



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for taking the time to read the May Arnold Update!

I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils. National SATS assessments were completed last week and our pupils were fabulous. We were really impressed with how they wanted to do their best and worked so hard, whilst also balancing their well-being by maintaining their hobbies, interests and social lives!

Thank you to those of you who took the time across this last month to complete a stakeholder survey. I am pleased to report that we had 247 parent responses, in comparison to 164 last year. It would be wonderful if we can continue to improve upon this engagement each year.

The feedback from the surveys has been reviewed and discussed in our senior leadership meetings, with all staff and governors, as well as with parents at our most recent Parent Forum. We are extremely pleased with positive improvements and views shared in almost every area of the survey! We remain committed to develop the social interactions and kindness between children, as this remains an area of focus moving forward. As outlined last month, we are focusing on developing respectful citizens this term. Our first of four key values at Arnold is:

“We value others and treat everyone with respect and kindness.”

Across the coming month, we will be calling key parents, who indicated concerns regarding this area and supplied their contact name/details, as part of the survey. We will also be creating some small focus groups of children, to better understand the issues they are experiencing. This will help us attain more qualitative information before creating tangible actions. In the Parent Forum we also discussed the need for parental engagement, in particular with the use of social media and interactions using technology. There were concerns shared regarding the impact of smart phones, apps and devices and how children communicate between each other in this current age. To use the quote; ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ means that the upbringing of a child takes the collective responsibility of a whole community. I hope we can all work together to create a safer Arnold community, both in person and on-line for our pupils. If all parents and the school align in this area, this would be a very powerful and supportive group. I will continue to drive this notion and topic forward in future Parent Forums.

Our next parent forum will be Wednesday 3rd July at 5pm. We will be discussing SEND and mental health support and advice. These are two hugely important areas, so please strongly consider attending to the evening if you haven't attended thus far! Please register your attendance [HERE](#). A virtual meeting link will also be shared with parents nearer the time via Parentmail, for those who wish to join online.

Finally, I have some exciting news about an activity-based wrap-around club coming soon to Arnold. Keep an eye out on our social sites and on Parentmail for more information!

I hope you enjoy this edition of our monthly newsletter. I wish you all an enjoyable bank holiday weekend and half-term break with your family and friends.

Pete Roberts – Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

June

Pride Month

WC 3rd June

3rd - First day back
3rd - 5th - Year 6 PGL

WC 10th June

Father's Day PTA Stall

11th - Yr 5 Whipsnade Zoo Trip

WC 17th June

17th - Eid
17th - Personal Safety Week

WC 24th June

25th - Celebrating our Cultures
25th - French Visit to Silsoe

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

5CE

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

5LN



YEAR 6

Form with the Highest Attendance

6DB

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

6DB

YEAR 7



Form with the Highest Attendance

7CW

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

7FP



YEAR 8

Form with the Highest Attendance

8SQ

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

8JSM

Pupils' School Equipment

We have noticed that some children are missing basic equipment when they come into lessons. Please would you check that your child has equipment as suggested here:

Equipment List:



Pencil case

Pencils

Black or blue pen

Rubber

Ruler

Pencil sharpener

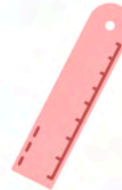
Yellow highlighter

Glue stick

Board pen

Reading book

Basic set of colouring pencils



KS3 Equipment List:

As above plus:

Scientific calculator

If your child is missing basic equipment during a lesson, you will be alerted via ClassCharts. If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Alison Boston

Ready, Steady, Read!

To celebrate and encourage a lifelong love of reading at home and school, we are running a sponsored read between Friday 24th May to Sunday 2nd June.

The project is being organised in conjunction with our local Usborne Partner, Sophie Wright, and all the money raised will go towards brand new books for our school. In addition to the sponsorship money, Usborne will also donate up to 60% of the total raised in EXTRA FREE BOOKS to the school.

If you are able to support our sponsored read, please check your Parentmail for a sponsorship form and reading log, which was sent out previously. Pupils can also collect additional copies of both from Mrs Molyneux in the school library.



Up for a Challenge?

Take part in our

Ready Steady Read

from 24/05/24 to 02/06/24



GET SPONSORED, GET READING
AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE!



Summer Reading Challenge

This year, the Summer Reading Challenge is called 'Marvellous Makers' and is all about being creative.

It will take place from Friday 19th July - Saturday 7th September 2024. Children are encouraged to read whatever they choose for the challenge, recognising the importance of reading for pleasure in increasing empathy and improving well-being, as well as in children's educational success. The theme this year is arts, crafts and creativity. From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone!

The Challenge:

- Children must be members of the library service. Join the library online or go to your local library.
- The challenge invites children to read any six library books or more during the summer holidays.
- Children can borrow books or read e-books, magazines and audiobooks.
- Children are awarded a certificate and a medal for reading 6 books.
- Children completing the challenge (6 books) will be entered into a lucky dip at their library for the chance to win a £70 voucher to The Works, to buy arts, crafts and books.

ANY ENQUIRIES
treynolds@harlington.org

DESIGN EXHIBITION

ART
FASHION
PRODUCT DESIGN

TUESDAY
2ND JULY
4PM-6:30PM

HARLINGTON UPPER SCHOOL

15 Hours Walking in the Peak District

Ms Dunnigan, Mrs Horan, Miss Donovan, Miss Howard, Mr Lumley, and Mr Higgins completed a weekend of walking 15 hours through the Peak District this month.

After day one, they had walked an impressive 40.3km with an elevation of 1,288!

Our amazing members of staff walked 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, a very much missed and fondly remembered member of our school community.

If you would like to support, please visit the Just Giving page [here](#). We would be grateful for any donations at all.



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 April.

APRIL Reading Champions

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



House scores have been updated.

Each class reading score is on display in the library

Get Reading Everyone!



Parliament Assembly

Our pupils received a visit from a Parliament representative in their assembly to talk about Democracy and what our rights are. During this interactive session, the pupils learnt what parliament is, what the houses of commons and parliament are, how you vote for an MP, what MP's do and what the government do. They were also given examples of how a Bill turns into a law, as well as, what the children can do to get involved (ie email local MP). It was lovely to see our pupils getting involved in a fun way to learn about Democracy.



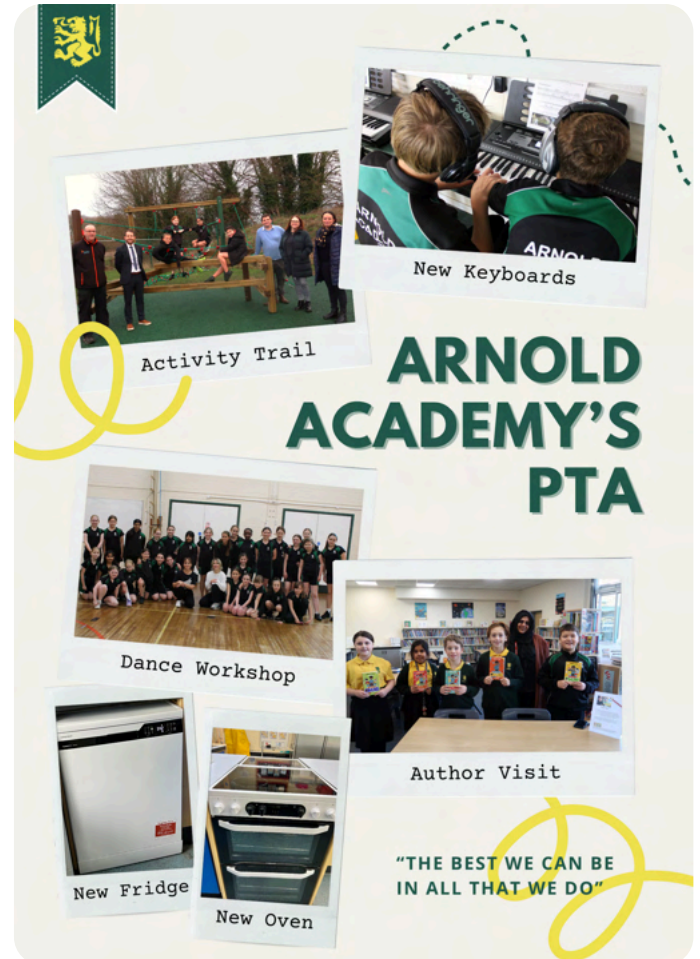
Year 6 SATs

A massive congratulations to our Y6 pupils for their hard work, effort and resilience during SATs week. They were a credit to the school and have made us all very proud! Well done to our lovely Y6s!



PTA Funding In The School

We would like to say a huge thank you to our PTA for all of the fundraising they do throughout the year. Our PTA have provided lots of exciting workshops, theatre productions, author visits and equipment for our pupils over this year alone. Some of these can be seen below. Without our amazing PTA at Arnold, our pupils would not have been able to experience all of these exciting opportunities.



ECO WEEK

Eco Week ran with every year group carrying out some form of practical activity outside, that brought them closer to nature and the natural world. This year we have focused on improving the biodiversity of the school grounds and 100 new hedges comprising of native species including holly and field maple were planted by the students to provide future habitats for insects and bird life.



The UK is now one of the most nature depleted countries in the world and at Arnold we hope to make a positive difference to our local environment.

In lively land, with the expertise of Mr Lumley, groups built newt ponds to encourage greater biodiversity of amphibians and 150 native plants were planted along the marginal fringe of the river that was sparse, to encourage greater wildlife. Maybe one day the voles will return. The Eco council are committed to reviving the chalk stream we are lucky enough to have on our site.

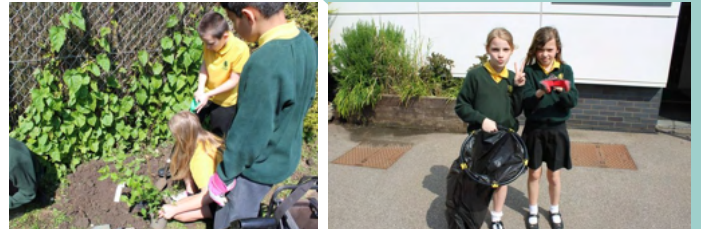


At the front of the school 190 wildflowers native to clay soils were planted to encourage the growth of a wildflower meadow. This is a long term project so will take a few years to reach fruition, but again will create another vital habitat that can also be studied by the students in future years to come. During these sessions many insects were found, including the wonderful cockchafer and several unusual beetles.

Students identified different plants and insects on the school site and all enjoyed the sunshine during the week. It has helped to renew their love of the outside environment and highlight the importance of being outside for mental health and wellbeing, alongside the environmental impact and the problems currently affecting our local environment and the planet.

Pupils took part in several onsite litter picks and KS3 went into the community, litter picking the streets of Barton-le-Clay and the Springs. We hope to make this more of a regular activity and would love other members of the community to join. If you know of any particular areas of concern, please do email Miss Donovan and we'll try to organise an event there.

With the enthusiasm of the students Miss Donovan will be relaunching the Eco Council after half term and will be asking for applications from all age groups, so if you really enjoyed the work that was carried out and have a commitment to making a difference to the school and the community please do apply. There will also be an Eco/gardening club running after school on Wednesday after half term to continue the work of Eco Week and to care for our new plants, so please do sign up with Miss Donovan 3:30pm-4:30pm. Students will need to be collected from school.



Students also learned the problems affecting the planet in other lessons. Aylah and Isla wrote the poem below inspired by the poem 'I tried to write a poem about a clean green world'. Listen to it [here](#).

OUR WORLD

What has our world come to

Yet still we have a million things to do

I dream of a place where nature would freely run

People play outside and have fun

A place where the sun would shine

I wish this poem were only one line.....

But I know there's no point in trying

You have probably been lying

Thinking that the world is great

When really it is slowly dying

The world gets hotter and people do nothing

Make changes for the world to be a better place

Before time runs out and its all too late



AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR GOVERNING BODY



Simon Oxley – Chair of Governors

I have been a governor at Arnold since 2016, and chair since 2020. Both my children attended the school, having been to Ramsey, and then moved on to Harlington. I live in Barton, and work for BBC Three Counties. My time as a governor has seen a period of expansion at the school; the formation of an academy trust which we subsequently joined; two Ofsted inspections; and of course the pandemic. I have worked with a number of governors in that time, and am excited by the challenges ahead with a largely new group of colleagues.

Farzana Choudhury - Parent Governor

Hello everyone! I'm thrilled to introduce myself as both a proud parent governor and a dedicated HRM lecturer, juggling the joys of motherhood with my passion for education and professional development.

I am committed to representing the voices and interests of families, especially those with children with SEND, within our school community. I advocate for policies and initiatives that ensure every child receives the support they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. I'm excited to collaborate with fellow governors, educators, and parents to create a vibrant and supportive school community where every child can thrive and succeed.



Dr Mohammad Alramahi - Parent Governor

I introduce myself as a Parent Governor at Arnold Academy. In my professional life as a University Lecturer, I have gained considerable experience in a range of relevant areas, from having a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and to focus on achieving results through keeping abreast with key updates in teaching and learning, curriculum development, and from related-government departments such as DfE, Ofsted, OfS etc. I have also received extensive training in areas useful to school governance. I am passionate about improving educational standards and the wellbeing of pupils at Arnold Academy, by increasing the effectiveness of governing boards and promoting high standards.



AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR GOVERNING BODY



Zahara Kayani- Parent Governor

I am a practising BACP registered person centred counsellor. I have worked in adult and children's charities around Bedfordshire and now work in my own private practise. I have extensive experience of working with people who are suffering with their mental well-being. I find myself wanting to help people reach their full potential and recognise that as parents our children are always our focus. We are always striving to do the best we possibly can for them and we want the best for them. I feel it is important for our children to feel safe and happy at school, therefore I will use my listening and empathy skills to help continue making a positive difference in the school.

Paul Newton - Community Governor

I am Paul Newton, a new Community Governor at Arnold Academy. Many people locally will know me through my role as the Head Coach & Chair of Trustees at Pulloxhill Gymnastics Centre, and Director of Gymnastics Reborn Ltd. I am, however, also the Managing Director of a family run Legal, HR and Health and Safety Consultancy Company, Newton Sports Consultancy Ltd, where we spend our time helping ensure Sports Centre, Clubs and Facilities around the UK maintain the highest standards of safety and compliance. In my spare time, I judge Gymnastics for Great Britain around the world.



Vicky Pymont - Parent Governor

I am a Chartered Accountant who has worked in the Leisure, Hospitality, Entertainment and Construction sectors. I have been a Governor for 2 years with focus areas of Safeguarding and Maths. I also have 2 children at the school.

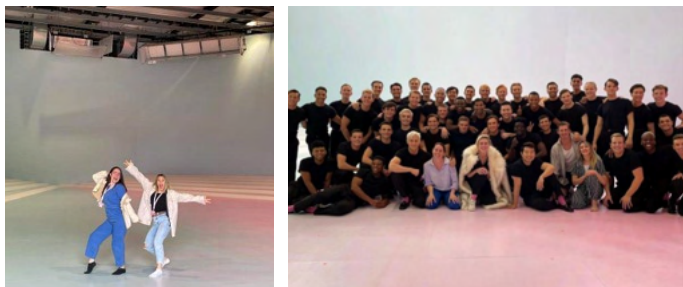
Jo Hanley - Parent Governor

I am very pleased to have joined Arnold Academy's governing body as a parent governor. As a year 5 parent, I have seen the supportive and nurturing environment the school offers. I hope to contribute to the school's continued success as a place where children can thrive. My professional background is in marketing, and I look forward to working alongside my fellow governors, staff and parents. Together, we can ensure the best possible educational experience for all students.



Dance Workshop with Lisa Welham

A selection of around 80 pupils had the opportunity to attend a dance workshop with Lisa Welham on Wednesday 22nd May. Lisa is known for her help with choreographing on BBC's 'Strictly Come Dancing' and ITV's 'So You Think You Can Dance', as well as her work on the set of the recent Greta Gerwig's Barbie movie. Below are a few of the pictures Lisa shared with the pupils of her time on set with the Barbie film.



During the workshop, our pupils were taught a section of one of the dances from the film 'Matilda', which she was an associate choreographer for. It was amazing to see our pupils get into the spirit and character of the school children from Matilda. Lisa was kind enough to stay behind at the end of each workshop to sign autographs for anyone who wanted one. We have never seen such a huge crowd to have something signed!



We would like to give the PTA a massive thank you for funding this brilliant experience for our pupils. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Jordan Reynolds Boxing Academy

We have been very fortunate to have 'Jordan Reynolds Boxing Academy' come in to Arnold Academy to teach our pupils boxing in an afterschool club. Last term, our boxers were presented with their own medal from Jordan Reynolds himself. Look out for future parentmails about boxing club if your child would like to sign up.



TUI Luton Town FC Competition

Finley won the chance to see a TUI aircraft and meet some of the Luton Town Football Team members!

He also enjoyed the tour of TUI's aircraft hangar and was able to see the engineering side of TUI.

It looked like an amazing day out and we hope you enjoyed yourself Finley!



Netball Award

Congratulations to Grace in year 7 who won the 'most improved mid court player for the Luton netball pathway programme'.

We are all very proud of your hard work and dedication to netball.

