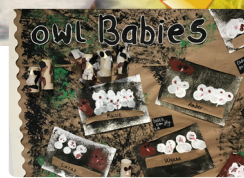




## Early Years Set the Festive Mood

Reception has been such a busy place this half-term. We have enjoyed learning about nocturnal animals, reading stories such as Owl Babies and exploring non-fiction texts. We also looked at the festival of Diwali and made our own Diwali lamps to celebrate the festival of light. We enjoyed learning about the Christmas story and singing and performing 'The Nativity' for our parents, carers and the Year 7 pupils. The children welcomed their parents into school for a 'stay and play' and enjoyed showing them around the classroom and making Christmas crafts together.



**Inside Stories** *our first term has ended on a high!*







Dear Parent/Carer,

As we draw to the end of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your overwhelmingly positive support during the Autumn term. Armfield Academy has made incredible progress since we first opened earlier this year. We are so proud of all our students; our Year 7s and our reception children who continually, day in day out, strive for high standards in their work, attendance, punctuality, uniform and behaviour. Your children are an absolute delight, a credit to your good selves and our academy. Parents may be interested to learn that, collectively, your sons and daughters have amassed over 27,000 praise points for effort and attainment since the school opened, which is an incredible achievement over such a short period of time.

Despite being a brand-new school, our staff and students have got involved in countless activities, including national events, charity work and various sports competitions; the students have achieved great results in both netball and football inter-school competitions; the Early Years children hosted two Christmas nativity performances; the whole school community remembered our fallen heroes on the 100 Year Centenary Armistice Day; the students launched a school newspaper; we have supported numerous charities, including Children in Need, Save the Children, two local food bank charities through the Blackpool Football Club Supporter's Trust, as well as hosting an incredible bingo evening for parents and the local community. Last but not least, we welcomed Santa Claus and his donkeys to meet the Early Years children before breaking up for the Christmas holidays.

Having said that, we still have much to do. Most importantly, we must ensure that we sustain these very high standards, whilst at the same time focus on the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom; sustained learning, continuous progress and achievement for each and every Armfield student is paramount. In this regard, I thank you wholeheartedly for your support. In truth, I ask the students every day, sometimes twice, sometimes three times 'Why are we here?', to which the students collectively reply with a clap and a stamp of their feet 'TO LEARN!'. Their enthusiasm to learn and engage with their lessons is really encouraging and with your support I am confident our youngsters will exceed our expectations. However, it is time for a break. I wish the students a great Christmas and a good rest because in the New Year, we start again, right back to day 1; standards and high expectations.

Armfield Academy will reopen on Monday 7th January at the normal time. Students are welcome to arrive from 8:00AM where they can take advantage of the free breakfast on offer. Students are expected to be at their muster station at 8:45AM, ready to be in form for a prompt 8:50AM start.

Once again, on behalf of all the staff at Armfield Academy, I thank you for your continued support and I wish you a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Kilmurray

# Maths



This half-term, Armfield pupils have been competing in a TT Rockstars inter-form competition. Congratulations 7F, who are the current champions and emerged undefeated. Many pupils achieved 'Rock Legend' and 'Rock Hero' status but a special shout out to Courtney 7F, Thomas 7M, Zanep 7F, Brooke 7A, Charlotte 7L, Jamie 7D, Lucas 7L, George 7F, Jayden 7A, Harvey 7M, Alfie 7L, Josef 7L and last but not least Mr Renouf 7A. Thank you everyone who participated. Armfield Maths is looking forward to seeing the different houses competing against each other in the New Year.

Pupils have also been given a HegartyMaths account to complete homework and encourage independent learning/revision. Well done Ruby 7F and Grace 7L, who have successfully completed the most skills. Keep up the good work Year 7!

Don't forget to follow us on twitter @ArmfieldMaths

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STEM club has continued to prove popular with students over the last half term. They have continued with their challenge activities, helping Action Man down from a shelf and making him a 'safe' bungee jump! The club has also been challenged to make geometric snowmen and some took home beautiful paper chromatography flowers. Mrs Hall and Mrs Beach are looking forward to inviting new students to join us after the Christmas break.

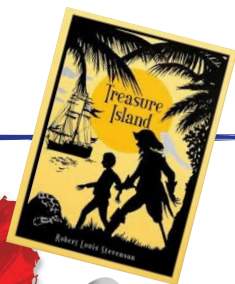


Reading, reading and even more reading has dominated the menu in English lessons this half-term. Students have studied either the classic Robert Louis Stevenson adventure novel 'Treasure Island', or the thought-provoking, darkly-themed book 'The Tulip Touch' by Anne Fine. With GCSE comprehension skills in mind, learners have been developing their ability to produce extended answers – with many mastering essay-writing already!

As well as identifying key quotations from a text and discussing the effect of language devices, some students have been weaving their study book's cultural and historical context to their written responses. This is an excellent step forward for many of our Year 7 cohort given that this is a skill usually associated with, and expected from, pupils in Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11-aged programmes of study. In particular, there has been a focus on how a novel's genre, time period and its writer's moral attitudes can influence a narrative's content. Pleasingly, the students have grasped this approach to literature study in an impressive fashion.

This half term, a fantastic forty-two students won prizes, after accumulating raffle tickets for excellent answering and positive conduct during English lessons. Furthermore, students who had completed five homework activities at deadline were able to scratch off their rewards card. The 'comfy chair' reward has gone down a treat! Next month, we will be studying the theme of nature in poetry. Your child will transfer the reading skills from this half-term, leading to an analytical comparison of the poems 'Nettles' by Vernon Scannell and 'Daffodils' by William Wordsworth. To prepare for this, they may wish to conduct some research on these texts during the Christmas holiday.

In addition, we will be launching our Accelerated Reader programme, opening our new library in the process. Students' reading abilities will be tested and the outcome will populate the list of suitable and challenging books for your child to read within the academy and at home. A letter explaining this initiative will be sent out in January, offering advice on how you can support their reading development.



# French

Throughout French this half-term, students have continued to produce very impressive work whilst studying the unit of 'school'. Students are successfully managing to add to their vocabulary and use a range of tenses which is brilliant at this stage of the year! Students are developing their confidence in speaking French in class and have managed to say some fantastic phrases. A focus for this term has also been the development of listening skills in preparation for the listening assessment which will take place after Christmas.

In Languages Club, we have been studying Spanish. Students have been eager to learn numbers, greetings and animals - new members are always welcome!



## Children in Need

Armfield staff and pupils raised over **£350** for Children in Need.

Many events took place throughout the day with Year 7's running a cake sale, name the bear competition and soak the teacher. Our reception classes wore something yellow or spotty, made biscuits and also enjoyed laughing at all the teachers getting soaked at lunchtime. Well done to everyone that got involved and thank you to the the parents/guardians for all your support.

## Community News

Blackpool FC Supporters Trust came into school on Friday 14th December afternoon to collect the food, teddies, toys etc. that had been kindly donated by staff and students. The collections are being used to support local food banks in the Blackpool community whose volunteers work tirelessly over the Christmas period to make sure that those less fortunate than others receive the vital necessities to survive. We thank everyone who donated to this cause.

## Food Bank Collection



Keep up to date with school life  
Follow our Twitter account  
[@armfieldFCAT](https://twitter.com/armfieldFCAT)



Save the Children  
**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

Students and staff raised **£134.75**



# History

The Department of History at Armfield Academy has enjoyed a wonderful second half-term! Students have impressed Mr Renouf and Miss Blackburn with their attitude, effort and understanding when studying the Norman Conquest and life in Medieval England, featuring the murder of Thomas Becket and the Crusades. We have also been consolidating our GCSE-skills of inference, using evidence to support our opinions and approaching historical sources.

The half-term began with Armfield's very first Super Learning Day. All students were off timetable for the day on Friday 9th November, to reflect upon the centenary of the end of the First World War. Students explored life in the trenches, the development of weaponry and the spread of disease, before constructing an empathetic letter home from the trenches from the perspective of a soldier, using the knowledge that they had gathered during the day. To conclude, all students and staff took part in a remembrance service, attended by our guests of honour: Governors, Conlons Construction and our Executive Principal, Mr Lickiss. It was an outstanding day of learning, reflection and remembrance.

History club has also been researching Stone Keep Castles and will hopefully be building models of these soon! The Department of History would like to wish all of our parents, carers, students and the local community a happy, healthy and merry Christmas.

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



Twenty five pupils from Year 7 took part in Blackpool Council's Bikeability training this half term. The Bikeability instructors were with us for a whole week, so some pupils were able to catch up with their level 1 and 2 training if they missed out in primary school. Some did level 3, building on the skills that they learnt in primary school and some completed all 3 levels in just one week! Our cyclists went out onto the roads around school and around the areas where they live, to find safe routes, and to learn how to negotiate roads and junctions in traffic. Pupils also had the opportunity to ride in the tyre tracks of Olympic star Laura Trott, with a lap around the Palatine cycle track. There were some aching legs by Friday afternoon, but all of our pupils passed with flying colours and did Armfield Academy proud.



# SCIENCE

This half-term students of Armfield have continued to enjoy science lessons and learning about the fundamental principles of the world around them. We have learnt the skill of using a microscope and preparing slides whilst looking at the structure and function of different types of cells. We have been incredibly impressed with the exceptional questions which have been asked in lessons, proving how deep students are being encouraged to think about their work.

Students have each been asked to make their own DNA model which will be hung on the first Armfield Academy Christmas tree, personalising the tree and making a mark in the academy's history at the same time!

As we finish this term, students are starting their first chemistry unit. We are sure many parents and carers will fondly remember their school days with chemicals and the periodic table (again teaching the fundamentals of an exciting and awe-inspiring subject).

Mrs Hall is looking forward to some exciting opportunities coming up for the students – watch this space!

You may wish to follow some of our learning on Twitter: @Armfield\_Sci



Primarily, this half-term has been dedicated to the students working independently to develop their coding skills. They have been working on a variety of different languages including Scratch and HTML. As we move into the next term, we will start to build our own robots using Lego Mindstorms, programming them to follow paths, detect colours as well as a variety of other things!

This half-term in Computer Science, students have been looking at how data is represented in computers. They have looked at different types of images, such as bitmaps and vectors, as well as learning how to convert binary to denary. Students are building up their computer skills and it can already be seen how far their typing speed and skill have come since we started in September.

In Computer Science, all student work is completed on their Google accounts. Students are able to access these at home to show off their work or develop their knowledge further through revision.

As we move towards next term, the students will be learning how to code! We will be doing this through Scratch and learning lots of programming skills.

