



Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of our first month back is complete and what a positive period it has been! The school has been calm and lessons very focused. Our new Year 5 have settled quickly and are flourishing day by day with the opportunities Arnold is providing them.

As always, I like to share with you our key school development areas for this term. We have already begun training and development in these areas as staff and progress toward these objectives will be reviewed in December ready for term two:

1. Ensuring Quality First Teaching 'Teaches to the Top', to challenge all learners. We have also been supplementing this with additional SEND training to ensure skilful adaption is carried out to support weaker learners.
2. Further strengthening our personal development offer to include an even greater emphasis on kindness, pupil leadership and creating role models amongst our pupil body.
3. High quality pastoral periods and assemblies, supported by external professionals and enhance pupil engagement with reading during their form time.

This half-term we once again have a number of opportunities for parents to attend the school and increase their involvement in life here at Arnold. Last week we hosted a lovely Macmillan Coffee Morning. We had some tremendous entries to the Bake-Off competition and raised an excellent £960 for charity. Tomorrow (1st October at 6pm) we have our transport evening (for anyone driving their child to school) book [here](#). We have our Parent Forum next Tuesday (8th October 6pm) where we will be discussing a home school agreement and asking parents for agenda items for the year ahead (book [here](#)). We also have our Parents Evenings (both in-person and virtual) respectively on 14th and 15th October. We are really looking forward to seeing you all, as we enable an early check-in with tutors, to ensure happy starts to the year for all!

This term we have our Open Evening on Wednesday 6th November. This will be followed by open mornings in the following weeks after the event. This will give our pupils wonderful leadership opportunities to showcase our school. If you know of anyone looking for school places in current Year 5, or Year 5 in September, please help us promote our event by directing people to our social media pages or website. You are also welcome to attend, as a current parent, any of our open events. It would be wonderful to host you and let you see the school in action!

The monthly Arnold Update celebrates the best of what is being experienced and achieved in the Arnold community. A big part of the offer at Arnold is our wider school opportunities. We strongly believe that our broad curriculum helps develop well balanced and happy pupils during the middle years. Our club timetable is now in full swing and many events and trips will continue to be on offer for our pupils across the year. Please talk to your child regularly about this and ensure they are trying and participating in clubs and activities regularly to ensure they make the most of life at Arnold. During this difficult financial period we are also supporting parents with event and trip costs. Should you need any support this year, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Assistant Headteacher Greg Davis: gdavis@aa.pstrust.co.uk

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Arnold update. I look forward to seeing you in person at one, or some, of the many events we have over this half-term!

Pete Roberts - Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

October

WC 30th September

4th - Ceramics Workshop

WC 7th October

7th - Open Morning Tours

8th - Parent Forum

9th - Ski Trip Information Evening

11th - Open Morning Tours

WC 14th October

14th - Pastoral Parent Consultations

15th - Pastoral Parent Consultations

17th - PTA Halloween Disco

WC 21st October

22nd - HUS Bake Off

25th - PTA Doughnut Sale

Parent Curriculum Information

We have begun developing and sharing short overviews to help parents understand what their child is learning each half-term. To view these documents [click here](#). These will also be directly shared with parents at the start of each half term via Parentmail.

100 CLUB

1st - L. Fox

2nd - T. Ireland

3rd - A. Smart

12

5

31

24

Year Group News

YEAR 5



Hello, I'm the Head of Year 5, Miss Cusack.

I have been leading Year 5 for several years now and have been looking forward to meeting all the new starters. I am really proud of how well they have all settled into Arnold life and myself and my team are all excited, not only for the year ahead, but especially for the Panto and Zoo trips later this year.



YEAR 6

Hello, I'm the new Head of Year 6, Mr Devereux!

I'd like to consider myself as approachable and dedicated and I am looking forward to getting to know the Year 6 pupils throughout this term. We've got a great team of teachers to support the children as much as possible. The pupils have started Year 6 really well, and I'm looking forward to what their future at Arnold holds!



YEAR 7

Hello! I am the Head of Year 7, Mrs Ashmore.

For those new to the school, I am a Maths and Science teacher here at Arnold. I am really looking forward to continuing to work with the lovely year 7 who have now started their secondary education journey. We have been lucky to welcome many new starters who have joined a year group who are very kind, hard working and take everything in their stride. Our new Y7s have made a great start to this part of their education and I know that they will continue to succeed and along with the amazing team of Y7 tutors, I look forward to seeing their progress.



YEAR 8

Hello! I am the Head of Year 8, Mr Murphy.

As a year leader, I have now been with year 8 on their journey at Arnold Academy for the last three years. It has been a privilege to watch them grow and mature into kind and hard working young adults. We have talked a lot about them being the leaders of the school and they have risen to the challenge so far! I look forward to liaising with the upper schools on the next steps in their educational journey and setting them off prepared to take advantage of their exciting next chapter.

New Attendance Policy

From 19th August 2024 the government are providing statutory guidance with regards to school attendance. Statutory guidance sets out what schools and local authorities must do to comply with the law.

The guidance is given in a hefty document called 'Working Together To Improve School Attendance', a copy of which can be found on the attendance page of our website or the government website [here](#).

The key points to the document, which are most likely to affect pupils and parents are as follows:

Lateness to school should be discouraged and expectations should be set out in the attendance policy.

Schools are only permitted to authorise absence from school in 'exceptional circumstances'. The document goes on to state that "the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance."

When a pupil has 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within 10 weeks, a fixed penalty notice is issued by the local authority. The following sanctions apply over a rolling 3-year period:

- 1st offence - £160 fine per parent, per child (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days).
- 2nd offence - £160 fine per parent, per child
- 3rd offence - Court hearing, up to £2,500 fine or 3 months in prison and a criminal record.

Lateness to school (school expectations).

Pupils are expected to be in their form rooms:

- by 8:35am at the latest
- in full and correct uniform for that particular day
- with a pencil case, planner and reading book.

Pupils arriving after 8:35am, but before registers close, will be recorded as late (L) in the register. Two incidents of lateness to morning register in a week will result in a 15-minute detention at lunchtime. Three incidents in a week will result in a 30-minute detention at lunchtime and four incidents of lateness in a week will result in a 45-minute lunchtime detention.

Those pupils arriving after registration has closed (8:50am) will be entered on the register as 'U' (arrived late after registration has closed). A 'U' code on the register is an unauthorised absence and counts towards a possible fixed penalty notice.

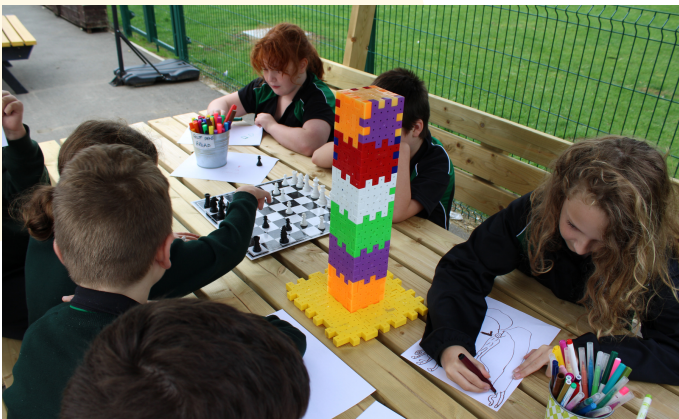
The school's attendance policy has been updated accordingly and can be found on the website [here](#).

Chiltern

Chiltern has got off to a great start this year; our new students have settled beautifully and fitted straight in. We have already had our first outing, taking a locality walk down to our dinner lady, Mrs Vale's, allotment. Mrs Vale is very humble, but we would like to celebrate the fact she won the best allotment in the village this year! We enjoyed seeing her many and varied crops and got to harvest some too - we will be baking courgette cakes later with our pickings! It was a very informative and enjoyable outing, and we look forward to more to come.



Chiltern would like to thank the PTA for kindly buying them a new undercover outdoor bench. They have been having a great time using it for learning purposes and to chat whilst playing with their friends during break times.



Pupil Premium Update

Schools get extra funding for pupils who are classed as Pupil Premium.

This funding can be used by schools in many ways, for example, helping support families with the costs of things like trips, equipment and uniform. Schools can also use the funds to develop high-quality teaching or to support children with difficulties such as attendance, behaviour, and social and emotional wellbeing.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals we are able to get this extra Pupil Premium funding so applying for Free School Meals is beneficial to you as a family and also the school.

To apply for Free School Meals, contact Central Bedfordshire by either accessing the link [here](#) to be redirected to their website or by ringing: 0300 300 8306.

If you do qualify, your child will have Pupil Premium status for 6 years. At Arnold, this additional funding is used in a variety of ways, see the link [here](#) for our three year PP strategy.

If you need any support with applying for Free School Meals, or need help with funding towards trips, uniform, music lessons or equipment, please email financesupport@aa.pstrust.co.uk.

Pupil Premium Plus

Pupil Premium for permanently placed children (often referred to as Pupil Premium Plus, or PP+) was introduced in 2014 in recognition that children who ceased to be looked after as a result of adoption, a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or a Care Arrangements Order (CAO) often require extra support and help in school in view of their early life experiences.

Who is eligible?

Pupil Premium plus is available for children from Reception to Year 11 in state schools in England, who are adopted or moved to permanence under a SGO or CAO from England or Wales.

How is it accessed?

Unlike other Pupil Premium funding, parents of PP+ eligible children must self-declare their eligibility to their child's school, providing proof of their child's status, e.g. a photocopy of the adoption order. This needs to be recorded prior to the October school census for funding to be received by the school.

There will be contact from the school during the year to engage with PP+ parents to gain further knowledge about their child's needs. If you have any queries about Pupil Premium or Pupil Premium Plus, do contact us through the school office or by email to: financesupport@aa.pstrust.co.uk

Music Lessons

Individual and group tuition, provided by our outstanding team of visiting tutors, is on offer for pupils here at Arnold Academy on voice, drums, piano, guitar, and a range of string, brass, and woodwind instruments.

Pupils are withdrawn from their subject lessons once each week for a 20-minute lesson, on a rotating timetable so that pupils do not miss the same lesson each week. Pupils receive 10—14 lessons per term spread over the available weeks. Prices vary according to the instrument but cost from £7.50 per week for a group lesson or from £14 per week for an individual lesson. If your child is Pupil Premium we subsidise lessons at £30 every half term, please contact financialsupport@aa.pstrust.co.uk for more information.

The following tutors are private professional musicians who you are welcome to contact directly for more information about lessons here at Arnold:

Drums: [Mr Mark Jeffs](#)

Guitar: [Mr Luke White](#)

Voice: [Ms Ildiko Allen](#)

Violin/Viola: [Ms Rachael Walker](#)

Inspiring Music delivers Piano, Cello/Double Bass, Trumpet, Trombone, and Bass lessons at our school - see the link [here](#) for more information.

Once pupils are at an appropriate standard they will be asked to join a free extracurricular group suitable to the instrument they are learning e.g. Choir, Rock School, Orchestra. These groups will help your child develop their performance and ensemble skills, aural training and general musicality.

Please get in touch with [Mrs Smale](#) if you have any further questions.



Miss Alsop, our visiting woodwind teacher, is offering a free trial lesson for Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone for any of our pupils who are interested in learning to play. Please contact Mrs Smale directly to sign up.

APF Wrap-around Care

Unlock your child's potential with their diverse offerings, from sports to creative arts. Discover the perfect fit for your family's schedule and interests. Prices start from just £4.00 per 1-hour session.

Parents can also pay using tax-free childcare and childcare vouchers.

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE HERE

Breakfast Club

7.30am-8.30am

APF provide children with a nutritious breakfast to start their day off right and create a positive environment for socialising with peers before classes begin.

After School Club

3.30pm-5.30pm

Children can get involved in more enjoyable activities, making memories outside of the classroom and learning new skills in a variety of sports and arts and crafts activities

AUTUMN 1		Arnold Academy AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB Timetable				
		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
14.15-15.30						ARTS AND CRAFTS
15.30-16.00	ARCHERY	BADMINTON	BASKETBALL	DODGEBALL	INDOOR TENNIS	
16.00-16.30	FOOTBALL	GO KARTS	FOOTBALL	BADMINTON	GO KARTS	
16.30-17.00	IT GAMES	IT GAMES	IT GAMES	ARCHERY TAG	IT GAMES	
17.00-17.10	SNACK TIME: Sandwiches with various toppings, light bites, fruit, snack bars, juice.					
17.10-17.30	FREE CHOICE	FREE CHOICE	FREE CHOICE	FREE CHOICE	FREE CHOICE	
	Gym	Hall	Outside	IT Room		
	Start of club: All children meet in the hall.					Collection times: 17.00 OR 17.30 from the hall.

PST Social Pages

PYRAMID SCHOOLS TRUST

Follow US -

New Facebook page:
Pyramid Schools Trust

X: @ThePyramidTrust

Insta: pyramid_schools_trust

Like Share Follow

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our School Council helped to run another successful Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September.

Thank you to everyone who attended on the day, donated and baked cakes to help us raise money for a brilliant cause.

Together we were able to raise an amazing total of £960



Arnold Academy's Bake Off

Alongside our Macmillan Coffee morning, we also hosted an Arnold Academy Bake Off. Whilst there were lots of incredible cakes and treats, our judges decided on the following winners:

Year 5

Ayaan S, Tilly N, Layla H, Essa A

Year 6

Sade K, Yousuf A, Kailen P, Mila W

Year 7

Dexter D, Adam K, Arabella E

Year 8

Vidya T, Henry O

Best Class Participation

Chiltern, 5LN, 6SR, 7KM, 8JN

Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi, also called Vinayaka Chavithi, is an auspicious Hindu festival which is celebrated for 10 days every year. The festival is celebrated in the Bhadra month as per the Hindu calendar which generally falls in mid-August to September. It marks the birthday of the beloved elephant-headed Lord Ganesha.

Rehan created a beautiful sculpture for the Lord Ghanesh Chaturthi, which can be seen below.



EXTRA CURRICULUM

We hold enrichment opportunities for our pupils in high regard at Arnold Academy. Staff offer a great number of extra-curricular clubs during the lunch break and after school. There is a careful mixture of activities to ensure an inclusive approach to help all of our students explore and develop wide ranging interests and hobbies.

In addition, there are sports clubs for all year groups - not just for team and squad members, but for any pupil who just wants to have fun and exercise. These change across each term based on the sporting season.

[Click here](#) to view our current Autumn Term Club timetable.



PTA NEWS

We hope that all the pupils are settling well into the school term. As this is the first Arnold newsletter of the year, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Arnold PTA who raise additional funds, to support the learning and wellbeing of the Arnold pupils.

How can you help

With all voluntary organisations, parents and carers move on from the PTA as their children leave the school. We are always incredibly grateful for the support that we receive, however, we are now in the position where the PTA will require a new Chair and Assistant Treasurer within the next 12 months. We are also focusing on a new way of working and setting up smaller groups for the main events that we focus on (details below). We appreciate that life is busy and that whilst you might not be able to commit for a particular event, you can help with another event later in the year.

Following this newsletter, a parentmail form will follow where you can express an interest in joining the PTA or one of the smaller key groups. Your help is needed to continue the long term success of the PTA – last year, we were able to support the school by spending £13k on workshops, visiting theatre productions, a contribution to the new activity trail and many other small items that the school needed.

PTA AGM – this year's AGM will be held on Monday 7 October at Barton Rovers Football Club, commencing at 7pm. Please do come along to find out what we are all about and how you can support raising money for Arnold Academy.

Other ways to support the Arnold PTA

Monthly Numbers Club

For £5 a month, you can purchase a number in our 'Numbers Club' and be in with the chance of winning a cash prize. 50% of the monthly prize fund is returned to three lucky winners, with the remaining 50% used to support the purchase of new books for the school library. It is an excellent way of supporting the school and also be in with a chance of winning a cash prize. A separate parentmail form will be shared following the publication of the newsletter where you can express an interest in joining the numbers club and we will be in touch.

Pre-loved uniform shop

Our pre-loved uniform shop has been so well received since we launched it online via the parentmail app. The stock is continually updated as we receive donations, so should the item that you wish to purchase be out of stock, please check regularly for availability. All orders are despatched on a weekly basis and sent home with the pupils. Donations of preloved uniforms are always needed – as a PTA, we want to help parents with the cost of uniforms and also promote sustainability. If you have school uniform to donate, please do drop this to the school office. Please note: we only accept branded preloved uniform i.e school jumpers, cardigans, ties, yellow polo shirts and PE kit. The uniform donated must not have had the size tags removed, as we are unable to sell these items.

Events for this school year

During the school year, we arrange a number of activities for the pupils to enjoy including our Halloween and Summer discos, together with our gift shops, where the pupils can buy gifts at Christmas, Mother's and Father's Day. We are pleased to confirm the following events scheduled so far for this school year:

Thursday 17 October, with the KS2 disco (5:30pm to 6:30pm) and KS3 disco (7pm to 8pm). For the spooky effect, we will be holding the disco outside (subject to the weather), under the canopy. Further details will be shared by a separate parentmail, with tickets now on sale.

Friday 25 October. Following the success of this event last year, we will be selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts on this date. Further details will be shared by a separate parentmail, with all orders to be placed by Tuesday 16 October (one per pupil).



Cash bingo - Friday 15 November. We are delighted to announce our first bingo night, to be held at Barton Rovers, with cash prizes. Tickets will cost £10 plus booking fee and will be on sale later this week.

