



Autumn 1 Newsletter

October 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to our first half-term review newsletter. As we share most information with families through Arbor, we decided that it would be more useful to have a newsletter at the end of each half-term which shares all the exciting things that have been happening at school.

Since returning to school in September, all classes have been really busy. Children settled into their new classes really well and have been working very hard. They are definitely ready for a break next week and have some time to recharge their batteries. Each class has shared some news about their learning this half-term - please read on to find out what they have been doing!

We break up for half-term this afternoon (23.10.2026) and return on Monday 2nd November.

Staffing News

This term, we welcomed Mrs Ellis to our teaching team. She is currently based in Reception but will be involved with all classes throughout school in her role as Assistant Headteacher. We also have some new members of support staff - Miss Milnes, Mrs Muhamad, Mr Gabriel and Mrs Kayani so you may have seen some new faces around school.

Following a period of absence, Mrs Wallace is not going to be returning to Armley Park. Mrs Ahmed will continue to teach in Nursery while we complete the recruitment process. Miss Wright will be returning to school after half-term and will continue her role of teaching Year 6. Mr Kinnes will still be in school but will not be based in a class.

Attendance

Many children have attended school every day since we returned in September - this has meant they have not missed out on any learning which is fantastic news! Well done to everyone who completed our 100% September competition. I hope they enjoyed their prizes. We will be running some more competitions next half-term so make sure your child is in school every day so they have the best chance of winning.

Unfortunately, some children have already missed several days of learning. Each day that a child is not in school means they are missing out on their education and this often makes it difficult for them to catch up. We understand that everyone becomes unwell sometimes but children need to be in school as often as possible to give them the best chance of success.

House Points

Well done to everyone who has earned house points this half-term! Below are the current standings. Before we break up for the Christmas holidays, everyone in the house that achieves the most points will receive a special reward.

Burrow	Adams	Tomlinson	Brownlee
2939	2507	2918	2443

Reading Books

Please can you all have a look at home for any of the school reading books which have not been returned. We are missing a large amount of reading books which makes it difficult for children to have new ones and also costs the school a lot of money to replace them. Thank you.

Focus Week - Sustainability

This week, we have been learning about how we can help to protect our environment and look after our planet for future generations.

In Nursery and Reception, the children have learnt about the importance of keeping our school tidy and have been collecting litter from the playground to recycle. They have made some fantastic pieces of art using natural resources such as leaves and sticks

In Year 1 and Year 2, the classes read a story called 'One Plastic Bag' and found out why it is important to recycle bags. They have tested the durability of different materials that could be used as an alternative to plastic and also recycled old plastic bags to create pieces of art work.

Year 3 and Year 4 have focussed on the important role that trees and plants have on our environment. They have been into Armley Park to look for different types of trees and have also used their geography skills to map how different places in the world have different ecosystems.

Year 5 and Year 6 have learnt about the work of David Attenborough and how his lifelong passion for animals and the environment has inspired many global conservation movements. When they learnt about the human actions which are destroying natural resources, such as burning fossil fuels, they wanted to know more about how they could help. They looked at some of the school utility bills and were shocked that it costs over £25,000 to heat our school each year!

News from the Classes!

Nursery - Mrs Ahmed

This half-term in Nursery, the children have enjoyed talking about themselves, their feelings and their friends through circle time activities. They have created their own self-portraits using a range of different collage materials and have read books such as 'All about me' and 'Friends'.

We have started to learn all about the season of Autumn. We have been outside to look for signs of Autumn and found a variety of different leaves that have fallen from the trees. The children have also learnt about some of the animals we may see during Autumn.

During Sustainability focus week, we tried to help by becoming eco-warriors and picking up litter from around our school grounds.

Reception - Mrs Ellis

Reception Class have had a great start to their first year at Armley Park. They've been busy making new friends and exploring their new classroom and playground. The children have enjoyed listening to a different story each week and especially enjoyed the book, Superworm. They had lots of fun joining in with the words and actions from the book and loved finding real worms in the playground. The children drew some amazing pictures of Superworm and these are proudly being displayed on the wall in the small hall.

In the last couple of weeks Reception have enjoyed learning about the season, Autumn. They had fun going on an Autumn walk around the school grounds and looking for signs of Autumn. Several children continued to learn about Autumn with their families and shared their 'Autumn treasures' of different coloured leaves, conkers, pine cones, acorns etc with their classmates. We had fun listening to the story, Leaf Man, and used leaves to design and draw our own Leaf Man.

Year 1 - Miss Crombie

Year 1 have had an amazing start to our new academic year. They have settled into our new routines easily and have amazed me with their fantastic attitude to learning!

In Writing this half term, we have been focussing on writing simple sentences using our books: "Aliens love Underpants" and "Monsters". They have tried really hard to remember to use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces between their words. Year 1 even created their own monsters to hook them into learning. They added their own features and then wrote their own descriptions. Last week, we had a go at writing our own Bonfire Night poetry and Year 1 even came up with their own ambitious verbs including: **splattered**, **exploded** and **popped**!

In Maths, we've been focussing on place value and addition and subtraction within 10. We've been exploring number bonds and have been working on subitising in our new Mastery Maths lessons.

In Science, we've been learning about different materials; identifying them and describing their properties. In Art, we've been learning about the artist "Kandinsky" and using paint to recreate his artwork. Year 1 have learnt lots of new art skills including how to mix secondary colours and how to make tints by adding white. Over the past 2 weeks, we have started our new History topic Florence Nightingale. Year 1 have enjoyed researching her life and discussing the changes she has made to nursing.

Year 2 - Miss Whiteley

This half term, Year 2 have been amazing! They have all settled in tremendously well and have been very engaged with their learning, I am very proud!

Across our subjects, Year 2 have learnt a variety of new skills and knowledge. In writing, we have been focusing on adding more detail to our sentences by adding expanded noun phrases and conjunctions such as; because, when, but and or to give further detail to our character and setting descriptions. In maths we have focused on our place value knowledge from Year 1 and have been focusing on numbers to 100 by finding tens and ones, comparing numbers and finding numbers on a number line. We have recently begun our new learning within addition and subtraction. This has been a harder unit as we have been adding three 1-digit numbers as well as adding and subtracting across a 10. The children have been incredibly resilient and haven't given up easily even when challenges have been tough.

In our afternoon lessons, we have been focusing on Leeds and Tokyo in our Geography unit. The Year 2 children had a fantastic trip into Leeds City Centre where we visited different human features such as the Corn Exchange, Kirkgate Market and the First Direct Arena. We are going to be continuing this unit into our new half term, but unfortunately, we can't visit Tokyo to look at their human and physical features! In Science, we have focused on our unit 'Animals Including Humans'. Over the past few weeks, we have learnt about life cycles of animals and humans, the names of different animals' offspring and looked at the basic needs of all animals. As well as Geography, we will be continuing our Science unit over into next half-term where we will be focusing on our hygiene, diet and germs.

Year 3 - Miss Smith

We have had a fantastic and busy half-term in Year 3! The children have worked hard, explored exciting topics and enjoyed lots of practical learning. Here is a little update on what we have been learning and what is coming up next.

This half-term, we have travelled back in time to explore Ancient Egypt. We have learnt about when the ancient Egyptians lived and investigated artefacts to discover clues about life thousands of years ago. Next half-term, we are looking forward to visiting Leeds City Museum, where we will explore historical artefacts first-hand and even encounter an ancient mummy! The children are already very excited.

In Science, we have been investigating forces and magnets. The children have taken part in practical investigations to develop their understanding of how forces work and how magnets behave.

We have been working with Northern Arts Factory, learning drama-based movements linked to our Egyptians topic. During our final week, we have explored sustainability and how our choices affect the world around us. Year 3 will focus on Wangari Maathai, an environmentalist from Kenya who encouraged communities to plant trees and protect the environment. We will consider how we can all help care for our planet.

We have been developing our understanding of place value and learning to add and subtract using the column method. We have also been practising our times tables, beginning with the 10s and 5s before moving on to the 2s. Look out for your child bringing home a times tables badge when they achieve 100% recall of the facts! Regular practice at home, little and often, will help build confidence and fluency.

This half-term, we have enjoyed reading *Sona Sharma: My Very Best Big Sister*. The children have explored characters, discussed their feelings and investigated how vocabulary helps create meaning in a story. Please continue to listen to your child read regularly at home and talk about the books you share. I have also sent home Reading Plus login details for home use. If you need any help accessing the programme, please come and ask. If home access is not possible, please do not worry, as we also use Reading Plus in school.

Thank you for your continued support. It has been lovely to see the children growing in confidence, enthusiasm and independence this half-term. We have lots more exciting learning ahead, and I look forward to sharing our next adventures with you!

Year 4 - Miss Davies

Year 4 have enjoyed a varied and purposeful half-term of learning. In Maths, pupils have been developing their understanding of place value, addition and subtraction, while also working on their times tables throughout the half-term. These areas are helping pupils to build confidence with number and develop the knowledge they need for future mathematical learning.

In History, the Romans have been our historical focus. This has given pupils the opportunity to develop their understanding of the past through a shared topic. In Design and Technology, pupils have been constructing bridges using lollipop sticks. This practical design challenge has encouraged them to think carefully about how to make each bridge stable and secure, while applying their ideas in a purposeful and hands-on way.

Reading and Writing have been closely connected through *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Pupils have been reading the book and using it as inspiration for a range of writing activities, including diary entries, setting descriptions and their own narratives. Working with a shared text has supported pupils in exploring characters, settings and ideas before developing their own responses through writing. It has been lovely to see the class move from enjoying a shared text to creating imaginative writing of their own. Their work across the half-term reflects the value of combining discussion, reading, practical learning and independent creativity.

Year 5 - Mr McNulty

In English, Year 5 have been studying *Danny the Champion of the World*, which inspired the children to write detailed instructions and vivid diary entries from the perspective of the main character, Danny. The children have really developed the skill of 'show, not tell'

how a character feels and they've been so proud to bring home some beautiful work showcasing their handwriting.

In Maths, the class has focused on deepening their understanding of place value, addition, subtraction, statistics, and negative numbers, solving complex multi-step problems and the children have really developed their reasoning and problem solving skills further!

In Science, we learned about different materials and how they change state or react through a variety of hands-on experiments- they enjoyed mixing vinegar and baking soda to see a chemical reaction and testing different insulators and electrical conductors.

In our foundation subjects, we explored the fascinating history of the ancient Maya civilization, examining their culture, writing system, and daily life- the children were so excited to learn about Human Sacrifices! In Art and DT, pupils drew intricate Mayan symbols and expanded on their designs by crafting elaborate, multi-layered Mayan headdresses using a mix of vibrant card, feathers, and decorative patterns.

In Computing, the class took on the role of digital creators, filming, editing, and producing their own promotional videos, learning key video editing skills such as adding transitions, audio tracks, and text overlays. In French the children have been learning the months of the year, the days of the week and how to introduce our birthday.

In PE, we learned some team games with invasion skills!

Year 6 - Mr Kinnes

This half-term in Year 6, we have deepened our core knowledge across the curriculum while exploring fascinating topics. In Maths, we strengthened our mastery of place value and the four operations, using daily Early Bird sessions to sharpen our arithmetic fluency. In Writing, we crafted vivid setting descriptions of the Greek underworld and produced detailed explanation texts on the mechanics of the human circulatory system. Our Reading focused on structuring clear responses to varied questions, drawing from texts linked to our science, history, and our class book, *The Odyssey*.

Our History unit brought Ancient Greece to life as we studied the civilization, designed traditional Greek plates, and examined real historical artifacts on a trip to the Leeds Museum. Finally, in Science, we explored the circulatory system in depth, learning about blood vessels, the composition of blood, and how the system transports vital nutrients throughout the body.

We hope you all have a relaxing half-term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 2nd November.

Polite reminder - learning in classrooms starts at 8:40 each morning.

Thank you,

Emily Caine
Headteacher