



Matthew Arnold Primary School

Developing True Potential

Newsletter November 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

The autumn term is always jam packed and this one has been no different. We have been fortunate to have a range of trips and visitors to enhance the children's learning and enjoyment of school. As we move through the autumn term, we are proud of our children's learning and progress; we had really successful parents' evenings last week and it was lovely to be able to share children's achievements. There is still lots happening this term, keep an eye out for updates from school on the school app.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Evans

Don't be Late - Make the Gate!

We know mornings can sometimes be a rush! School begins at 8.50am — children should be in class starting lessons at this time. In line with government guidance, children who arrive until 9.30 are marked as late 'L', children who arrive after 9.30 are given a 'U' code.



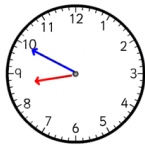
What Is a 'U Code'?

A **U Code** is used when a child arrives **after the end of morning registration** and the school hasn't received a reason that can be authorised.

It means your child was in school, but the lateness counts as an **unauthorised absence** for that session.

Why Does It Matter?

Starting the day on time helps children feel settled, confident and ready to learn. Too many U Codes can lower your child's overall attendance and may lead to the school checking in to offer support.



How You Can Help

- Arrive a **few minutes before the bell**
- Let us know as soon as possible if you're running late
- Tell us if you're finding mornings tricky — we're here to help and support your family

We're excited to share that our school now has its very own **Instagram account**! This is a great way for families to stay connected with what's happening in school.

What We'll Be Sharing

- Classroom activities and learning highlights
- School events and celebrations
- Artwork, projects and fun moments
- Reminders for upcoming dates



Search for our account on Instagram:

matthewarnoldprimary

30 Hour Nursery Places for Working Parents

We are pleased to let you know that we are offering a limited numbers of full-time, 30-hour funded places for eligible working parents, in both MAPS and nursery, starting from January 2026. You can find out more by contacting the school.



Ready, Respectful, Safe

Christmas Reading Café



We are really looking forward to our Christmas reading café next week. Don't miss it!

Year 1 9:00 - 9:30am

Year 2 9:45 - 10:15am

Year 3 11:00 - 11:30am

Year 4 1:15 - 1:45pm

Year 5 2:00 - 2:30pm

Year 6 2:45 - 3:15pm



Thank you to the Florrie for inviting us to meet Ricky Tomlinson last week. We had a number of children from Y5 / 6 who were lucky enough to visit and receive a signed copy of his new book. The children were so excited and it was a great opportunity.

Well done to our Year 6 / 5 football team. They have played brilliantly in all their matches and have had a great sporting attitude. A particular thank you to Mrs Taylor who has enabled the boys to take part in this tournament. I know she is very proud of their positive attitudes and how well they have done.



Stronger Starts

Tesco Fruit & Veg for Schools



TESCO Nutrition

A huge thank you to Linzi (office) and Mrs Millington for ensuring our amazing free fruit and veg provision continues! Linzi has secured fantastic funding again this year from Tesco and Mrs Millington has been shopping for all the fruit and vegetables. Thanks to Tesco for an amazingly generous second year of funding.

End of Day Playground Use

Can I please ask you to help keep everyone safe by not allowing your children to play on the playground equipment at the end of the day.

Children are not supervised and could easily have an accident. We want to keep all our children safe and can not allow unsupervised access to the trim trails and pitches.



Key Dates

Friday 28th November—Own Clothes Day (donations for Taste)

Monday 1st December—Christmas Reading Café (Y1-6) and wear pyjamas to school

Monday 8th December—Production of The Emperor's New Clothes

Wednesday 10th December—Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 16th December—KS1 Christmas Production

Wednesday 17th December—KS2 Christmas Carols

Thursday 18th December—Christmas Parties/Christmas Movies

Friday 19th December—School breaks up at 2pm

Designated Safeguarding Officer: **Mrs L Evans**

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer: **Mrs R Pender**

During the winter months it is really important that the children bring a coat to school. We try to get outdoors as much as possible and embrace the colder temperatures.

Please make sure that all uniform is named so if misplaced can be easily returned.



How to contact us:

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