



Newsletter

Dear Armfield Parents and Carers,
A warm welcome to this week's newsletter! We are always delighted to share the fantastic achievements of our students and keep you updated with important reminders to ensure everything runs smoothly at Armfield Academy.

Important messages

October half term

School closes today (Thursday October 16th) and reopens on Monday 3rd November. We hope you have a wonderful half term.

Iceland trip

Armfield's 1st Iceland trip leaves on Saturday morning at 8am. Feel free to follow @ArmfieldIceland for updates on X throughout the visit.

Photo consent

Please can you ensure your consents are all up to date on our MCAS app so that we can continue to use photographs when sharing the amazing achievements of our students on the Newsletter. To do this please open the app, click Parental Consent and ensure "Photograph External" is enabled.

You can also see other permissions on this section with an explanation of what each one is.

If you have previously given consent and you would like to withdraw this, you will need to contact the school office.

Thank you

Trips		Clubs	
 Academic Calendar		 Dinner	
 Attendance		 Timetable	
 Exam		 Reports	
 Parents Evening		 Data Collection	
 Parental Consent			



Newsletter

Christmas at Armfield

🧑🏻‍🎄 Our annual Christmas Market is in **just 6 weeks!!** We have a number of stalls signed up already and I am excited to confirm that **Soul Smash Burgers** and **Wave Coffee** are both returning, as well as plenty of new vendors and you might even see Father Christmas and his reindeers!

We are still looking for donations of raffle prizes – if you are able to donate a product or service please email admin@armfield.fcat.org.uk (please spread the word!)



Attendance challenge

A huge well done to all those students across primary and secondary who received a Halloween treat for getting 100% attendance throughout October! No tricks here! The November 20/20 Attendance Challenge starts the first day back after half term and will run across the whole month of November. Those who get 100% at the end of this challenge will be in with a chance of winning a queue jump pass for lunchtimes in secondary and a Winter Warmer Hot Chocolate afternoon in Primary.

A big thank you for your ongoing support with getting your children into school every day. Attendance Matters! Have a fabulous half term - Armfield Attendance



Pat Burns Memorial Day

Our deepest thanks to everyone who participated in today's fundraiser in honour of our dear colleague, Pat Burns. It was a beautiful day of community, made even more special by the visit from Pat's family, who spent time with his team and even cheered on the three-legged race! Thanks to your incredible generosity across both Primary and Secondary, **we have collectively raised over £1,500!** This significant amount will help us create **Pat's Memorial Garden**—a quiet, safe haven where students can take a moment when they need it, or simply sit and remember our beloved Pat.



Sports

Year 7 & 8 Girls Shine at Fylde Rugby Festival!

This week, some of our Year 7 and 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to attend the T1 Rugby Festival at Fylde Rugby Club. The day began with a morning workshop where the girls learned about the rules of the game and developed their passing and kicking skills.

In the afternoon, they put their new knowledge to the test in a friendly tournament against other schools. We were thrilled to see our girls scoring some fantastic tries and showing incredible enthusiasm throughout the day. Their teamwork, determination, and willingness to get stuck in made us all extremely proud!

A huge well done to all involved! If any girls are interested in starting or continuing their rugby journey, Fylde Rugby Club is currently recruiting new players—why not give it a go?





Newsletter

Armfield's Year 7 girls football team recently took part in the Year 7 Blackpool Girls Football Tournament, proudly representing the school with exceptional effort and teamwork.

The girls have been working extremely hard in PE lessons and at after-school clubs, and their dedication truly shone on the day. They played every game with pride, respect, and kindness, earning multiple positive comments from other schools about their sportsmanship and attitude. Led by their fantastic captain, Skyla, who demonstrated outstanding leadership throughout, the team made Armfield proud both on and off the pitch!

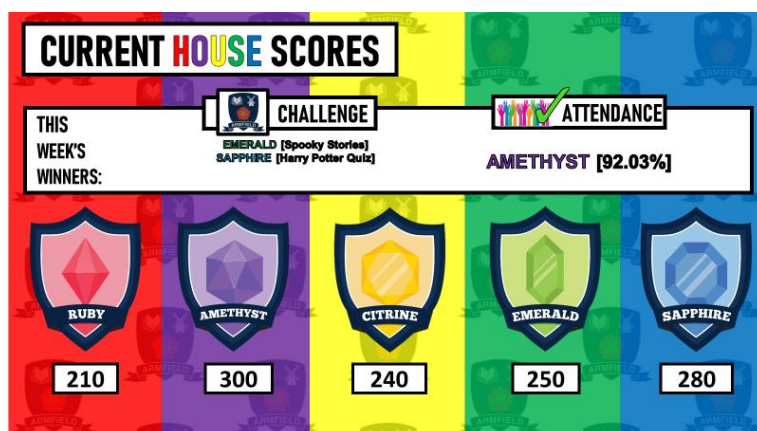


Yr 7 boys Football team won the South Blackpool competition last night beating St George's, Highfield and South Shore.

Thank you to Mr Walters for coordinating. All Yr 7s were invited to attend following our PE 'no selection policy'.

House Challenge

There have been a number of house challenges this week and we have lots more planned for after half term – thank you to all those who have been participating. Here are the current scores:



Miss Teen Great Britain 2025/26

A huge well done to Harper who was crowned Miss Teen Great Britain 2025/26 this week!



PTFA

Join Our PTFA!

If you'd like to be part of our PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association), please complete this form.

It's a great way to get involved, help plan fun community events, and raise money to support our school!

Even if you can only help occasionally, we'd love to have you — every bit of support makes a difference!

<https://forms.gle/3vqSGwsTEwYLD FYLA>



Halloween fun

The Phoenix project pupils have celebrated the end of a fantastic half term with an afternoon of pumpkin carving and treats (with minimal tricks!) Wishing you all a restful and spooky half term from the AP house



Internet Safety – Facebook

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

AGE RATING 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE
Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive. It encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear Of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

CYBERBULLYING
A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12–15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or trolled (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

FUTURE IMPACT
Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS
Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 30% of 12–15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This, sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

OVERSHARING
Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

VIDEOS AND STREAMING
Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be coaxed into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE
In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.

ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING
Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

LEAD BY EXAMPLE
Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

SAVVY SHARING
Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's Audience Selector gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

RESPECT BOUNDARIES
Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to. In the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

BLOCK AND REPORT
On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's bullying prevention hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.

Meet Our Expert
Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: www.facebook.com/parenting

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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Thank you for your continued support—we love celebrating our students' successes with you!

Best wishes,
The Armfield Academy Team