ARNOLD ACADEMY

Friday 16th October 2026 Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, Bedford, MK45 4JZ Tel: 01582 616400 **October Edition**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the October edition of the Arnold Update.
We hope that you have enjoyed the change of tact and small number of short burst videos we have shared with you this half-term. We are adapting communication to use various forms of media. It has also been great to be able to get the pupils involved in this too! In the new term, we will carry out the launch of our next survey set to all stakeholders via this medium, to gather your feelings and feedback.

I would like to thank you for your patience this term with our new MIS, Bromcom. There have been many benefits of moving to a new platform, but this has also caused a great number of technical issues. Most recently, a certain few staff were affected by late-night emails to cancel appointments. We have logged these concerns directly with Bromcom and will endeavour to ensure we do not see a repeat of any issues moving forward.

As ever, we have packed a lot of activities and opportunities around the core of excellent education we endeavour to deliver here at Arnold this autumn.

Although it is mentioned in our end-of-term video, I must remind and strongly request your support and attendance at our PTA EGM on Thursday 12th November, as we renew our committees and move to a 'Friends of Arnold' to help us keep delivering such great outcomes and events for our school.

It was lovely to host so many of you in person, or virtually, as part of the Parents' Evenings this week. We have also enjoyed a coffee morning and a SEND Year 5 event over the half-term, which have been well attended. Our Open Evening is on Wednesday 4th November at 5pm. If you know of anyone looking for school places, please share/retweet or forward any correspondence from the school. After the Open Evening, we will have Open Morning Tours, which will be bookable on our website from 5th November onwards. As a current parent, if you have not seen us live during the school day, a reminder that you are very much welcome to tour our classes when we advertise these events! Parents are integral to life here at Arnold, and we welcome your involvement in the journey of your child through the school.



I really hope you enjoy reading about the news and activities in this edition. We hope you have a restful TWO-WEEK break and look forward to seeing you in November!

Pete Roberts – Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary

October/November

w/c 19th October
Half Term

w/c 26th October
Half Term

w/c 2nd November
2nd - Pupils back at school
4th - Open Evening for prospective parents/carers

w/c 9th November
11th - Remembrance Day
12th - PTA Meeting 7pm - 8pm
13th - Children In Need

w/c 16th November
18th - PTA Shopping Event

w/c 23rd November
25th - Y6 SATs Parents info evening

w/c 30th November
2nd Dec - Flu Vaccine (mop up session)









Year Group News

YEAR 5

Form with the Highest Attendance

5KM

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

5RF



YEAR 6

Form with the Highest Attendance

6KT

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

6FP



YEAR 7

Form with the Highest Attendance

7DD

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

7LN



YEAR 8

Form with the Highest Attendance

8GL

Form with the Highest Achievement Points

8JSE

Celebrating Our Arnold Values Achievers!

We are delighted to announce our recent Arnold Core Values Award winners:

- 6MH Peggi -Mae
- 6FP Thomas
- 6DB Mia-Rose
- 6CF Carson
- 6KT Carter
- 6JMc Jayden
- 8SQ Leo and Sofia
- 8JSm Daniel
- 8JSe Max
- 8GL Hannah
- 8MHo Elliott
- 8CS Thomas

📚 Accelerated Reader Library Quiz Raffle📚

Isla 5RF Alexander 5LH Antoni 6CF

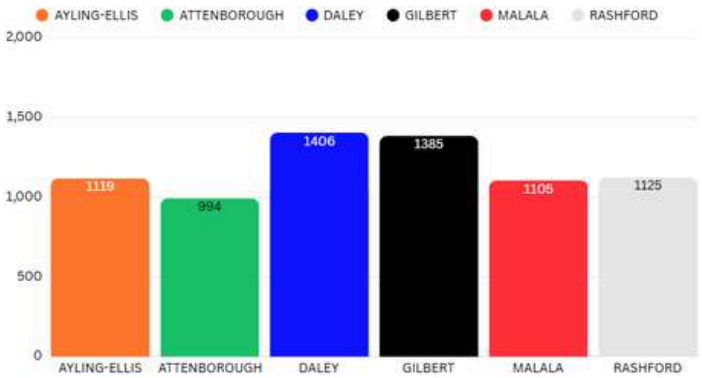
Millionaires Row!

Congratulations to our new Millionnaires for September:

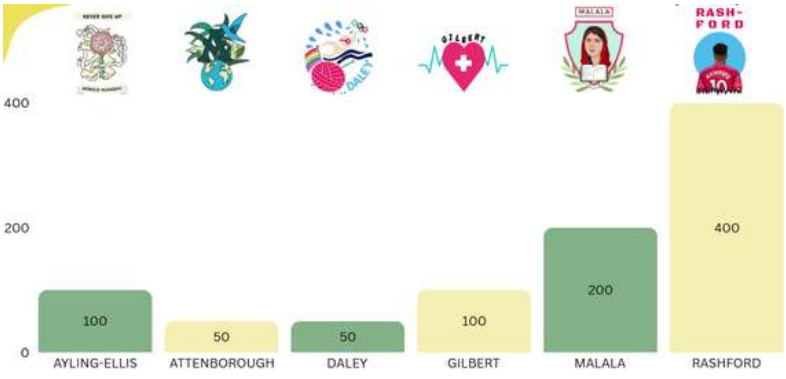
- Rowan 8CS
- Susanna 8MHo
- Seren 6KT
- Freddie 6DB
- Harry 7FZ
- Stefan 7CW



ACHIEVEMENT POINTS



HOUSE POINTS



NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

MONTHLY BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

📘 KS2 Recommendation (Ages 9+)

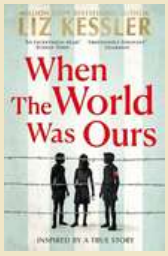


Our Castle By The Sea - Lucy Strange

12-year-old Petra lives with her family in a lighthouse on the English coast and her idyllic childhood of secret tunnels and sea monster tales is shattered when war breaks out. Compounding the danger, her mother is German, making the family targets of local suspicion, government tribunals, and wartime prejudice. As enemy planes fill the skies, Pet has a growing sense that she is connected to an ancient local legend called the Daughters of Stones.

This is a moving World War II historical novel that blends atmospheric coastal folklore with the harsh realities of wartime Britain.

📕 KS3 Recommendation (Ages 12+)



When The World Was Ours - Liz Kessler

The story begins in Vienna in 1936 on Leo's ninth birthday. Leo, Elsa, and Max are inseparable best friends spending a perfect day together, completely unaware of the political darkness descending on Europe. As the Nazi regime rises, the children's lives diverge drastically based on their backgrounds and identities - one moment can change a life forever.

A powerful, heartbreaking historical fiction novel which deals with the emotional themes of the Holocaust and World War II in a sensitive way.

PUPIL SPOTLIGHT

A huge well done to Connor (Year 8), who recently wrote a journal for First News about his trip to London! What a fantastic achievement to have his writing featured in a news publication! ✨ We are incredibly proud! Keep up the fantastic work, Connor!



Two Centuries Here

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

CONNOR takes a deep dive into historical discoveries at a new exhibition celebrating 200 years since the first university in London was founded.

by Connor, aged 12

I had a brilliant time visiting the Two Centuries Here exhibition at University College London (UCL).

UCL's 200-year history is fascinating, including being the first university to open higher education to women.

The exhibition displays amazing objects that UCL developed, like the tools used for the first surgery done under anaesthetic (special medicines that block pain). There's also the nose cone from the UK's first space rocket and the Fleming bulb (we wouldn't have TV without that!).

You can also visit the Grant Museum of Zoology, the Petrie Museum of Egyptian and Sudanese Archaeology and the UCL Art Museum. There's so much to see!

The Grant Museum houses around 100,000 creatures, with incredible things like an elephant heart and a walrus skull. My favourite was a lion skeleton, as you could see how sharp its teeth and claws are up close. Be careful if you're squeamish though!

The Petrie Museum has incredible artefacts like the oldest ever dress, stones covered in Egyptian hieroglyphics and ancient coffins.

The Art Museum has some cool drawings of what UCL looked like over the years, such as after it was bombed during the Second World War.

This exhibition is stunning. I would recommend it to everyone!

Connor



Your News

YOUNG BAFTA WINNERS

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 2,005 of you:

Do you like AI to help with schoolwork?

44% of you said no

56% of you said YES

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Cast your vote in your profile at

firstnews/polls

Two Centuries Here

🚲🔧 Dr. Bike Visit! 🔧🚲

We were pleased to welcome Dr. Bike to school this morning! They carried out bike safety checks and minor repairs to help make sure our pupils' bikes are safe and ready to ride. 🚴
Pupils were also given free bike lights to help them stay visible and safe when cycling.
At Arnold Academy, we're keen to promote safe and active travel, including cycling and scooting to school. A huge thank you to Central Bedfordshire Council's School Active Travel Officer for making this fantastic opportunity possible. ✨





Junior Duke 2026/27

Junior Duke will start after October half term. This is an opportunity for the school, parents and children to work together to complete 10 challenges. The challenges include cooking, First Aid (which is completed at school), sport, hobbies and many more. There are 14 challenges, of which 10 will be selected by the parents and children.
An announcement has been sent out on MCAS, so please let Mr Lumley know if your child would like to participate.

💚 A very special visit to Arnold Academy! 💚

Yesterday, we had the pleasure of welcoming some members of the Class of 1976 back to Arnold Academy following their 50th reunion.
As part of their celebrations, they have very kindly donated a beautiful bench to the school, creating a lasting reminder of their time at Arnold Secondary School, now Arnold Academy.
The bench was officially opened yesterday, accompanied by these lovely words:
"This bench is a place to rest, reflect, and remember those from our past.
Some of our school friends from 50 years ago are sadly no longer with us, but their presence lives on in the memories we all share.
May everyone who sits here feel a little of the warmth, friendship, laughter and fun that we shared together at Arnold Secondary School, now Arnold Academy.
With fond memories from us all of the Class of 1976."
We are incredibly grateful for this thoughtful donation and hope our pupils will enjoy using the bench for many years to come. 💚
Thank you to the Class of 1976 for creating such a wonderful and lasting legacy at Arnold! 🌟



This bench was donated to Arnold Academy from the leavers of 1976



⛷️🏔️ KS3 SKI TRIP – IMPORTANT REMINDER! 🏔️⛷️

Going on the KS3 Ski Trip? ⛷️
Don't forget to attend our Ski Trip Information Meeting:
📅 **Wednesday 11th November**
⏰ **6:00pm–7:00pm**
📍 **Arnold Academy**
This meeting will provide important information about the trip and is a great opportunity to make sure you are fully prepared.
We look forward to seeing you there! ⛷️❄️

🎭 Year 5 Pantomime

A letter has been sent to all Year 5 parents/carers via MCAS with important information about their upcoming matinee performance of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs on Tuesday 8th December.
Please take a moment to check your MCAS app and read the letter for full details about the performance. 🍎✨

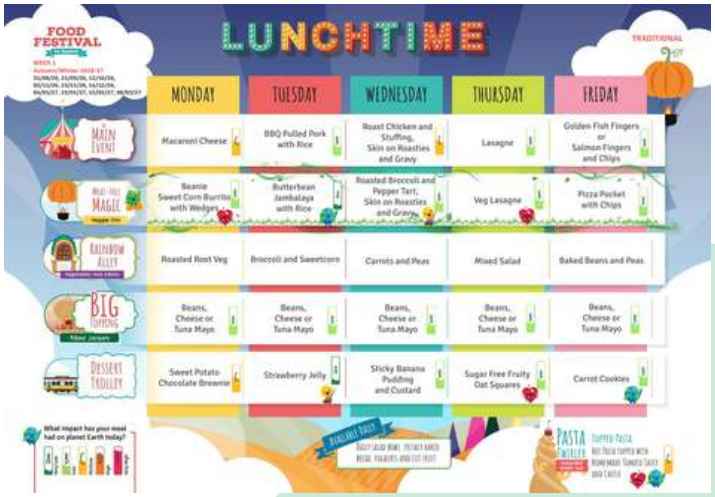
🎓 Train to Teach Information Event!

Interested in a career in teaching? Join the next Train to Teach Information Event at Redborne Upper School!
📅 Friday 20th November 2026
⏰ 10:00am–11:30am
📸 Please see the below image for more information.
Scan the QR code or use the email address provided to find out more!

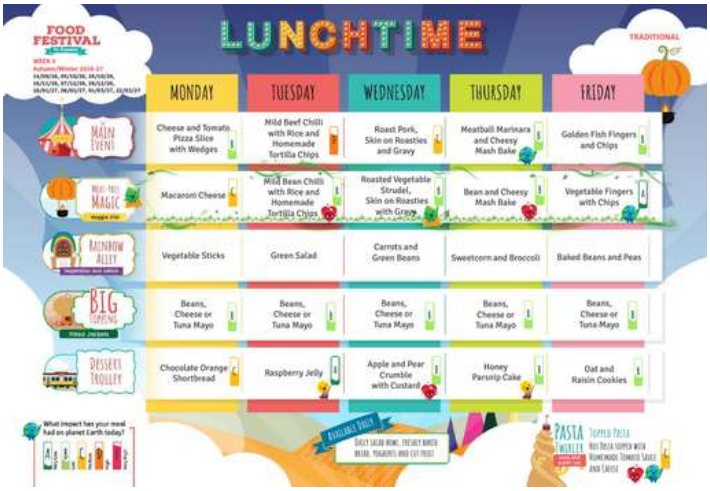


🍽️ AUTUMN/WINTER SCHOOL DINNER MENU! 🍂

We are pleased to share our new school dinner menu, which will be launching after half term!
Our autumn/winter menu will offer pupils a range of delicious meals to enjoy throughout the colder months. We look forward to seeing our pupils enjoying the new options available.
📋 Please see the new menu below for a full list of meals and options available.
You can also find our school dinner menus on our website by clicking the link below:
🔗 View School Dinner Menus
We hope our pupils enjoy the new menu! 😊

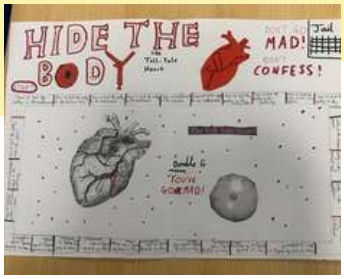






Year 7 English – The Tell-Tale Heart

Year 7 have been studying Edgar Allan Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart in English. To bring the story to life and deepen their understanding, pupils have enjoyed creating their own artwork and board games inspired by the chilling short story. A fantastic way to combine creativity with their learning! 🎨📚









🌿 Caring for Our Environment – Well Done, Leo!

A huge well done to Leo (Year 5) for his fantastic efforts in helping to care for our local environment during his Forest School sessions!

Alongside exploring the woodland and pond dipping in the stream, Leo has been clearing dams and collecting rubbish washed downstream. Among the plastics and litter he has discovered some very old crisp packets! The oldest two found so far are a Walkers Cheese & Onion packet with a best-before date of January 1999 and a Select Ready Salted packet dated January 2000!

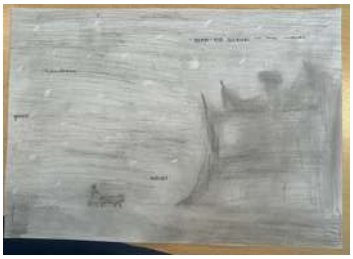
Leo's dedication is making a real difference to our school environment, and it's wonderful to see him taking such pride in protecting nature.

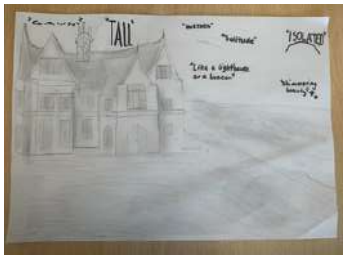
Fantastic work, Leo! We are very proud of you! 🌎👏



Year 8 English – The Woman in Black

Year 8 students have been reading The Woman in Black by Susan Hill. Using quotes from the text, they have created artwork to illustrate their understanding of Eel Marsh House, bringing the eerie and unsettling setting to life. A fantastic way to explore the atmosphere and imagery of this spooky story!





Supporting Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing 💚

Please see below for a range of resources to support young people's mental health and wellbeing.





KS3 AUTUMN TERM 1 UPDATE

Year 7 Curriculum Update — Law, Crime and Society

What would you do if you had to build a new community on a desert island? This half-term, Year 7 have been tackling this challenge in their Law, Crime and Society unit. Faced with difficult choices, pupils have explored fairness, rights and responsibilities, and the consequences of their decisions. The unit also considers how laws are made, why we punish offenders and how rehabilitation can help people change. Pupils then apply their learning to challenging prejudice, including Islamophobia, developing their ability to explain their views and consider different perspectives.

Year 8 Curriculum Update — Personal Safety and Respectful Relationships

When does banter become bullying, and how can we resist pressure to take risks? These are some of the questions Year 8 have been exploring in PSHE this half-term. Pupils have considered how to tackle loneliness, support others and recognise when a joke becomes hurtful. Personal safety lessons explore risks around water and in unfamiliar settings, alongside personal boundaries and seeking help. The unit also examines respect for women and girls, the impact of misogyny and how to challenge sexist jokes.

KS3 PSHE Wellbeing Wednesday Introduction

Learning how to look after ourselves and support others deserves time in the school week. This term, we have introduced Wellbeing Wednesday, a new weekly extension of the KS3 PSHE curriculum during Wednesday PM community time. Led by form tutors, these sessions give Year 7 and 8 pupils additional time to explore carefully selected, age-appropriate topics relevant to their everyday lives. Through interactive activities, discussion and dedicated pupil booklets, pupils develop their understanding of wellbeing and consider how to apply their learning beyond the classroom.

Year 7 Wellbeing Wednesday Update — Managing Change

What makes us unique, and what do we have in common? This half-term, Year 7 forms have explored positive wellbeing and built connections through shared interests and class fact files. Their 'Proud to Be Me' activities encourage pupils to recognise their strengths, value their individuality and develop self-esteem, supporting them as they settle into Year 7.



Year 8 Wellbeing Wednesday Update — Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing

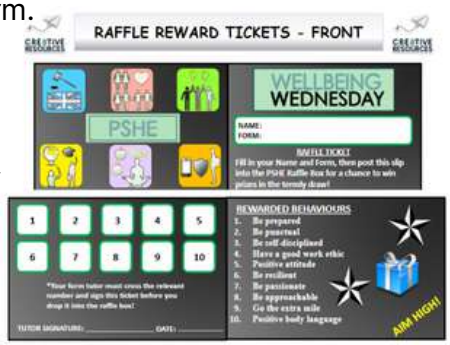
How do our everyday habits affect how we feel? Year 8 forms have explored how sleep, diet and physical activity support wellbeing, alongside the importance of talking and seeking help when struggling. Their work on positive body image considers how social media influences confidence and why our personal qualities matter beyond appearance.



KS3 PSHE Wellbeing Wednesday - Reward System

Positive attitudes deserve recognition! During Wellbeing Wednesday, pupils can earn raffle tickets for showing effort, resilience and positive behaviour, including going the extra mile. Tickets signed by their form tutor go into the PSHE raffle box for a chance to win prizes in our draw every term.

A brilliant way to celebrate the everyday choices that make our school community stronger!



SPORTS NEWS

A huge well done to our 7B football squad!

Despite eventually losing their National Cup fixture, the squad put in an excellent performance and showed fantastic effort and determination throughout. 💪
You were a real credit to the school — well done, team 7B!



Year 6 A Football Team — An Unbeaten Start!

Our Year 6 A football team have made a brilliant start to the season, securing victories against Etonbury, Alameda and Pixbrook to remain unbeaten! After the half-term break, we look forward to welcoming RBA for our first home game. Alongside these fixtures, the team will also begin their County Cup campaign, and we hope for a successful cup run! Well done to everyone involved — keep it up!

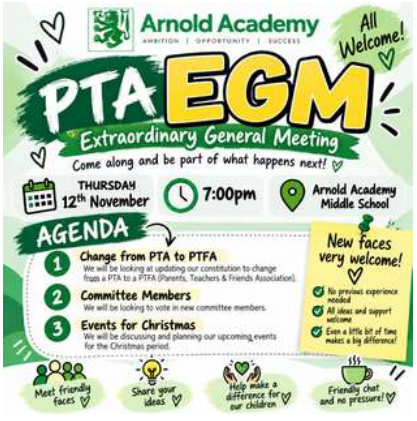


PTA NEWS

We wanted to share a quick update on where things currently stand with the Arnold Academy PTA and let everyone know what we have coming up over the next few weeks.

12th November - PTA Extraordinary General Meeting

At present, we do not yet have a newly voted-in committee. To move things forward and make sure we can continue supporting the school, pupils and families, we will be holding an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on Thursday 12th November at 7pm at Arnold Academy.
There will be three main items on the agenda.
Firstly, we will be proposing a change to our constitution to move from a PTA (Parent Teacher Association) to a PTFA (Parent, Teacher and Friends Association).
The aim of this change is to open the group up to a wider range of people who would like to support the school. This could include parents and carers, grandparents, other family members, former parents and friends of the school. We hope that by widening the group, more people will be able to get involved and the workload can be shared between a bigger team.
Secondly, we will be looking to appoint and vote in new committee members so that the association can continue moving forward.
Finally, we will be discussing the events, fundraising and activities we would like to organise between now and Christmas.
We would really love to see as many people as possible at the meeting. Getting involved does not have to mean taking on a huge commitment. Whether you can help at the occasional event, share ideas, help behind the scenes or take on a committee role, every little bit of support makes a difference.



PTA NEWS

18th November - Christmas Shopping Evening

We are also pleased to confirm that our Christmas Shopping Evening will take place on 18th November.
It is a lovely opportunity to start some Christmas shopping, support local and small businesses and enjoy a festive evening with our school community.





If you are a local business, crafter or independent seller and would be interested in having a stall at the event, we would love to hear from you.
Please contact the PTA at pta@aa.pstrust.co.uk for further information or to enquire about booking a stall.

100 Club Winners

A huge congratulations to all of our 100 Club winners for July, August and September!
Thank you, as always, to everyone who takes part in our 100 Club. Your support helps us continue raising valuable funds for the school.





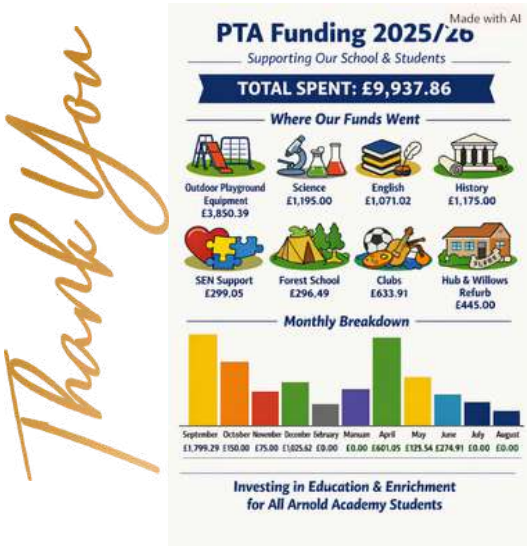


Pre-Loved Uniform Update

We know there has been lots of interest in purchasing pre-loved school uniform, and we really appreciate everyone continuing to support this.
Unfortunately, due to the current PTA situation and the availability of volunteers, we are unable to run any further uniform stalls at the moment.
We may be able to hold another sale towards the end of November or beginning of December, depending on available helpers and timings, and we will let everyone know if we are able to arrange this.
Following our meeting on 12th November, we are also hoping to get the online pre-loved uniform system back up and running as soon as possible, making it much easier for families to browse and purchase uniform again.
Thank you for bearing with us while we get everything back up and running.

Thank You for Your Support

The PTA has always relied on the support of our school community, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who attends our events, buys pre-loved uniform, joins the 100 Club, donates, volunteers or simply shares our posts.



We are looking forward to the next chapter and hope that moving towards a PTFA will help us build an even bigger, friendly team of people who want to support Arnold Academy and help provide extra opportunities and experiences for our children.
Dates for your diary:
12th November – EGM, 7pm at Arnold Academy
18th November – Christmas Shopping Evening
We hope to see lots of you there!