



'An Academy to be Proud of'

Newsletter

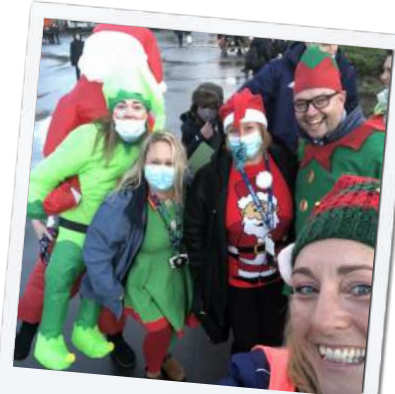
Autumn 2021



Armfield's Successful Elf Day

We would like to thank all of our parents and carers for their very generous donations towards our Elf Day to raise money for a member of our school community. We loved seeing all of Santa's little helpers around school, making us feel very festive and getting us into the Christmas spirit.

Over £600 was raised and a whole heap of fun was had!



Let me take an elfie!

Inside Stories *A wonderful first term!*





Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of a very challenging and different year in school, I want to thank you all for your support, patience and resilience! You and your children have been amazing and it has been a joy to welcome you every morning and afternoon and to see the learning journeys that our students and younger children are making.

I am sorry that you have not been able to be a part of our usual celebrations and volunteering over the last few months. However, I trust you are feeling part of our Armfield family, in spite of the current restrictions. In light of the current vaccine news, we look forward to the spring and the day when we can celebrate as a whole school community once again.

Please remember to help your children keep warm by layering up and wearing warm, waterproof boots, shoes or wellies. Also, don't forget your hats, scarves and gloves – January can be very cold and snowy!

Our last day of term is Tuesday 21st December 2021 and school will close at 12 noon.

Armfield Academy will reopen for primary students on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at the usual time.

Secondary students: please could parents/carers refer to the separate letter dated 14th December 2021 detailing the arrangements for mass-testing on the Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th January 2022, which we are obliged to do. Secondary students will return officially on Friday 7th January 2022.

I would just like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and relaxing Christmas. Please take care, stay safe and enjoy time with your families in a COVID safe way. See you all in 2022!

Very best wishes,

Mr Kilmurray



Food Bank Collections

A big thank you to every member of our school community who has donated to our food bank. These donations ensure our families who are most in need can get through Christmas with a little help and support from us! The primary school's harvest haul was especially generous and gave us a huge boost.

Thank you again for all the kindness you show to our most in need children and their families.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter at @ArmfieldHistory



Nursery

Autumn Term 2021

The EYFS classroom is a special place where the children are at the centre of everything. It is filled with opportunities for the children to explore and have fun – both indoors and outdoors. As always, we follow the children's interests and curiosity to lead their learning and enhance our provisions further. With all the seasonal changes this term, it has been an ideal time of year to use our senses to explore. Therefore, we have experienced hail, ice and frost, and also experienced making shadows outdoors, which was inspired by one of our favourite stories, *The Gruffalo's Child*. Our home bear, Barnaby Bear, has also enjoyed his trip to Spain, playgrounds, and playing hide and seek in the woods. Thankfully, he never saw the 'big bad mouse'.



We wish all our families a lovely festive holiday. May you enjoy your family time together playing games, watching Christmas films, walks in the woods and spending time with your loved ones.

The Nursery Team



Reception



The Reception children had a fantastic trip to the local bakery! They enjoyed wearing their high visibility vests and walking with their partners. It was wonderful to see what we could spot on our walk. We learnt about keeping safe and practised road safety, looking left, right and left again, and using the zebra crossing. The children were able to choose a tasty treat from the bakery and impressed everyone with their wonderful manners. On our return back to school, all the children made their own bread and soup for a special afternoon snack. A lovely learning experience was had by all. Well done Mini Hawks and Mini Eagles!



YEAR 1

The Year 1 children returned in September with renewed vigour for the year ahead.

Clearly delighted to be back in school full time, they embraced our 'Superhumans' topic with enthusiasm.

Kapow! Supertato to the rescue! With the help of the Super Veggies that the children made and the wanted posters that they designed, we managed to track down the Evil Pea. We also learnt all about the human body and created some Picasso inspired self-portraits. As well as meeting fictional superheroes, we met real life heroes when we were lucky enough to be visited by two of our local Community Support Officers.

After half term, we changed our topic to 'Traditional Tales' and explored The Three Little Pigs story in English and DT. The children have been retelling the story through their wonderful writing, as well as designing and making 3D models of the pigs' houses. By exploring materials in Science, the children have been able to select the best materials to meet their design brief.



We have also focused on a number of celebrations this term, including Bonfire Night, Harvest, Remembrance Day and Diwali. Finally, the children have been focusing all their energy preparing for Christmas by learning the Nativity story, making cards and decorations, and writing letters to Father Christmas! What a busy term Year 1 - we are now looking forward to 2022.



Year 2 To The Rescue!

Armfield Academy are lucky enough to now have 60 Mini First Aiders! This half term, Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to deal with bumps, burns, breaks and bleeding. As well as learning how to carry out CPR, the recovery position and deal with choking. We are all in safe hands!



WHAT HAVE YEAR 3 BEEN UP TO?...



PGL TRIP

Year 3 started the academic year with an exciting team building and challenge day at PGL, Winmarleigh, in September. All the children pushed themselves out of their comfort zone as they tackled challenges, including a high rope climb course and a giant swing! It was a fantastic day, which continued once the children had returned to school, as they tucked into a hot dog and watched a film in the school hall.



MAKING WELSH RAREBIT

Year 3 have been studying the United Kingdom this term and they have completed a Design Technology project about food from different places around the UK. Specifically, they researched and then wrote a recipe for Welsh rarebit. This culminated in taking a trip across to the secondary building, where they made their rarebit, adding chives and cress that they had grown themselves in the classroom.



UNDERSTANDING FOSSILS

In Science, the children have been studying rocks. They have looked at the different types of rocks and where they might be found. As part of their work, the children looked at how fossils might be made within layers of rock. To demonstrate this, Year 3 visited a secondary lab and modelled the process using shells, plasticine and plaster of paris. It meant they could take home a fossil at the end of the session!



GCSE Art with Mr Evans

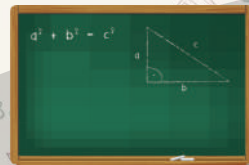


As we close in towards the Christmas holidays, our GCSE Art and Design students have been focusing and working hard to finish their theme 'abandoned'. From the theme, students have freely picked a sub theme that has an overall link. These include mental health, abandoned buildings, climate change and abandoned beauty. During our last few weeks leading to Christmas, our students have been aiming to produce a meaningful final design in the form of fine art, linking to influential artists. some fantastic examples of sketchbook work, which shows development, technical ability and passion within the subject.



MATHS

What an exciting term it has been for our Armfield mathematicians. Year 7 have hit the ground running with some fantastic work on algebra, Year 8 have done some amazing work on geometry, Year 9 have explored some data units, and Year 10 have been introduced to some Trigonometry.



As the Maths team and the school has grown, alongside the removal of the bubble system and some other restrictions, we have enjoyed planning and delivering a range of lessons where pupils have been able to explore different ways of solving problems. We have also reintroduced our Numeracy Puzzle of the Week, which has had great participation.

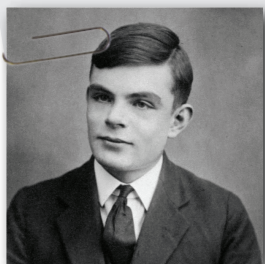
Pupils who enter earn points towards the House System and an overall winner is chosen at random to win a prize.

Armfield Academy Maths would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to more exciting lessons and competitions in 2022!



In Computer Science we have been learning about some important people in the tech industry, past and present. Please read their profiles and ask your child some questions about them to see what they've learnt!

Profile

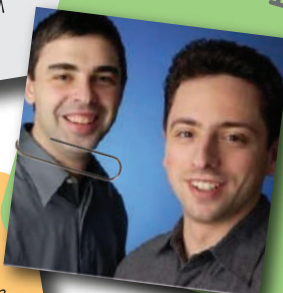


Alan Turing (1912 to 1954)

British mathematician and logician. He made major contributions to mathematics, cryptanalysis, logic, philosophy, and mathematical biology, and also to the new areas later named computer science, cognitive science, artificial intelligence, and artificial life.



Profile



Larry Page and Sergey Brin

Computer scientists and entrepreneurs who created the online search engine Google, one of the most popular sites on the internet.

Profile



Susan Wojcicki

An American tech industry executive who was CEO of the video sharing website YouTube. She was previously the senior vice president in charge of marketing at YouTube's parent company, Google Inc.



Profile



Edward Snowden

An American intelligence contractor, who in 2013 revealed the existence of secret wide ranging, information gathering programs conducted by the National Security Agency (NSA).



Profile



Hedy Lamarr (1913/14 to 2000),

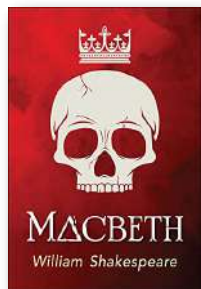
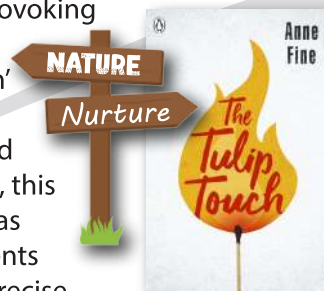
Originally named Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler. Austrian-born American film star, who was often typecast as a provocative femme fatale. Years after her screen career ended, she achieved recognition as a noted inventor of a radio communications device.



Reading has been the main course on the menu this half-term; each year group has meticulously studied books that have a range of thought-provoking genres.

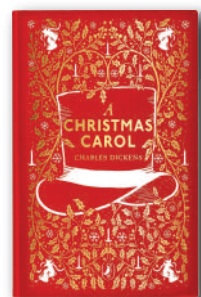
Year 7 have been focused on a novel named 'The Tulip Touch' by Anne Fine, which raises questions centred around

accountability and morality, as well as debating Nature vs Nurture. The book has encouraged students to utilise their empathy for complex characters and as we draw closer to Christmas, this is all the more important. Year 7 students have practised identifying key quotations, as well as discussing their effect on the author and characters within the story. Interestingly, the students wrote some fantastic school reports which allows them to practise writing in a formal and precise way. Well done Year 7, you have worked hard and shown what you can do with perseverance and hard work.



After our non-fiction, animal welfare scheme of work in the first half-term, Year 8 moved onto their first introduction to Shakespeare. Context surrounding this era was hugely important, as we have looked at how 'The Gunpowder Plot' was an inspiration for Shakespeare to create the play 'Macbeth'. Students have analysed, discussed and acted out various moments from the play and have increased their vocabulary to an impressive standard. As a discussion starter, please ask your child their opinion on Lady Macbeth. It will be sure to start a debate.

Year 9 has completed the study of a book that many parents and guardians may very well remember. 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck is a huge topic of conversation and has had the students questioning how loneliness and marginalisation can be represented by very different people. Students have done a deep-dive exploration of Candy, Curley's Wife and Crooks; all of whom have experienced discrimination in different ways. During the half-term, students have questioned their own outlook, identified different power dynamics and challenged the author's decisions.



Christmas came early for Year 10 who have been reading 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. This half term, students have been introduced to a new way of writing and have managed to accept the challenge whole-heartedly. Drawing on previous knowledge, students have used their Victorian context to question the decisions and lifestyle choices of main characters. The theme of reflection was incredibly strong, as students discussed how Dickens has used his novel as an opportunity to communicate his views on the shocking treatment of the poor.

After another challenging year, the English department wants to thank parents and students for all their hard work. We hope you enjoy a joyful and relaxing break.

As the Autumn term has progressed and the days have drawn in, the library in secondary at Armfield has become a hive of lunchtime activity. Manned by a trusty team of student librarians, with the support of the English staff, students have been turning their backs on the blustery yard, and heading inside for some warming book talk. Staff and students alike have been sharing their recommendations, and all students have been able to select books appropriate for their reading level after taking their initial tests on Accelerated Reader, called 'Star Tests.'



It is an Armfield expectation that students read independently for 20 minutes an evening, and we strongly encourage students (and parents and carers!) to take part in a current challenge happening across Blackpool, called the Blackpool 30 Reading Challenge. The aim of this challenge is to inspire more families in Blackpool to read regularly, with the message that reading is fun and good for wellbeing. You can choose any book of your choice, and magazines, newspaper articles or online articles are all part of the challenge. You are invited to share your journey on social media using the

hashtag #Blackpool30. So, please make time over the winter break to put your feet up with a hot beverage and a good book, and remind your child to be taking their Accelerated Reader quizzes when they finish! All students have login details for Accelerated Reader, and the link is <https://ukhosted102.renlearn.co.uk/7161395>. This link can also be found on our Academy website by scrolling down to the bottom and clicking 'Renaissance', underneath 'Useful Links.' Please also follow our brand new account, @ArmfieldIsLit, on Twitter for all literacy updates relevant to the secondary school. Happy holidays, and happy AR quizzing!



WE'VE BEEN BUSY IN PE!

What a fantastic start to the year! Students have been partaking in a broad range of activities in PE, which have included rugby, table tennis, dance, handball, badminton, basketball, healthy active lives, boxing and football. This has been reflected in the attendance numbers for extracurricular clubs and fixtures. This term in PE we ran 105 after school clubs, 170 lunch time clubs, 8 fixtures against other schools, 14 tournaments with local Blackpool schools and a dance competition at Blackpool Winter Gardens. Representing the school in these fixtures we had 90 students involved in football, 75 in rugby, 40 in netball, 40 in badminton, 60 in dance and 15 in basketball. The students have competed with local Blackpool schools, but have also travelled to play schools in areas such as Clitheroe and Rossendale in our Lancashire Cup fixtures.

We have launched the OCR Sports Studies course this year, with 44 of our Year 10 students choosing it as their Key Stage 4 option. They have had an outstanding start to the year, with many of them involved in coaching and officiating lessons and extracurricular clubs for our Key Stage 3 students.

This term we have also been creating community links and have associated ourselves with Preston Grasshoppers, Fylde Rugby, Fleetwood Boxing Club, Blackpool Table Tennis Club, Blackpool FC Community Trust, Blackpool Basketball Club, FY Futsal and Active Blackpool. Many of the students who have joined in with our extracurricular provision have gone on to join some of these local clubs, with one of our Year 10 girls already representing Preston Grasshoppers in rugby.

Next half term the students will be delving into new activities. Again, these will run in line with our extracurricular fixtures and we are hoping to have even more students representing Armfield Academy. With the dark nights closing in, we will be focusing on indoor sports, with fixtures set for basketball, handball, badminton and volleyball.

KEY POINTS:

105 HOURS OF AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS

112 HOURS OF LUNCH TIME SPORTS CLUBS

320 STUDENTS REPRESENTING ARMFIELD ACADEMY IN FIXTURES

23 FIXTURES, TOURNAMENTS & COMPETITIONS

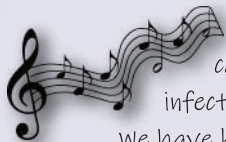


Regular updates will be posted on our Twitter page @ArmfieldPE and our Instagram page Armfieldpe_dance



The Autumn Term has been one of new starts for two year groups in Modern Foreign Languages...

Year 3 have started their language learning journey with weekly French lessons every Tuesday morning studying French language and culture as part of our all-through Modern Languages curriculum. Taught by specialist French teachers and with year 3 class teachers supporting alongside, the children then further practise their new learning during the week. Indeed, several families have shared that there has been a real buzz at home as children delight in sharing their new skills and knowledge.



The French songs have appeared to be quite catchy and the children's enthusiasm has been infectious! C'est fantastique!

We have been focussing on key early language skills. Year 3 children have been looking at key French phonics and how we sound out new words. We have started to develop routines in the French classroom, for example, asking one another how we are feeling and giving our answers. We have used early numbers to say our age, and months of the year to express our birthdays and made links to seasons and the daily weather. At the same time, we have learned that French isn't just spoken in France and looked at other 'Francophone' countries. We have worked on locating France on a world map and naming capital cities, both of France and countries nearer home, as part of our cross-curricular links within this term's Year 3 theme of 'A Kingdom United'.



Year 10 have also embraced new starts, as over 100 of our senior students have embarked on their GCSE French journey. With three hours a week of timetabled French lessons, Year 10 have explored the first GCSE theme of 'Identity and Culture' this term. We have developed our ability to describe ourselves and our relationships with others; explored who our role models are and why; described how we spend our free time; considered habits around reading and television and debated the advantages and disadvantages of technology. All students have been provided with their own GCSE revision guide which mirrors the GCSE course, as an early vocabulary and grammar support, and Quizlet links have been shared to encourage regular vocabulary building and quizzing.



Felicitations!

Year 7 Francophonie Project Winners...

Scarlett
Aaron
Evie
Grace

Scarlett
Kiera
Nura
Tommy



SCIENCE

What an exciting term we have had inspiring our budding scientists across the school! Year 7 have made a fabulous start to the year and focused on working scientifically and developing their practical working skills. They have impressed all staff with their mature attitudes and safely carried out some investigations to build on skills learnt in primary school. Year 7 have then moved on to answer the bigger questions such as 'why do icebergs float?', 'why does a camel not sink in the sand?' and 'how can I smell something from the other side of the room?'

Year 8 have been studying an important and topical unit about keeping fit and healthy. In this unit, students have been encouraged to find out about different types of pathogens and think about how the body is adapted to keep them out. They have looked at transmission of infection and how vaccinations work. This has led to some interesting conversations about the current climate in which we are living. Year 8 have now begun learning about the fundamental principles of electricity and magnetism and the awe inspiring phenomena that these topics behold.

As part of our partnership with Ogden Trust, Years 7 and 8 have been invited to take part in the annual science Christmas card competition. The top entries in our school will be forwarded to Blackpool Sixth Form College for judging. We have been amazed with some of the exciting designs which have been created! Fingers crossed for a winner!

Year 9 have begun to study separate science and now have lessons in biology, chemistry and physics each week. In biology, students have built on prior knowledge about cells, learning how cells replicate and how we can treat diseases using stem cells. In chemistry students have learnt about the structure of the atom and how scientific developments have led to a change in theory along the way. This has been applied to the structure of the atom and the periodic table.

In physics, students have investigated different energy changes and applied equations to situations to calculate how much energy would be within the system. On the whole we have been really impressed with the maturity of the year group as they have embarked on the start of their GCSE content.

Year 10 have been continuing to learn the key concepts for GCSE science. In biology students have investigated factors which will limit the rate of photosynthesis and how we obtain the energy which we need to survive. They have now started to further build on the knowledge learned in Year 8 about pathogens and diseases with a focus on transmission and disease control. In chemistry students have investigated how energy changes take place and linked this to real life situations/ uses. Links have then been made to physics where the amount of energy released from different alcohols was investigated. Alternative methods of transport are being taught as we ponder the future of diesel cars. Physics has enabled students to look at how particles behave and why some materials will heat up quicker than others in the same conditions. We have now started to look at electricity and apply formulas to make calculations for the amount of energy in the system.

Science Club has been well attended this term, but there are still spaces for a few more. Please speak to your science teacher for more information. They have created some amazing crystals which are a work of art!

The secondary team were delighted to welcome over the Year 3 classes for enrichment. Mr Cooper and Miss Sharp were very impressed with the maturity and effort they showed whilst learning about fossil formation. After they understood how fossils form, we made our own casts and then fossils. All pupils enjoyed the experience and we look forward to more cross-phase working in the near future.

Merry Christmas from the Armfield Academy Science department!

The
Ogden
Trust

