



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Summer Term! We are very much looking forward to many exciting events over the coming months, now if someone could inform the weather to start spring already!

Each term we review our school progress and create termly focused objectives as a staff body. This term we will be focusing on the areas below. These have been discussed with our pupils during assemblies.

1. Consistency in learning routines
2. Stronger relationships with our pupils
3. Developing respectful citizens

It is not often that I use the opportunity of the Arnold Update front page to express strong views on topics, but in this edition I wish to challenge parents on two agendas. I very much hope you know me well enough by now and this communication is received as intended. The following comes from a place of passion and care for the pupils, the school and the wider community.

Our annual Parent Survey is open for comment and will close on Friday 10th May. Last year we had just 164 parents complete it. Please could I challenge all parents and carers to provide us with feedback. Whether you are happy or disappointed with areas of the school, your voice is important. As usual, there is also a free comment box and a chance to leave your contact details, should you wish. The Senior Team will be contacting all parents who leave their details and wish to further discuss any matter you see fit. The link to the survey is [HERE](#).

Following our return to school we have seen a rise in anti-social issues occurring online. There is an unprecedented relationship with the number of these events which occur on apps such as Whatsapp and Snapchat. As a school, we send out regular online safety advice, from National Online Safety, via our Facebook page. I am extremely concerned of how many of our pupils use these apps, despite the age restriction being 13+ or 16+. There is a concerning rise in mental health issues with our young people globally. The scientific data linking the effect of the use of screens, technology and social media with mental health issues is profound. I challenge all of us as parents of middle school age children (including myself) to consider:

Are you limiting your child's access to technology to ensure they live a healthy life?
Do you have in place sensible screen time limits for your child?
Do you adhere to the NSPCC's well considered views on age restrictions?
Do you monitor your child's phone and know what they do online?

On Wednesday of this week we held an e-safety event which was supported by two professional agencies. Parents could join in-person or online, however, we had very poor engagement in this event. The presentations were recorded and a link will be sent to you via Parentmail. If you ever need any advice on online safety and managing this with your child, do not hesitate to reach out to us!

As an Arnold community, consistency in parenting our children with technology use, along with strong communication, will help us all to develop happy, confident young people. I would like to thank many of you for your support resolving recent incidents. Together we are stronger!

As we only just returned from the break from school holidays, this is a slightly shorter version of the Arnold Update this month. I hope you very much enjoy it!

Pete Roberts – Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary

May

WC 6th May

6th - Bank Holiday Monday

WC 13th May

SATs Week

WC 20th May

21st - Parent Forum 6.30pm

WC 27th May

May Half Term

WC 3rd June

3rd- First day back

PTA Vacancy

Our fantastic Treasurer, Mel, will be stepping down from this position at the end of this school year. We are now looking for her replacement - are you in a position where you could support the PTA in this role? If you are interested, please contact the PTA by email - pta@aa.pstrust.co.uk

Year Group News

YEAR 5



Form with the Highest Attendance

5LN

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

5CP

Announcements

Year 5 Trip to Whipsnade Zoo. Please make payment and give your consent via ParentMail by Sunday 5th May



YEAR 6

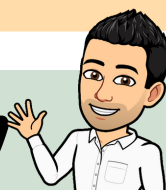
Form with the Highest Attendance

6JF

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

6CF

YEAR 7



Form with the Highest Attendance

7CW

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

7CW

Announcements

Year 7 trip to Box End. Please make payment and give your consent via ParentMail by Friday 24th May.



YEAR 8

Form with the Highest Attendance

8SQ

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

8SQ

Announcements

Willen Lake - End of Year Trip. Please make payment and give your consent via ParentMail by Tuesday 14th May.



Parent Forum

A reminder that our next Parent Forum will be Tuesday 21st May at 6.30pm. We will be discussing stakeholder surveys and Parents Evenings. Please register your in-person attendance [HERE](#). A virtual meeting link will also be shared with parents nearer the time via Parentmail, for those wishing to join online.

Free Course For Parents-Carers Helping Children With Maths – Special SATS Edition

Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy is delivering a free course to help you feel confident supporting your child through their Maths SATS.

Build confidence with your ability to support your child in preparing for their Maths SATS tests. Explore engaging activities you can do at home to make revising maths skills more exciting in everyday life.

When? Starting Friday 12 April 2024 for 3 weeks

Where? Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Hub, Parkside Drive, Houghton Regis, LU5 5PY

Time - Half days on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings

For more information on the course and to enrol, [please click here](#).

This course is free for adults (aged 19 years and older) in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough.

Chiltern's Day At The Discovery Centre

Chiltern had a great day out discovering great things at the Discovery Centre (including the cafe!), followed by an end of term treat at McDonalds. The children practised their independence skills of being out and about, talking to members of staff, ordering snacks and food and managing their own money.



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 March.

MARCH Reading Champions

The forms with the most words read this month are ...

 **March**
5LN

 **March**
6DB

 **March**
7RN

 **March**
8JSE

House scores have been updated.
Each class reading score is on display in the library

Get Reading Everyone!



Gorgeous George - 15 Hours Walking Over One Weekend In The Peak District

Gorgeous George Fox, who would be 15, is a very much missed and fondly remembered member of our school community. A group of staff from Arnold Academy, George's school, are aiming to complete 15 hours walking through the Peak District in one weekend. This is to raise funds for both Brain Tumour Research and Keech Hospice (our school's chosen charity for the year) as a way to remember George, though as a school, we will never, ever forget him. Please feel free to choose either or both charities, we are grateful for any donations at all. For some of us, the biggest challenge will be the two nights camping this requires! If you would like to support our members of staff, please [click here](#) to donate.

Finding Angles in Maths

One of our year 8 maths classes had an interactive lesson on the playground. They were challenged to measure and draw acute and obtuse angles on the floor outside. Our pupils had a great time getting out of the classroom to solve their maths problems.



100 CLUB

1st - P. Freeman

2nd - E. Bork

3rd - T. Jennings









Arnold Academy Reads!

In March 2024, students have read...

1,995 Books

49,666,386 Words

for **48** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®



SPORTS NEWS



The PE team are this term once again looking forward to providing new sporting opportunities for all pupils at Arnold Academy. Pupils will be learning the sports of Tennis, Athletics, Cricket, Rounders and Handball and will continue to receive personalised feedback on their progress through the 'Head, Heart, Hands' assessment strategy.



Extra-curricular opportunities this term will also see competitive sporting opportunities set up in the sports of cricket, rounders and athletics, whilst we also look forward to our Year 7 District Football Final and Year 6 County Cup Football Final.

[Click here](#) to see what extra curriculum clubs and activities we offer during the Summer Term.



This summer term will also see a push to increase the enjoyment of running within the school. A life-long skill that is so integral to so many sports on our curriculum, we hope to promote healthy-habits and a life-long passion for running within the school.

Take a look at our District and County Champions girls basketball team sporting our fabulous new kit by Prestige. A huge thank you to Partnership Education Ltd for sponsoring our basketball kit. We can't wait to see our basketball teams using the kit in future fixtures and tournaments.

If your company would like to sponsor one of our teams, please get in contact with us at admin@aa.pstrust.co.uk



REMINDERS

As we are now entering the summer term, we are hopeful for better weather. This in mind, we would like to remind pupils of the importance to ensure they have a water bottle with them for their PE lesson to keep hydrated. It may also be necessary to bring in a hat/sunscreen for protection if the weather starts getting hotter.

It is important to make sure your child's uniform is labeled so that it can easily be returned if lost during their PE lesson or break times. Uniform is likely to be misplaced in the Summer term due to lots of pupils taking their jumpers off in their PE lessons.