



# Archibald First School

## Spring Term 1 Newsletter 2020



### Staffing Update



As you know, after the February half term, Mrs Watson will return from maternity leave to teach Nursery 1 Monday – Wednesday. Ms Turner has been a brilliant asset to the teaching team at Archibald over the last year working with our Nursery children and we are very lucky that she will be staying with us to teach Reception every Friday as well as any extra days we need her.

Mr Morrow has had a very exciting year including moving house and getting married. His year is about to get even more exciting as baby Morrow is due in March!



Mr Morrow will be away from school for up to two weeks as he takes his paternity leave. Our plan is for Mrs Marshall, who already teaches in Year 3, to teach in class 7 to ensure the consistency for the children.

For a third update... Mrs Sinclair is now ready to share her exciting news with you all... baby Sinclair is due towards the end of May. As soon as staffing is arranged we will let you know.

### Attendance

Our attendance target is 97%. As of Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February attendance is at 95%. Let's hope we are as healthy as possible next half term to get our attendance back up to 97%+. As coughs and colds are common childhood ailments children are fine to be at school.

With 14 weeks of the year away from school, holidays should only be taken in these weeks and not during term time.

### Thank you

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the families and staff of Archibald for the words of encouragement and support during my first half term as Headteacher.

The children have also been brilliant!

### Year 4 Hawkhurst Deadline

The final date for full payment of the cost of Hawkhurst is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Please ensure that all forms have been handed in and full payment has been made on Parent Pay.

## News and Events

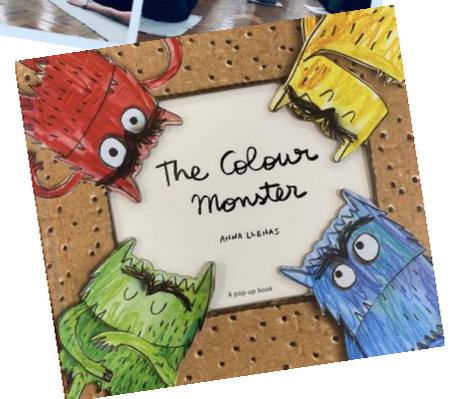
### **Work with Football Association**

Miss White recently completed some work with the F.A. in order to encourage more females to take part in sport. Lots of teachers from across the city met and took part in a variety of workshops that showed how we can get more children active and encourage a lifelong interest in physical activity. The F.A. have a goal of ensuring football is equally accessible for both girls and boys by 2024. Can you encourage your children to try something new? Remember children should be physically active for at least sixty minutes every day!



### **Find Your Brave**

This half term the school celebrated Children's Mental Health Week 2020. It provided opportunities for both staff and children to keep their brains healthy. The children and staff enjoyed Mindfulness sessions with Mrs West and shared stories around the theme of 'Find Your Brave'. The stories encouraged us to think about times we have been brave, and how we have controlled those worried feelings in our tummies. Further up the school, we thought about how we are all individual and should celebrate our differences. Hopefully your children have been able to share ways in which they can 'Find their Brave' in new situations!



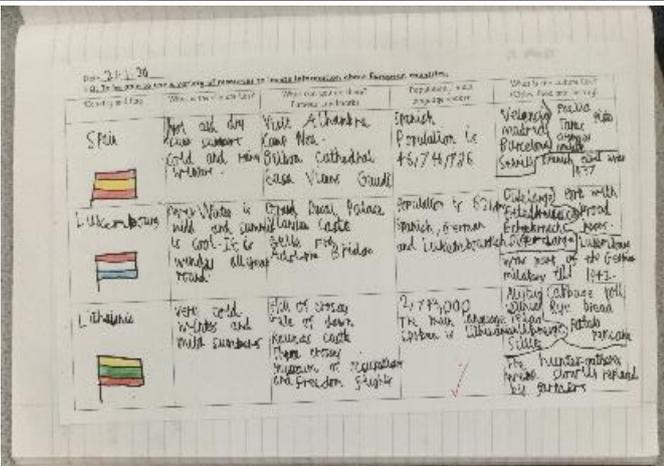
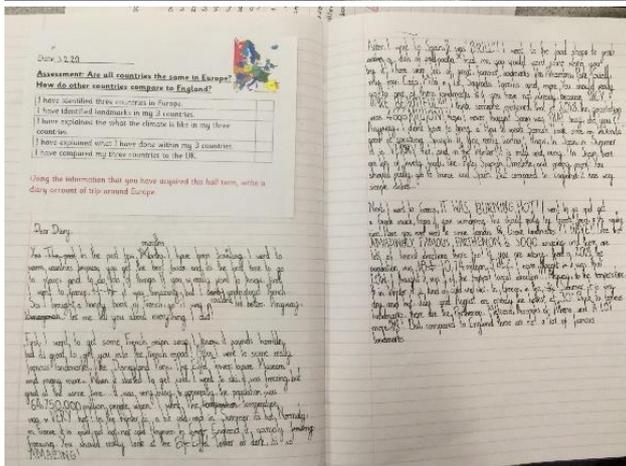
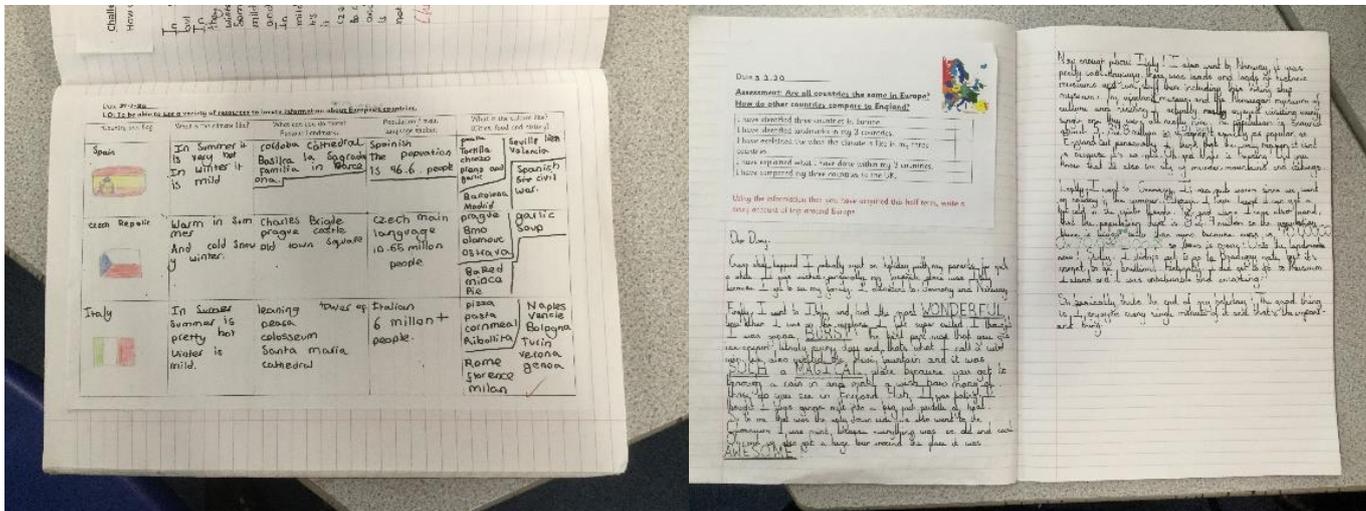
### **RNLI**

KS1 and KS2 enjoyed a fabulous visit from Tom and Alex, who work for the RNLI organisation. They taught the children the importance of water safety and how to be safe and vigilant on our beaches. We enjoyed a range of fun activities and even got to try out some of their equipment! Thank you to our visitors for delivering a very important message in such a fun and exciting way, our pupils were motivated, engaged and enthused by the visit.



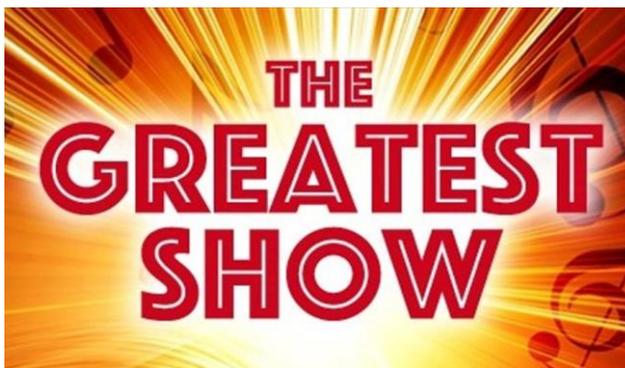
# Year 4

As our Topic is Destination Europe, we have researched 3 countries that we would like to visit. We then wrote a diary entry about our fantastic trip to our countries. In our diary, we talked about the culture, climate and how much of an amazing time it was!



## Archibald's Greatest Show

Wow! Over 60 different acts from years 1 to 4 impressed us at the auditions. From singers to magicians, dancers to comedians, poets to jugglers, gymnasts to musicians, what a brilliant bunch you are. It was a very difficult decision to choose just 14 acts from the range of talent but we are looking forward to the last day of half-term when they get to show the whole school how great they are.



## ***Multiskills festival***

Class 2 had a great time at the Walker Activity Dome. They showed all of the six skills that we look for when people take part in sport. They represented our school amazingly showing respect and determination. Thank you to the PE Sport Service for organising this event and to the parent helpers who joined us.



## ***GO NOODLE***

Has your child been talking about Go Noodle? Do they talk about a certain song that they love? Go Noodle is a website and app we use in school for movement breaks, warm ups, brain gym and mindfulness. Year 1 love the Awesome Sauce, Year 2 love NTV and Kids Bop, Early Years and Year 3 love to Pop See Ko and Year 4 have been doing the Macarena. You can download Go Noodle as an app or watch lots of the videos online.

# GoNoodle

## ***Safer Internet Day-11th February 2020***



**Safer  
Internet  
Day 2020** | Tuesday  
11 February

Each year at Archibald we take part in a worldwide day of events to help us to be safe online, this year's theme is 'Together for a better Internet'. We have focused on how we represent ourselves online, looking the usernames we create, avatars and profile pictures we use, what we can and can't share online and what we say to others. Visit [saferinternet.org.uk](http://saferinternet.org.uk) for conversation starters and top tips for parents.

## ***Forest School***

Mrs Ward and Mr Holman are beginning to develop our Forest School area at the back of school. Small groups of children will be helping with this. Keep an eye on Twitter to see our progress!

## ***Extreme Earth***

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed our Extreme Earth topic! We have found out about many types of extreme weather and even brought some of them to life in the classroom. Our first natural disaster involved using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to make a volcanic eruption! However, our favourite activity might have been Tornado Time! This entailed using bottles and water to make a vortex. It actually changes how the water comes out of the bottle when compared to letting it out normally. We even connected two bottles of water with a tube and filled up the bottle underneath. Why don't you ask us what happened when we turned it upside down? You might just get a surprise! We've also used our computing skills and Green Screen to make it look as if we were actually in the middle of some pretty extreme weather. This topic really has been extremely excellent!

Mrs Ward and Mrs West  
are hosting an  
**Autism Support  
Coffee Morning**

**9am**

**Wednesday 18th March 2020**

**In the School Portacabin**

**Please come along to share your  
experiences and strategies  
over a cup of coffee**

### *After School Club Collections*

The children are now being collected from their classrooms by the After School Club staff who will then take the children directly across to the club.

Please ensure you let the school and the After School Club know of any changes.

### *Dress as a Scientist Day*

As part of Science Week, the children are able to 'Dress as a Scientist' on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Can they find a scientist that they admire from the real world, or dress as their interpretation of a scientist?



### *Maths Mornings*

We hope those of you who could join us, enjoyed the maths mornings. We are busy collecting feedback electronically. If you haven't already clicked on the link, please do so and let us know how the morning went.

## *School Visit and Events Payment*

I must start with a huge thank you to everyone for the support you all give to the school throughout the year. However, it is with great regret that I have to write this next section of the newsletter.

The staff in school work very hard to invite special visitors in, take the children out on educational visits and to invest in resources / experiences to enhance each of the children's education. The PTFA also do a wonderful job of donating £750 per year group which is *ALL* used for this.

That said, the rest of the money needs to be found somehow. As a school we can only ask for voluntary contributions.

Did you know that if we do not get enough money in, then we must pay for this from School Fund? Every penny spent from school fund because the total cost has not been covered comes from the pot of money that we need to use as a school to invest in even more opportunities and purchases for your children.

The last year we have had to find the **shortfall of approximately 22% of EACH visit.**

Every £1 that is not voluntarily paid adds up very quickly! When looking at the charges you may think that it will be covered by someone else paying, however, the charges are split evenly across the class or year group.

After several years of doing so we have reached the point where by using school fund is no longer a feasible option and we are not in a position to be able to access funds to maintain this shortfall of 22% per visit.

Please could you:

- a) Look carefully at Parent Pay to see what is on your account.  
*Historic events remain on the account to be paid, however, if your child was absent please let us know as we can remove the individual charge.*
- b) Reflect that school is having to find the shortfall.
- c) Consider that the amount charged is split evenly across the class – everyone is asked to contribute the same.
- d) Appreciate that due to school funding, covering the shortfall is no longer an option we can continue to follow.

Hopefully we will not find ourselves in the position of having to curtail the opportunities offered to the children because of the lack of parental financial support which is *hugely valued and acknowledged*. Your understanding is greatly appreciated - thank you.

## *The Archibald Takeover!*

The Archibald Takeover of the Town Moor Junior Parkrun will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

We are asking all our families to join us. Approximately 250 of the Archibald Family took part in the Children's Cancer Run last year, the aim is to surpass this! But don't fret as this is only a 2k course which is a quarter of the 5 mile course for the Cancer Run.

We will also be hoping to raise some money for the school. Early Years are hoping to raise money to purchase a climbing frame or play house whilst Years 1-4 are hoping to raise money towards a new climbing wall and music / stage area in the larger yard.

Details:

- Arrive at Exhibition Park at 8.45am
- The event begins at 9.00am
- Run, walk, jog, hop or skip the two laps

*I have been assured that everyone will be in the café or on their way home by 9.30am at the latest!*

If you are able to marshal the event, please sign up and volunteer your services.

Please see the letter on the website!



## *Walk to School Winners*

What a brilliant response we have had to the walking, scooting, cycling or skating to school initiative in January. We had so many forms to select from.

The two winners, who were picked at random, are Eleanor B (class 2) and Freddie W (class 3). Both have received a prize to bring home!

## *Nursery Applications 2020*

Archibald First School offer 15 hours of free nursery provision to children who are aged 3 on or before 31 August 2020. For 2020 we are also offering an option of 30 hours per week. The hours are offered as either Option 1, Option 2 or Option 3.

### **Option 1:**

Monday 8.45 – 3.15  
Tuesday 8.45 – 3.15  
Wednesday 8.45 – 11.30

### **Option 2:**

Wednesday 12.30 – 3.15  
Thursday 8.45 – 3.15  
Friday 8.45 – 3.15

### **Option 3:**

Monday 8.45 – 3.15  
Tuesday 8.45 – 3.15  
Wednesday 8.45 – 3.15  
Thursday 8.45 – 3.15  
Friday 8.45 – 3.15



If your child is 3 on or before 31 August 2020 and is due to start Nursery in September 2020 we would be delighted to welcome you into the Early Years Unit for a visit, show you around and answer any questions you may have.

These visits take place throughout the spring term 2020 for Nursery on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9.30am and 10.00am prior to the dates that the applications need to be submitted. Please ring the school office to make an appointment to visit.

### **Nursery Deadline Dates**

Nursery applications will be available from the School Office from 13 January 2020. Please note that your child's birth certificate and proof of your home address must be shown with the application form.

Deadline for applications: 20 March 2020

Deadline for accepting a place: 24 April 2020

## *Lost Property*



Lost Property will be on display between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February so please check the tables in the school hall between 8.30 and 8.45am or 3.15 and 3.30pm.

Anything with names on is returned to the children.

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, anything left will be either given to charity or offered to Mrs Roberts for the uniform swap shop.

***PLEASE NAME ALL YOUR CHILDREN'S CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES***



## Can you help us make our lunch boxes as eco friendly as possible?

### Say NO to...

- Clingfilm
- Foil
- Individual juice cartons or bottles
- Plastic cutlery
- Individually wrapped snacks



### Say YES to...

- Multi compartment lunch boxes OR mini reusable plastic boxes to stop individual wrapping!
- Buy in bulk (packets of biscuits, large pack of raisins, blocks of cheese, individual carrots). Chop/slice and pop in the reusable containers or compartments to stop the use of foil and cling film, and reduce rubbish.
- Metal cutlery
- Reusable water bottles—no more one use cartons and bottles!
- Reusable sandwich bags or beeswax wrapping.

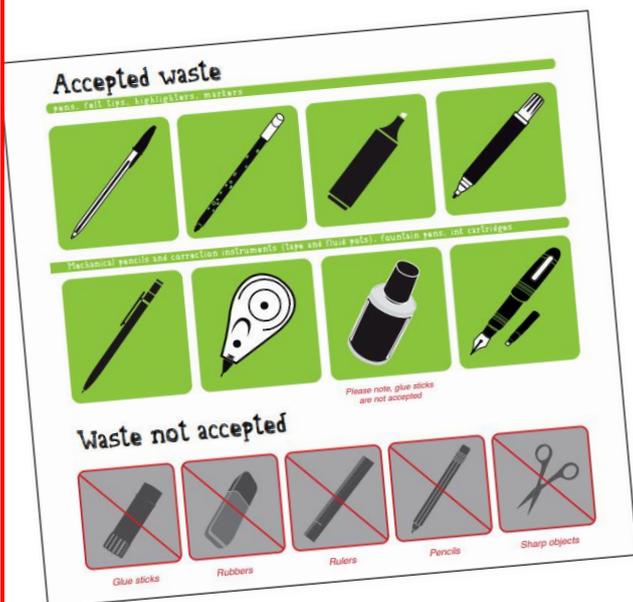


#responsiblecitizens

School continues to collect batteries so please keep sending them in.

We are also collecting broken and used pens.

The children can pop these in the green box in the lower hall.



## *Calendar*

The calendar on the website is currently up to date and has events for throughout the year. We will be adding new events as the year goes on. Please check the events section regularly so that you do not miss anything important. As always, don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

***We are looking forward to seeing you all back on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020.***

*From all the staff at Archibald have a lovely  
half term.*