



Arnold Times



Christmas Special

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Newsletter of Arnold Junior School

18th December 2009

To the Parents

Bringing Out The Best

The first term of the academic year is at an end and, as is usual, I reflect on the achievements of the Junior School. This has been a term of transition for the school as we have adapted to being a smaller unit with less staff. We knew that we had a great deal to prove to our pupil and parent body and that despite changes to our structure we could maintain and even improve our educational and pastoral provision.

I am delighted to inform you that we have achieved everything we set out to do and more. Our children have enjoyed a wonderful term responding positively to changes made. There have been improvements to curriculum and facilities that have undoubtedly enhanced our provision and we firmly believe that we do offer an unrivalled education that brings out the very best in our children.

Our assessment data, which measures individual progress and that all important 'value added' element of learning, proves that our children really do prosper and benefit from being at Arnold and that your investment in their education is wisely placed. The results from our recent parental questionnaire were overwhelmingly positive and endorse the job our staff do on a daily basis.

Our end of term events are also a resounding example of a successful and happy school and I hope that you enjoy reading about them in this newsletter.

Of course, we are not perfect, and I rely on your feedback to help us improve and remind you that I am always happy to chat about any aspect of your child's education.

I hope that you and your families enjoy a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year

PS Hopkinson
Headmaster of AJS

Star Attraction



A long time ago a baby was born, called Jesus. That is why we celebrate Christmas at Arnold Junior School. In our play all of the characters are important for telling the story. We have Mary, Joseph, innkeepers, narrators, wise men and shepherds.



My favourite part in the play is when Herod shouts, "Silence!" and "Follow them!" When this happens, the soldiers march quickly and Mrs. Fielder plays some funny music that makes us laugh. I like it when Joseph says to Mary, "Let's get married straight away." We really enjoyed doing our play for everyone to watch.
Elisha Butterfield Y2



Carol Concert

The Junior School Hall was filled – not only with parents and children – but with Christmas music too. The choir led the concert with beautiful carols, poems and interesting link readings, interspersed with instrumental pieces from the Year 4 and Year 5 recorder groups, the woodwind ensemble, the brass group, violinists and soloists. To accompany the carols, a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments provided rhythms and harmonies.



By the end of the concert, everyone was full of Christmas spirit, helped by the audience participation in the seasonal songs. Shannon's rendition of White Christmas accompanying both the choir and the audience singing was exceptionally moving. Congratulations to everyone!

Christmas Shopping?

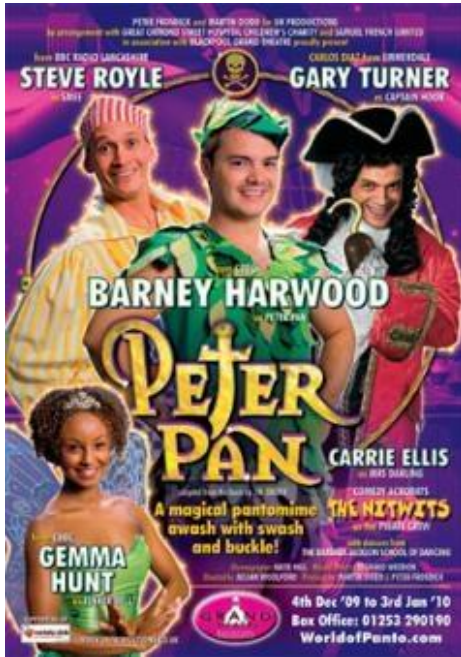
If like me you do most of your shopping on the internet (the answer to my prayers!!), then you could make money for the Parents and Friends Association. By visiting our webshop at www.buy.at/arnold and purchasing from major retailers such as Next, Amazon, M and S and now e-bay, you will earn commission for the PFA. It won't cost you a penny but will help raise money for school projects.

Panto Fun

All of the children have enjoyed the magic of the pantomime this year. The Kindergarten went to see 'Mookie Doolittle' at the Tower.



Children in Reception to Year 6 went to The Grand to watch Peter Pan. They had a great time and seemed to especially enjoy getting wet.



Winner

Well done to Grace Webster (Y3) who won the Arnold Times Christmas Quiz.

**Merry
Christmas**



Hat Parade

A fantastic array of hats were on display as the children tucked into their Christmas dinner. This AJS tradition is always very popular with the children (and parents) many of whom made hats especially for the occasion.



From Santa hats to Christmas Tree hats the children looked wonderful and it was a pleasure to see them all eating a hearty Christmas Dinner (thanks to the catering staff) singing along to Christmas favourites.



As you can see from the picture below Mr Storey was determined not to be outdone by the children!!



Choir Spread Festive Cheer



The Junior School Choir has been out and about recently, helping spread festive cheer to our school and local communities.

First of all the Ladies Luncheon Club were entertained by the Choir at their Christmas Lunch.

Then the Choristers entertained the residents of the Princess Alexandra Home for the Blind with their beautiful singing and playing. The children were a credit to the school, in both their behaviour and their performance; it was a delight to be able to entertain such an appreciative audience. Our thanks to Mrs. Irving for inviting us.



**Happy New
Year**

