



'An Academy to be Proud of'

# Newsletter

Spring 2020



The next generation of Master Chefs

Just before 'lock down' a chef from Chartwells Catering visited the primary children to give a talk on healthy eating and demonstrated how to make pizzas. He made his own dough and used lots of different toppings to create a variety of pizzas. He talked to the children about the importance of eating 5 portions of fruit or veg a day and what makes a balanced diet.

The children then got a chance to make their own pizzas and choose from a variety of toppings including pepperoni, peppers, mushrooms and mozzarella cheese. After that, our kitchen staff cooked them in their big ovens and the children got a chance to eat them for their lunch. The smell of dough baking in the oven could be smelt all around school; they were delicious. Bon Appetite!

More pictures on page 4

**Inside Stories** ..... a bumper packed term!





Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome to our Newsletter. I sincerely hope that you are all managing to cope under the present circumstances. As the country looks to ease the lockdown, it will be good to reacquaint with family and friends, albeit in a socially distanced manner. There will be some challenges ahead but, together, we will meet them 'head on' and nothing is insurmountable that collectively we cannot solve together.

The situation of social distancing and lockdown will be proving challenging for everyone and I have every sympathy and admiration for all of you having to do this over the course of the last eleven or so weeks. It's an incredibly difficult time for families and, in particular, our students by not being in school and not being allowed to socialise with their friends in the normal way - not to mention our younger children who may struggle to really understand what is going on.

I would like to thank you all personally; your support for our academy in these unprecedented and challenging times has been unfailing; your kind words and countless messages to staff; working with the school as and where appropriate; changes to routines and schedules - all of which is in a landscape that is constantly changing and shifting at a national level. Parents and carers will all undoubtedly be aware of the various school opening plans, announced by the government in recent weeks, alongside of which has been a large amount of supporting information, guidance notes and 'tool kits.' We have been working through all this information in fine detail and developing our plans for the partial re-opening for our Year 1 children on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June.



There is a great deal for Armfield to consider and implement in order to ensure our academy is as COVID secure as it can be and as safe as possible for a phased return of children and staff.

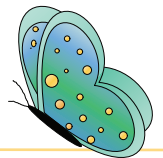
In the meantime, we will keep updating you through 'News You Can Use', Class DoJos and the school Website.

Despite the challenges, what we are all doing within our schools, with our parents/carers support and the work taking place in the wider community, plays an important part in preventing the transmission of infection. In its essence, it protects our NHS and ultimately saves lives. Our young people have all played a crucial part in this and, notwithstanding the hardships, should feel very proud.

It is my sincere hope to be able to get Armfield fully open as soon as the national conditions allow and, most importantly, when it is safe to do so. On behalf of all the staff, we really are missing our amazing young people. On a personal note, they are the reason we do what we do... they are the heart and soul of who we are and what we do as educators; above all they are lifeblood of our academy. They bring it to life and it's not the same without them.

Take care of you and yours, stay safe and please be kind to yourselves in these difficult times.

Mark Kilmurray  
Head Teacher



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



Talented student Ruby was invited to the Department of Computer Science at the University of Oxford on Saturday 25 January as a finalist in a UK-wide competition – The UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge.

Reaching the final of the Juniors (10–12) age group is an impressive achievement, as 79,986 students entered the first round for this age group. Ruby was among the top 61 highest achieving students invited to the final round in her age group and was presented with her finalist's certificate at a prize-giving ceremony at Hertford College.

The UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, supported by the Raspberry Pi Foundation, is designed to get students excited about computing and computational thinking. It is a problem-solving contest with questions inspired by topics in computer science. In the first round, held in their own schools, students have to try and solve as many problems as possible in the allotted time. There are six age categories. The highest scoring students from the four oldest age groups (Elite, Seniors, Intermediate, and Juniors) were then invited to the Department of Computer Science at Oxford for the finals over two weekends in February.



**BSKC**  
BRITISH SCHOOLS KARTING CHAMPIONSHIP

**2020**

**Maths**

**Fun in French**

Earlier this year, Armfield Academy entered two teams into the British Schools Karting Championship (BSKC). Six eligible Y8 pupils were chosen based on their efforts and achievements in maths and science through the course of the academic year. In February, the pupils went to TeamSport in Manchester to run some practice sessions. Everyone did fantastic and improved their course times on the day.

Despite the second practice session being cancelled due to Covid-19, the students involved have qualified for the regional finals.

We can't wait for them to get back on the track!



The last term at Armfield was definitely one to remember. Something that really stood out was the tremendous efforts of our students. I thought I was actually in France when I listened to the Year 7s recalling their answers during their first ever speaking assessment! Not only that, the

Year 8s really impressed with their ability to make links between different topics. What a brilliant set of students we have here at Armfield Academy. As an 'all-through' school, there are some brilliant opportunities to work with lots of different people as well as a range of ages. I have enlisted the help of Year 7 and 8 to teach French to the year 1 children. Every week, I am blown away by how much the primary pupils can remember as well as the engaging ideas from the mini French teachers.

Your mission: Find these items around the house. Once you have found them, tick them off the list. You have 7 minutes – go, go, go! (Don't worry if you don't have them all!)

1. des chaussettes.
2. une jupe
3. des fleurs
4. des chips
5. une chaise
6. un livre
7. des chaussures
8. une piscine
9. un four



(Did you notice any that I put in to try and catch you out??)

**QUIZ**

Can you name the language?

Bonjour

Hola

Salve

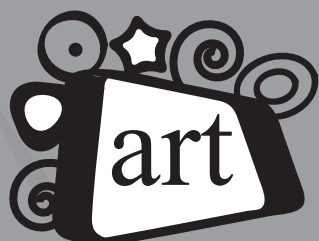
Guten Tag

Olá

Nǐ hǎo (a lot of you know this one)

Konnichiwa

Zdravstvuyte



Lucia and Lea became finalist winners in the Blackpool Gazette Young Seaside art exhibition.

There award winning pieces were based on contemporary illustration and a self portrait mono print.



**YOUNG SEASIDERS**

# HOUSE Challenges

Term two saw our five houses – Ruby, Amethyst, Citrine, Emerald and Sapphire – turn up their competitive and charitable elements as our house system continued to provide opportunities for points. This period saw a noticeable rise in teamwork between Year 7s and Year 8s, especially as our 'newest' year group had acclimatised themselves to their new surroundings and how the house system operates.

Following an action-packed Christmas, our pupils returned to the academy is feisty spirit. Despite Sapphire House leading the way in January, a resurgence from Citrine House led to them overturning a 60-point margin and they now sit pretty at the top of the leader board after a number of consistent performances in February and March. The house with the biggest gains, however, is Ruby House. Despite propping up the rest of the house at the bottom prior to the festive period, seven house victories in two months have seen them leapfrog Emerald House and Amethyst House, allowing them to join the chasing pack for the coveted house trophy.

During this time period, the students have undertaken a wide-ranging array of activities. Kicking off in January, they raised £125 pound in a 'Save Australia' themed charity event. Their efforts were enough to provide treatment for eight koala bears following the devastating bushfires in mainland Australia. The week after saw a number of academic tasks, including a whole-school 'spelling bee' and a 'Wiki' vocabulary activity. We ran a 'Random Act of Kindness' week in February – an initiative which yielded 397 recorded acts of kindness among teachers and students. For the sporty-minded, there was a long-distance football shooting competition and the always-popular dodgeball event. Somewhere in between, almost every pupil turned out at lunch time for our termly tug-of-war event and our paper plane challenge saw one student throw his design three-quarters of the length of the Sports Hall.

At the point of our school closure, the house scores were:

CURRENT HOUSE SCORES				
THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:		CHALLENGE	ATTENDANCE	
		Tug-of-War [EMERALD]	[✓]	
		Step-Up [EMERALD]		
RUBY	AMETHYST	CITRINE	EMERALD	SAPPHIRE
1370	1240	1510	1340	1420

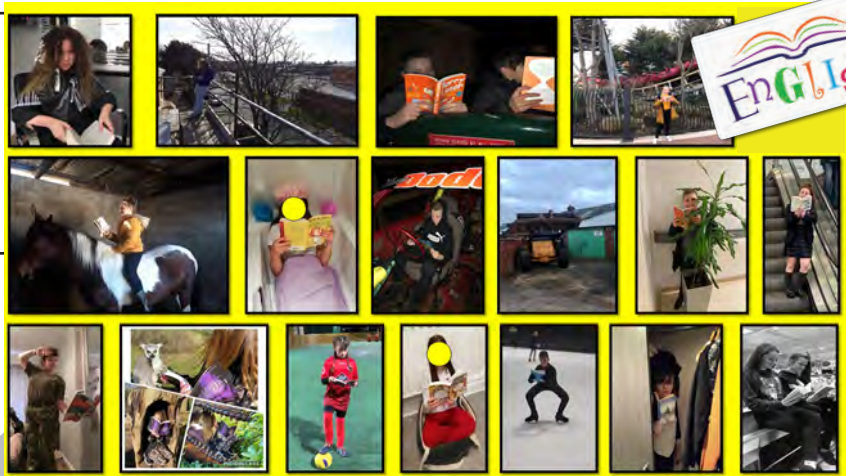


## Reception

This half term, we learnt about different forms of transport and what we use them for. We read a story called the Naughty Bus and based some of our learning around the story. We made models of London for our buses to drive around and even had a 'naughty bus' role play. The children enjoyed researching and learning about different types of transport and talked about how we travel around the world. We got the globe out, too, to look at different places and how we would get there. We collected information about where the children had travelled to and conducted a tally of traffic that went past school.



A love of books at Armfield Academy continues to successfully snowball into a huge reading culture amongst pupils. In May, our pupils, collectively, reached the 50 million-word landmark – a huge achievement given the size of the school and the number of year groups currently in our care.



The opening of the school library in December, coupled with regular updates of stock, has offered real choice for our Key Stage 3 students. Our pupils carry their books with them at all times and have fallen into the routine of reading at the beginning of many of their lessons, as well as 20 minutes independently at night. Such dedication has resulted in 3,611 books being read since 4<sup>th</sup> December and the English faculty would like to thank every single student who has engaged with the academy's enthusiasm for reading and would also like to credit every parent/carer who has supported their child – especially during the school closure.

Recently, the Accelerated Reader programme has been aligned with the house system in order to bring further incentives for prolific reading.



Students can now see the reading performance of their respective house – with 'top readers' being individually highlighted and rewarded in half-termly reading assemblies. Recently, to coincide with 'World Book Day', students were encouraged to read in 'extreme' or unusual situations and, as you can see from the images, they did not disappoint. Furthermore, many of our classroom doors were transformed into book covers to promote new books – a number of which had been recently added to our library.

Due to the current situation, it may be hard for your child to access reading materials and, as a result, they may feel anxious about their reading progress. To remedy this, the English faculty would like to recommend <https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/search.html>. This is a free online library containing over 7,000 books/audiobooks. Many of them are on the Accelerated Reader database and have comprehension quizzes. We encourage pupils to use this website until access to the school library is available.



# Sciathlon

The  
Ogden  
Trust

On March 10th, Miss House and Mrs Cramer accompanied 4 students to compete in the first Fylde Coast Sciathlon. This competition, run by Royal Academy of Engineering, The Ogden Trust and Lancaster University, saw 11 local schools battling through 3 rounds of science and engineering challenges to be crowned the winner.



The first round challenge was a titration task, this involves measuring out a very precise volume of liquid using a piece of equipment called a burette. The team who could identify what volume was needed to carry out a reaction in exactly 1 minute 40 seconds (the same time as the men's 800m world record) would score the most points. Tom, Ellen, Ambali and Ruby worked hard as a team and showed off the fantastic laboratory skills they have acquired at Armfield.

Whilst we awaited the results, we moved on to the second challenge of the day. This was an engineering challenge in which we had to successfully construct a solar buggy and a water turbine. Our Year 8s used their knowledge from the 'electricity and magnetism' topic to help them to solve these puzzles, whilst the Year 7s could rely on the recently studied 'energy' unit for inspiration. We managed to produce 115 volts from our turbine and our buggy reached top speeds of 0.07m/s.

The last challenge of the day was a STEM quiz, which tested our knowledge to the limits. With questions on topics from DNA to the Golden Gate Bridge, we puzzled our hardest to earn points in this final round! After all of our hard work, the results were finally in! We finished in **FIRST PLACE!** We were so pleased and our efforts were rewarded with Amazon gift vouchers and an invitation to an awards ceremony in April. More importantly, we enjoyed a huge amount of fun and learned some new skills.

## SCIENCE

this term

This term, Year 7 have been learning about energy and how to separate chemicals. We have enjoyed learning and carried out a lot of scientific investigations to support the theoretical knowledge, which we have been studying. Students have drawn on skills learned in English and confidently presented their ideas on how to provide electricity to Moja Island without a national grid. Remembering the work they completed in transition week fondly, Year 7 have enjoyed working with acids and alkalis and identifying the pH of household substances.

Year 8 have been learning about how we can speed up reactions, electricity and magnets. They have all successfully constructed simple circuits and been wowed with a human circuit. It has been delightful to see their engagement with this topic and the development of their practical skills. There are now many budding electricians at Armfield!

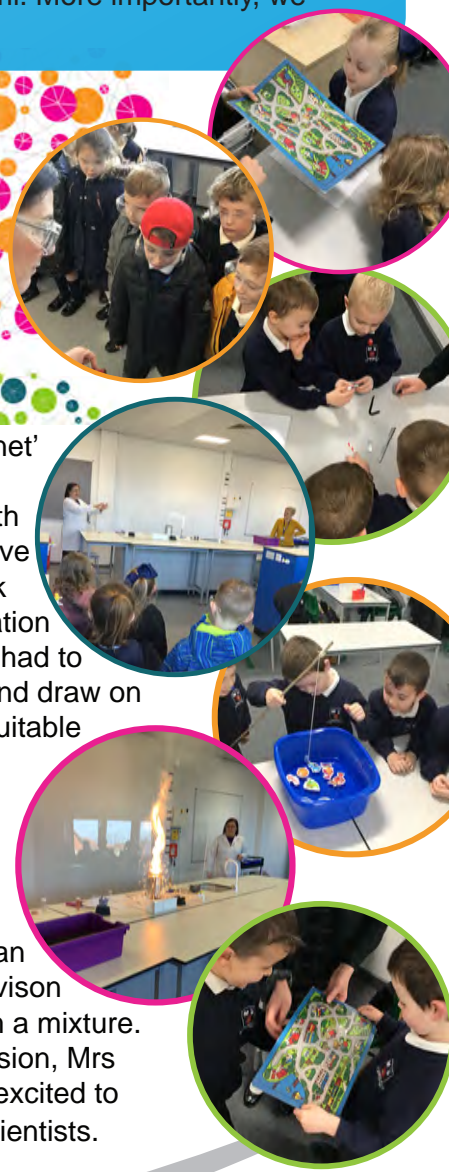


## British Science Week 2020

6-15 March

The theme this year is 'our diverse planet' and students have been challenged to think about how diverse we are on Earth different ways. During the week, we have asked all Year 7 and 8 students to work collaboratively to design a research station to be situated in Antarctica. They have had to consider temperatures and materials and draw on their geographic knowledge to pick a suitable location for their station. Please do ask them about their project!

The secondary science team were delighted to invite over Reception and Year 1 for an interesting lesson around magnets. The session concluded with an exciting thermite demo where Miss Davison showed them how to displace iron from a mixture. Using year 8 pupils to facilitate the session, Mrs Hall, Miss House and Miss Patten are excited to work further with our budding young scientists.



# Spectroscopy in a Suitcase



On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020, we welcomed into Armfield Academy, Rachel Bashforth from Lancaster University. With her, she

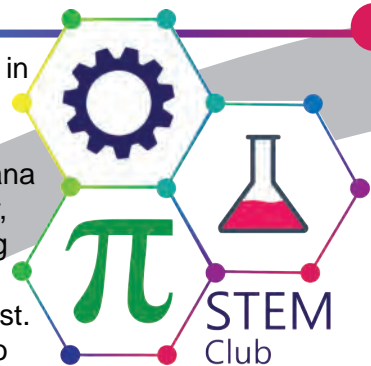
brought the Spectroscopy in a suitcase kit and carried out an A-Level style session with 17 of our budding scientists. The students were given a brief look at how IR spectrometers work and were taught how to predict signal peaks for specific bonds found in polymers.

Students then investigated a plastic and identified the type of plastic from calculations. The session also included some examples of the wider applications of IR spectroscopy, such as in medicine, forensics and other industries. We are grateful to Lancaster University for letting us have access to the kit and we look forward to providing students further opportunities above and beyond GCSE level.

It has been a fun-filled term in science club.

Students especially loved extracting DNA from a banana and making slime. Recently, students have been building circuits and competing to make their circuits the fastest. Students used equipment to build a solar-powered water pump and turbine.

This was particularly challenging due to the recent weather.



## International Women's Day



We have been delighted to again be involved with Blackpool's second Women's Day Festival. Expertly organised by The Washington Group, we were matched with our role model, Kate Shane, who is the director of the Merlin cluster in Blackpool. Around 15 year 8 girls were asked to be part of this exciting venture and questioned Kate about her journey to the top. As a team, we have created a piece of art about her which was then on display at the festival. Kate is excited to learn more about them and their aspirations and we are looking forward to meeting her again. The team also created an outfit from recycled clothes and are in the process of establishing a swish shop event in school.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Mrs Hall, Miss Blackburn and Mrs Ormond accompanied 10 of our young ladies to Blackpool Sixth Form College. During the day, they took part in a variety of workshops and activities to help empower them and raise aspirations further. It was a pleasure to see the girls pushing themselves outside of their comfort zones and conquering fears.

As usual, Armfield Academy students set the bar high and displayed our excellent ethos throughout the day with comments from several providers about how polite they were and how they are a credit to our school.

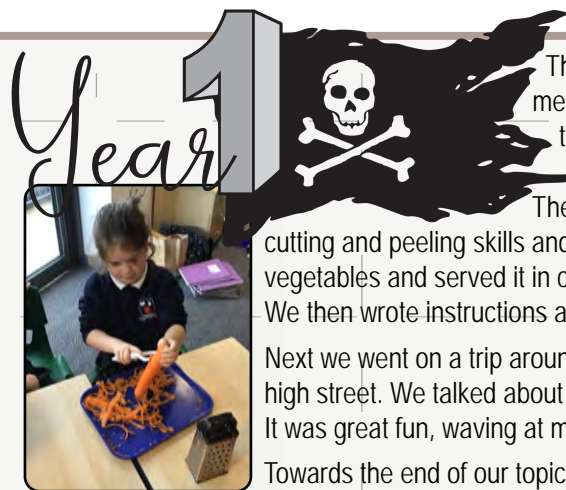


#IamIcanIwill

#IamNPW

@NorthernPowerWomen

Using a travel ticket kindly donated by Blackpool Transport, the girls were invited to travel the Fylde Coast and take an interesting picture to share on social media. As part of the project, the girls are now producing a report about how the festival has helped them. We are also very grateful to Merlin Blackpool for sponsoring our girls to take part and we look forward to inspiring more girls next year!



The beginning of the New Year marked the beginning of a new topic down in Year 1. 'Ahoy me hearties' – better known as 'PIRATES'! This topic encapsulated the children from the start to the very end. To set us off on our pirate journey we talked about what pirates would eat on board a ship that would last long enough to not go off. This, we concluded was soup!

The children quickly set to work designing their own pirate soup. Children were taught grating, cutting and peeling skills and taste tested lots of different fruit and vegetables. After, we cooked our chosen fruit and vegetables and served it in cups with warm crusty bread. Opinions were divided but the children loved the experience. We then wrote instructions about how to make it as part of our writing in English.

Next we went on a trip around our local area. We walked along Lytham road, through the park and up and down the high street. We talked about our local shops, what we noticed around us and our likes and dislikes about our local area. It was great fun, waving at members of our local community, they were all super friendly.

Towards the end of our topic we learned about the fearsome pirate 'Blackbeard' and wrote facts about him in our topic books. We also listened to lots of pirate stories such as 'Pirate Pete' 'My Granny is a Pirate' and 'Pirate Pete and his Smelly feet'. Finally, to round off our pirate adventure we dressed up as pirates for the day and created our very own treasure maps.



# NURSERY



The children started the new year exploring seasonal changes and observing frost and ice in the nursery garden. To support the winter theme, we read a story called 'Ridiculous' which was centred on a tortoise called 'Shelley' who should have been hibernating. We then hunted for numbers that were hibernating in fake snow.

Next, we learnt all about animals that live in cold places and how they adapt to the cold weather. We also enjoyed the story of 'Lost and Found' and then painted our own penguins too. Some of our learners designed some playdough ones as well.

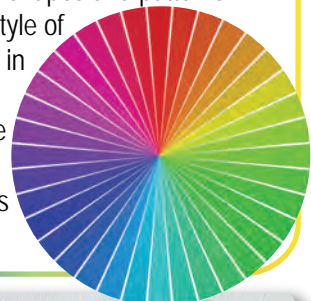


It was then time to enjoy some food-tasting as we celebrated Chinese New Year. The children loved using chopsticks to eat their noodles with and also participated in Chinese Dragon dancing and playing glockenspiels in the hall. It was so much fun!

After the half term, the children really enjoyed dressing up - which led them to learning all about different occupations. In anticipation for the arrival of Miss Low's baby, the children loved bathing the toy babies at the baby clinic - a great experience for them.



As we moved into the second half term, we began our new topic, 'Castles and Knights'. To kick things off we looked at paintings by the artist Friedrich Hundertwasser. We talked about the colour wheel, primary colours, secondary colours, shapes and patterns. This inspired us to create our own castles in the style of Hundertwasser. Next we began to look at castles in more detail, labelling different parts and ordering them using chronological skills. In maths, we have been learning about place value within numbers to 50, recognising, counting and ordering numbers in different ways.



Then, it was back to food again! This time we celebrated Pancake Day. The children helped to measure and stir the ingredients and count the number of plates needed. All of the children enjoyed the pancakes, but some of the faces that were pulled when trying the lemons were priceless! We also welcomed Mrs Reid to our classroom too.

As we moved into March, some of the pre-school children were beginning to write their names, making sure the letters were formed correctly. We also began to look at the children's favourite stories and authors in preparation for World Book Day. This day was a fun-filled one and the costumes were amazing too. Holi was also celebrated as the children used powder paints to create their images.

Finally, the head chef of Chartwells treated the Nursery and Primary children to a pizza-making masterclass. The children were told that the secret ingredient, 'oregano', was what made pizzas taste so yummy. They certainly did! This term feels like it has been about food, glorious food!



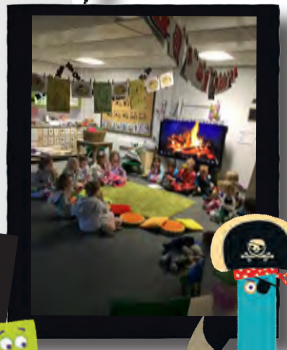
WORLD  
BOOK  
DAY  
5 MARCH 2020

# WORLD BOOK DAY

We had a fantastic week celebrating 'World Book Day' on Thursday 5th March. To kick start the reading activities, we had a special assembly where the children were shown a film of the primary staff reading a short section of a well-known story. The children then had to use their knowledge of stories to guess which book the teacher was reading. We were so impressed by the children's answers!

On Tuesday, the children had the opportunity to design their own bookmarks, which they then could use when reading at home. The designs were so creative and all the children were very proud of their drawings.

'Books Before Bedtime' was another special event during the week. On Wednesday evening, we invited all the primary pupils back to school to share stories with their peers and teachers. We had an amazing time drinking hot chocolate and nibbling biscuits whilst we read to one another.



The day after - to celebrate World Book Day - all of our students (and staff!) dressed up as characters from books they have read and enjoyed. The costumes were absolutely fantastic and we all had a fabulous time discussing our favourite book characters and why they are so special to us. At lunch time, our students were also visited by some Year 7 and 8 children for story readings.

Finally, on Friday, a selection of Year 7 and 8 pupils joined us to create 'potato characters'. In small groups, the children chose a character which they would like to create using a range of arts and crafts materials. They had so much fun and we loved guessing which characters the other groups made.

Our house challenge for the week was the 'Extreme Reading' competition. Our keen readers chose a book and found an unusual place to read it. All houses won points for their phenomenal entries, but the overall winner was Amethyst house! What an amazing week we all had to celebrate 'World Book Day'!



GRRRRR!

SHARE A STORY

FOR 10 MINUTES TODAY

