



Arnold Times

Issue No. 30

Newsletter of Arnold Junior School

3rd September 2009

To the Parents

On behalf of the Arnold Junior School staff I would like to welcome you and your children back to school. I am sure that the children have been experiencing a mixture of emotions over the last few days; excitement at the prospect of a new school year and trepidation at the prospect of lessons, homework and assessments after a long and lazy summer. I am sure though, that by the middle of next week the summer holidays will have faded into warm and pleasant memories and that the children will once again be enthused about all that is going on around them.

There are lots of 'new' things in school this year, all of which are aimed at enhancing our educational and pastoral provision and are outlined below.

Once again, I am always happy to talk to you about any aspect of the Junior School so please do not hesitate to call me.

PS Hopkinson
Headmaster of AJS

What's New?

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome a few new faces to the AJS staff room, all of whom will undoubtedly enhance the educational provision at the School.

Mrs Hilary Hine joins as a KS2 Teaching Assistant. Mrs Hine is a fully qualified and vastly experienced teacher who will be supporting our junior teachers and pupils. With a strong background in art she will also be involved in supporting the teaching of this subject and in helping to develop our new art room.

Mrs Maxine Brooker also joins us as a Teaching Assistant. Mrs Brooker's role will be to support Mrs Buck and Year 1.

Another experienced and well qualified member of staff, Mrs Brooker is looking forward to bringing new ideas to the infants and to helping develop the new Role Play room.

We are fortunate now to have four qualified Teaching Assistants at AJS and we expect them to contribute fully to the teaching and learning process.

We are also joined by Miss Parkin and Miss Starritt in the Kindergarten. They will be covering for Miss Robinson and Miss Hutchinson who are both on maternity leave. They join Miss Hamer who we are delighted to have back in our Kindergarten after a year away. Miss Hamer made a very welcome return at the end of the summer term.

We also warmly welcome back Mrs Briggs who has been on maternity leave.

Therefore, we start the academic year with a very experienced, well qualified and professional team, ensuring that high standards of teaching and care are maintained.

Curriculum and Facilities

Our curriculum for 2009 is perhaps our most exciting to date. It combines traditional focus on the key skills of maths and English underpinned by state of the art ICT capability and teaching. Along with English, maths and ICT, science makes up our fourth core curriculum area and will benefit from a new teaching area on the ground floor.

There will be a move towards combined humanities teaching (geography and history), which will encourage more cross curricular and topic work. This move also anticipates the proposed changes to primary curriculum that will be expected in all schools by 2011.

Our new Modern Foreign Language curriculum is hugely exciting and promises a unique blend of Spanish, German and French. The children will be immersed in the language and culture of these three great European countries,

and will be expertly taught by language teachers from the Senior School, who in turn will be supported by language assistants native to the three countries.

Practical skills will also be enhanced this year as design technology (DT) and art are given a boost. DT will be given more time on the timetable and children will experience cookery on a half termly basis as part of the new curriculum. Both subjects will have dedicated rooms to enable the delivery of an enhanced curriculum.

All pupils will develop their thinking skills as the 'creative curriculum' is expanded. This will help children apply traditional skills in a variety of contexts and will help prepare them better for the Senior School.

Swimming will continue for the juniors but will take place over the first term only. This will not reduce the amount of time the children have as they will spend twice as much time at the pool. Debbie Gore (Ex Commonwealth and Olympic swimmer) will be assisting with all lessons. This will free up time in the second term for PE, movement and drama lessons.

Code of Conduct

We spent a lot of time with the children at the end of last term, in their respective Houses, looking at our Code of Conduct; what it meant, what should be included, what they saw as acceptable/unacceptable behaviour, what rewards and sanctions should be in place. As a result, we have newly written Junior and Infant Codes of Conduct. A copy will be on the wall in every classroom and at various points around the school. As part of their first day back the children will talk through it with their Form Teachers and we will use it as a theme for our first assemblies. I will also be sending a copy to you so that you can reinforce those values at home with your children.

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The Code of Conduct will help underpin our expectations of the childrens' behaviour in school and I thank you in advance for you supporting this at home.

Pupils

As well as our new Reception pupils, many of whom have moved up from Kindergarten, we welcome the following pupils and their families to the Arnold community: Skye Wilkinson (Y1), Katie Gaye (Y1), Joshua Moreau (Y5), Isaac Eastham (Y5), Lauren Quarmbly (Y6K) and Catherine Gartside (Y6K)

Drop off and Pick Up

Pick up for both infant and junior pupils is from the main entrance; infants at 3.30 pm and juniors at 3.40 pm. **Children will only be allowed to leave the school if the adult responsible for picking them up has made their presence known to the members of staff on duty.**

Children not picked up by 4.00 pm will be taken to late room.

Before and After School Care

The school will continue to offer before and after school care and it will be run in exactly the same way as last year.

Doors are open at 8.00 am for all children, who will be supervised in the hall until collected by their Form Teachers at 8.30 am. There is no charge for this service.

After school, Late Room will run until 6.00 pm every school night. Advance notice is required for late room attendance and this has to be done via the School Office. There is a charge of £4.30 per session

Parking

Please park sensibly and with the health and safety of our children in mind. Please do not park on the yellow zig zag lines at the front of school during the hours stipulated as it makes crossing Lytham Rd extremely hazardous. Thank you.

Uniform

The AJS uniform is something we expect our children to take pride in; both in and out of school.

We encourage you to refer to the uniform lists provided and to ensure that your child has the correct equipment, kit and uniform at all times.

Girls' and boys' hair should be smart and neat in appearance; girls hair below shoulder length must be tied back at all times using bobbles/scrunchies of school colour. Hair bands may be worn but must be of school colour and long hair must still be tied back. Boys should not wear their hair spiked or gelled.

Jewellery and make up must not be worn although children are encouraged to wear a wrist watch. Ear rings must not be worn other than studs for the initial period following piercing and if this is the case the studs must be covered with sticking plaster; we ask that if piercing takes place that it be done so during the summer break.

Shoes must be black in colour and not trainer style (boys) or ballet/pump style (girls). **Last year, a number of girls wore the ballet/pump style shoes which do not have a strap or band over the bridge of the foot; these are not appropriate for school and must not be worn.**

School bags for all pupils must be Arnold School bags.

School Events

Uniform should be worn at all school events (including evenings and weekends) unless otherwise stated.

If you have any questions about school uniform please do not hesitate to ask.

Calling all Choristers

Mr and Mrs Fielder look forward to seeing you this Tuesday and Thursday for another year of super singing.

We are delighted that Mr Fielder will remain involved with the choir.

Be on the look out for Music Club and Recorder Club notices next week.

GL Assessments

Over the first two weeks of term, all pupils will take GL (Granada Learning) assessments in maths and English. Most of the assessments will be online and will provide us with a raft of assessment data to help us map the progress of each individual pupil. We introduced the assessments at Arnold last year and I am pleased to inform you that the assessments are now being trialled across all UCST/ULT junior schools. This means that we will not only have data on our own pupils and how they stand nationally, but we will also be able to compare performance with other UCST/ULT schools and as a consequence share best practise and further enhance the teaching and learning process.

Barnardos

Our final total of the money collected from Barnardo Cottage boxes this June was £ 1,177.79. We would like to say a big "thank you" to all the children in the Infant and Junior school who have saved money throughout the year to raise this fantastic amount. If you haven't got a cottage box and would like one, please see Mrs Foster. Mrs Nancy Hart, our Barnardo representative, will be visiting us again on Monday 14th September to talk to us in assembly about the work that the charity does in this area.

Clubs and Activities

There will be the usual array of clubs and lunchtime/after school activities this year, most of which start next week. Please keep a look out for letters and information over the next few days. Most clubs will be run by the AJS teaching staff but we are also employing several professional coaches to run activities such as cricket, judo, fencing and rugby. 'Mad Science' will also be making a welcome return.

Website

Keep abreast of all AJS news and forthcoming events on the School Website: www.arnoldschool.com