of your choice. ChristmasatWrestPark.com

Prices from:
Adult - £19.75
Child (3-16) - £13
Family - £33.52
Groups (15+) - £17
Carers/Infants (0-2) - free
English Heritage members get 33% off!
Join today at English-Heritage.org.uk

All tickets are subject to booking and transaction fee.
Photos of premises, trail,
Trail and installations may be subject to change

SCAN ME

From 1 December
Wrest Park
ChristmasatWrestPark.com

KILNBRIDGE

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