



Dear Parents and Carers,

The first edition of the Arnold Update for 2024 has arrived! If I have not had the opportunity to say this in person, Happy New Year! Spring Term is always a very short period and I can't believe we have just two weeks of school until the mid-point.

In our January staff training day, we reviewed our termly focus. We will be focusing on the following areas across this short term. The quality of pupil's work; by driving standards in the quality of presentation and content our pupils produce. Continuing to develop stronger relationships with our parents and carers; as we have all year groups parents' evenings during this term. Considering our own wellbeing, and that of others; as winter, and particularly January, is a tough month for all. Mindfulness for our staff and our pupils is never more important to maintain a happy and positive school.

At the start of the term, our revised end of term pupil reports were sent to you as parents and carers. We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your feedback in assisting with the amendments we have made to these, we have had some really lovely feedback in regard to the improvements. We look forward to parents' evenings for Year 6 and 8 and Year 5 and 7 respectively, before and after half-term, to discuss your child's progress either in person or via virtual appointment. While Year 6 and 8 parents received their booking information a few weeks ago, Year 5 and 7 parents can expect their letter informing them of booking arrangements during the week commencing 26th February. The parents' evening for Year 5 and 7 is Monday 18th March (in-person) and Thursday 21st March (on-line).

We carried out another Parent Forum this week. We shared information about the government scheme to develop wrap-around for pupils up to the end of Key Stage 2. We also enjoyed excellent discussions and ideas around our rewards system and trips and visits. Over the coming weeks the team will continue to review these areas; we will update you in due course with amendments to our offer. We are trialing a different day for our next Parent Forum meeting, based on feedback; therefore, please be advised, we have set aside Tuesday 12th March for our next meeting. We will send out a reminder and booking form closer to the date.

Last week we opened our playground equipment. Many of you will have seen the photos via an update on our social media channels. We have been really delighted about how well this has been received by our pupils and how it continues to add fun and variety to the way your children can enjoy their free time at school!



Once again, thank you for taking the time to read the Arnold Update. As always, there are so many stories of wonderful learning and achievement. I hope you enjoy it!

Pete Roberts - Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

February

Wc 5th Feb

5th - Yr 6 & 8 Parent

Consultations 4pm

8th - Yr 6 & 8 Parent

Consultations (virtual) 4pm

Wc 12th Feb

Children's Mental Health Week

15th - Holocaust Museum Visit
(in school)

Wc 19th Feb - Half Term

January Hundred Club Winners

The winners of the
Hundred Club this
month are:

1st — L. Taylor

2nd — A. Read

3rd — A. Smart

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 5

Form with the Highest Attendance

5LH

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

5CP

Announcements

If you have any unwanted board games, please may they be donated to the year 5 team.



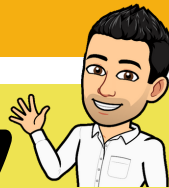
YEAR 6

Form with the Highest Attendance

6DB

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

6CF



YEAR 7

Form with the Highest Attendance

7FP

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

7FP



YEAR 8

Form with the Highest Attendance

8KT

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

8SQ

Announcements

Holocaust Museum Visit on Thursday 15th February, kindly funded by the PTA.

LGBTQ+ Awareness and Mental Health workshop for Parents

Central Bedfordshire Council are offering sessions on LGBTQ+ awareness and mental health.

The virtual session will be on Thursday 8th February – 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Outline of session

- Understanding gender and sexuality
- Terminology and language – why is it important?
- Challenges around being LGBTQ+, what society tells us... Law, adopting riskier strategies, coming out etc.
- The best ways to support young people identifying as LGBTQ+

To book a place on this workshop, please email luke.geary@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Our School Charity - Keech Hospice

As you know, this year the pupils have chosen Keech Hospice as our school charity. We started our fundraising in December with the Christmas Jumper Day which raised £85.14.

In the summer, we will be taking part in Keech's 'Short Tail Trail' and will be decorating a tortoise (and maybe a hare!) which will be displayed in Luton. More details can be found [here](#).

The School Council has recently set each class a £30 form challenge (that's £1 per pupil) to be completed by 16th February.

We are already hearing of great fundraising ideas, such as:

- 20p coin collection
- A cookie sale
- Badges for sale
- Earning £1 by doing a chore at home
- Collecting spare change at home

We really do value your support with your child's class challenge and we will keep you updated with their efforts in the next Arnold Update.



The Pyramid Schools Trust

I am delighted to inform you that, on Thursday 1 February, Harlington and Sundon Lower Schools joined The Pyramid Schools Trust.

The Trust family now consists of Harlington Lower, Ramsey Manor Lower, Sundon Lower, Westoning Lower, Arnold Academy, Parkfields Middle and Harlington Upper School.

In June 2020, when the Trust officially formed, our mission was to create 'a family of schools growing and succeeding together', and I truly believe that a system where children can progress through their education in a group of schools who work together is really special. Children can join us in Early Years and stay within the Trust family until they leave education for employment, higher education or university.

This is a really exciting time for our Trust as we welcome new schools and families. I want to assure you that we will always ensure the best interests of our pupils, colleagues and families will remain at the centre of everything we do.

With warm wishes

Steve Kelly
CEO



Daisy's Big Night of Musicals

Daisy was given the opportunity to appear on the 'Big Night of Musicals' with the musical theatre group she attends, NGYT. The show was hosted by Jason Manford and Daisy got the opportunity to sing alongside Beverley Knight to the song 'Seasons of Love'. This was performed at the AO Arena Manchester in front of 12,000 people. Daisy enjoyed every second of this wonderful experience and she should be very proud of herself.



Updates from the PTA

Pre loved uniform ParentMail shop

Thank you for all of the orders that have been made so far via ParentMail for pre loved uniform. As we have been overwhelmed with the number of school jumpers, cardigans and rugby tops that have been donated, we will be running a flash sale on these items from Monday 5 February to Friday 9 February, where the price for these items will be reduced. A reminder will be sent out closer to the time via ParentMail.

Please note that we collate all orders that have been made via ParentMail on a Friday for them to be sent home with your child.



Mothers and Others shop

Monday 4 March to Friday 8 March

Our Mothers and Others shop will be open for the children to purchase gifts for mums and other females (or males) who they want to recognise on Mother's Day on Sunday 10 March.

Gifts will start from £2 and we will have a wide range available to purchase. We look forward to seeing all the children to assist with their shopping.



Say hello to Frank...

Frank is an 8 year old Newfoundland, who has been a working therapy dog most his life. He is here at Arnold Academy with Mrs Gordon to help children build their self-confidence and share their feelings. Pupils may see him around the school and have been made aware of what is allowed and what isn't.



Reading Competition

Each month the house with the most words read in each year group wins a point for their house and a 'Reading trophy' for their form tutor to display in their room. A reading badge of honour is then placed on the house boards for everyone to see and celebrate. Below are the winners of January.



Arnold Academy Reads!

In January 2024, students have read...

2,059 Books

36,194,363 Words

for **31** minutes/day!

(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader®

Little Princess Trust

Chloe in year 6 recently cut and donated 12 inches of her hair to the Little Princess Trust so that her hair could be used to make a wig for a child.

Chloe has been growing her hair for 3 years for this cause and has recently chopped off an amazing 12 inches to donate to the Trust.

The Little Princess Trust provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or to other conditions such as Alopecia.

The charity is also one of the largest funders of childhood cancer research in the UK.

The Little Princess Trust relies solely on the generosity of its wonderful supporters who help the charity give Hair and Hope to so many children and young people with cancer each year.

If you would like to donate to The Little Princess Trust, follow the link to Chloe's page [here](#).



Bedfordshire County Swimming Championships

On the 28th of January, Jack in Year 7 competed in the Bedfordshire County Swimming Championships and won a Bronze medal in the 800m freestyle and Gold in the boys 13 years Medley Relay team which also saw them become County Champions. Congratulations, Jack (and team) and good luck for your next three races.



'A Christmas Carol'

Year 7 had an enjoyable morning watching the very talented actors of Quantum Theatre perform 'A Christmas Carol' on Friday 12th January. It was an excellent performance that brought the story to life for the pupils.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA who funded this amazing experience for our pupils and made it possible.



Online Safety Sessions

The Safety Centre's education team are running parent and carer online safety workshops to help adults support their children safely use and enjoy the online world. Sessions cost £5 and last for 45 minutes.

There's been a lot of news coverage recently about the dangers young people face when they're gaming, using the internet and apps and as a safety education charity they're here to support families navigate this complex topic. Sessions will cover the dangers young people can face on apps and games, oversharing, live streaming, grooming, cyberbullying, sexting, what parents can do to help including setting parental controls, monitoring apps and conversations and family agreements. They'll also share online resources for family agreements and a wider range of online tools to help start family conversations.

Tickets can be purchased [here](#).



Book Fair

We are pleased to announce that on Thursday 8th February until Tuesday 13th February, we will be visited by the travelling Book Fair. On these days, we will be hosting a pop-up book shop in the library that brings the very best in children's books - from award-winners and the newest titles to treasured classics.

The range includes chapter books, books for reluctant readers, older fiction, non-fiction, home learning and lots more. It's a range you can trust too - every book is carefully read and selected by the book fair's Book Buying Team. Each pupil will have some time throughout the day to peruse the book fair and then make a purchase if they wish. Payment can be made in cash on the day.

If you have any further questions, please email admin@aa.pstrust.co.uk

BOOKS WANTED

If you have any of the following books that you are about to give away, we would be very grateful if you could donate them to our library. These are some of the books that our pupils are currently asking for.



Lottie Brooks Collection
by Katie Kirby



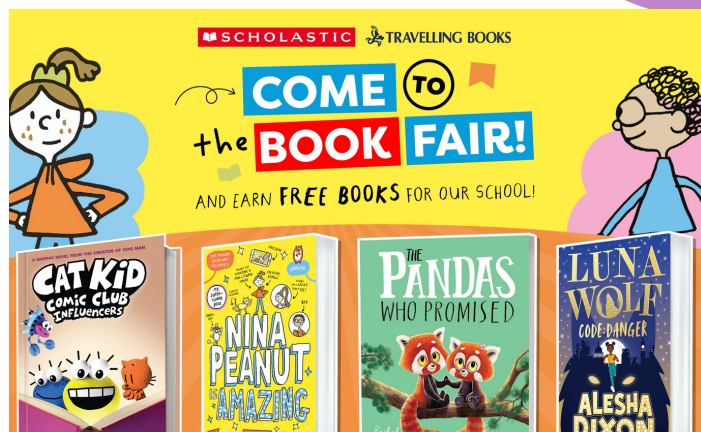
Babysitter Club Collection
by Ann Martin



Dog Man Collection
by Dave Pilkey



Bunny Vs Monkey Collection
by Jamie Smart





SPORTS NEWS



Tennis Coach

Our year 7 boys had a great time practicing the key skills of tennis with Megan, an external tennis coach from The AceWay. They worked in groups of three to throw, hit and catch the ball using precision and accuracy.



Year 5 Netball League

Our year 5s had their first game against Alameda Middle School on Wednesday 17th January. Unfortunately the game didn't result in a win, however they all worked together as a team and Miss Nicholls was very proud of them. Well done to Maddy who was voted player of the match.



Year 7 Football

Our fantastic Year 7 Boys Football Team progressed to the U12's District Cup Semi Finals V Kempston Academy on Wednesday 10th January.

They played a brilliant game and ended up with a 5-1 win against Kempston Academy! The boys will now move on to the District Cup Final. The date for this fixture will be announced at a later date.

Basketball

A huge congratulations to our year 7 girls basketball team who have been victorious in the 2024 Basketball County Finals!

The girls worked incredibly hard together and won all 6 of their fixtures throughout the tournament. We are very proud of them. In celebration, the girls were all rewarded with a waffle and popcorn celebration.



Basketball Team Coaching

Our basketball teams have experienced a training session from the coaches at Bedford Academy Basketball Academy this month.

Their skills were put to the test in these drills and required them to practice their resilience. Some of the skills they practiced included; dribbling, shooting, passing and their defense tactics.

