

Arnold Times

Issue No. 26

Newsletter of Arnold Junior School

24th April 2009

To the Parents

Following my letter to parents at the end of last week, I have, not surprisingly, spent the majority of my time this week speaking to concerned Parents. Had this not been the case I would have been concerned as I know that you all care passionately about your children's education, and as I stated in my latter I am happy to speak to you at length in order to fully explain the reasons for the planned changes; reasons that would have been too detailed to go into a letter.

You can be assured that the planned changes have been carefully thought out and will in no way compromise the educational or pastoral provision at AJS. The pupil/staff ratio in the infants is largely unaffected and all that has changed is the day to day organisation and management of the pupils, which, in each year group will be the responsibility of a single Form Teacher. This has been done before in the infants and our current Year 2 class is a shining example of how a carefully managed 'larger' class can result in high attainment and happy children. Class sizes have always increased as the children move up through the School but have never been allowed to get to point where the teaching and learning process is compromised, nor will they ever be allowed to.

Across the school there will be investment in resourcing Art and DT rooms as well as an exciting Modern Foreign Language provision which builds on the excellent work carried out by Mrs Ward over many years. There will be ongoing training for our staff in ICT and in many other areas; a massive benefit of being part of UCST.

My door is open and I encourage you to come and speak to me if you have any concerns or if you want me to explain, in detail, the reasons behind the restructuring and development of the Junior School.

PS Hopkinson
Headmaster of AJS

DOING SOMETHING

FUNNY FOR MONEY



Our day of fun and silliness exceeded all expectations in terms of money raised. The initial target of £1000 was more than doubled and so far we have raised **£2,208.26!!!!** Well done to all the children and thank you to all those who supported the event.

Summer School

This year's Summer School is an exciting joint venture with Fylde Coast YMCA, and offers a whole host of exciting activities to keep the children busy and entertained over the summer break. The initial two week school will run from Monday 13th to Friday 24th July, and you should have already received a leaflet and booking form. If not, please collect one from the office. There will then be a five week programme, based at the Junior school, run by the YMCA, further details will be coming to you soon.

Open Morning

The Kindergarten and Junior School Open Morning will take place on Saturday 16th May, from 10.00 am – 12 Noon. We would like to invite you in to have a look around the School, look at the children's work and displays, and have a go at some of the activities your children do. There will also be presentations from, and information given out by, your child's form teachers for next year.

Kindergarten News

This week the Twos have been enjoying the fabulous weather outside, we have been playing with the sand; making sandcastles which we have decorated with shells and stones and have watered the plants with our new watering cans. We have also been exploring our new Bob The Builder workshop and have enjoyed using all the tools to build things.

The Tweenies have been playing in the wet room painting lots of lovely pictures. We have been looking at Little Red Riding Hood, reading the story and using the story sack puppets.

The Pre School have been talking about their favourite book characters and have been painting and drawing them. We have been playing lots of different games and dressing up like our favourite characters. We have helped Miss Gray to plant some beans and have been helping to dig out the weeds in the garden. We have played with the big parachute on the playground and have enjoyed baking scones with Mrs Cowburn on Wednesday afternoon

Calendar Changes

There are two changes to our summer term calendar to note: Grandparents Day commences at 1.30 pm on Tuesday 12th May and not 11.30 am. End of term tests will commence week beginning 1st June and not 8th June.

Well Read

The Reading Award scheme, which encourages our children to read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books, has proved to be a massive success. Children are awarded bronze, silver and gold certificates as they read more and more books. Ultimately, children completing the whole level receive the coveted Platinum Award and we are delighted that three pupils, Roshan Mohindra, Hope Hopkinson and Amelia Jepson, have recently achieved this standard.

End of Year Tests

Following our decision to abandon the End of Key Stage Two SAT's tests last year; a decision vindicated by the continuing chaos surrounding them and threatened industrial action by colleagues in the Maintained sector, pupils in Years 3 - 6 will now sit end of term tests. The tests will use the same format as the QCA/SAT's tests but will be marked internally by our own staff.

The results of the tests will be reported back to you in the form of percentages and National Curriculum levels, in your child's end of term reports. The data will also be used to track the progress of the children since they took the GL Assessments in September.

Meeting the Minibeasts

On a wet and grey Monday morning, our Year 1 children set off for Williamson Park in Lancaster to enhance our topic "Minibeasts".

We saw such exciting things in the Butterfly House, including a variety of colourful butterflies, terrapins and fish. Our guide showed us the eggs, caterpillars and pupa of an Owl butterfly and described its life cycle. What a wonderful metamorphosis!

In the Minibeast House we saw cockroaches, giant land snails and a Red Knead Tarantula and lots of other amazing creatures.



Drop Off and Pick Up

Please ensure that children are not dropped off any earlier than 8.00 am in the morning as we are unable to supervise them. We would also like to ask you to make yourselves more visible at pick up time, so that we can safely dismiss the children. If you see your child at the door please step forward and make yourself known to the member of staff on duty. Finally, please discourage your children from climbing on benches/up trees/on the fences if they remain on the playground; we are more than happy for them to play on playground after school but we would like them to still observe School Rules. We thank you for your co-operation in these matters.

Security

Over the Easter holidays we have improved the security at both the front and rear of AJS. We have removed the key pads and replaced them with a much safer system. This will ensure that your children are kept safe throughout the school day.

Prize Giving

This year's Prize Giving and Celebration will be an evening event, commencing at 7.00 pm on Friday 3rd July. I hope that this will enable many more of you to attend this wonderful Junior School function. This will be a compulsory event for pupils in Years 3 – 6 and therefore any absence would need to be accompanied by a letter from you the Parent/Guardian. Infant and Kindergarten pupils, and their families are also invited, and it would be lovely to see as many of younger pupils there as possible. We are continuing with the tradition of inviting a Parent to speak at the event and I am delighted that Mr Mills, father of Christian and Isabella (Year 6) has agreed to do so this year.

I will write to you all later this term with further details.

Happy Birthday

A very Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthday recently or will do so over the next few weeks:

Bradley	Quarmby	KIN
Paige	Moseley	KIN
Benjamin	Shearer	1EA
Phoebe	Coulon	1EA
Max	Green	KIN
William	Kenworthy	REC V
Fenn	Breakell	2EA
Sai	Kollipara	6NO
Paige	Butcher	6NO
Aidan	Henson	KIN
Harvey	Shaw	2EA
Samuel	Southern	4NO
Richard	Zheng	KIN
Daniel	Pilling	3NO
Michael	Coyne	6SO
Ben	Turner	KIN
Hattie	Ross	REC V
Lara	Brookes	2EA
Alicia	Marsh	KIN
Alexander	Holt	6SO
Mia	Brennand	1WE

Atomic Assembly



On Wednesday 'Atomic Alison' visited the Junior school for another mad 'Mad Science' assembly! On this occasion the children were entertained with experiments about pressure and air. These included a tug of war using toilet plungers, and **Ben Smyth** being the lucky volunteer to try out a hover craft! After another very successful assembly the children in years three to six will now be given the opportunity to attend an after school club on Mondays. Years three and four will be trying out the new programme titled 'The Academy of Future Space Explorers', where they will be learning about space and making and setting off rockets!