

Archibald First School
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Headteacher **Mrs R Turner**

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Friday 3rd April 2020

Easter Holidays

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of you for trying so hard to continue some learning at home for the children last week and this week. It has been great to see some of the results and to keep in touch via Twitter and the new school private Facebook group 'Archibald 2019-20'.

Class teachers have posted new blogs, updated Tapestry (EYFS) and sent tweets so please remember to check on these as well as the Challenge of the Day and Skill of the Week going forward. I am also off to practise my Makaton using the fabulous videos courtesy of Mrs Nelson and Mrs Jones. For years 2-4, Mrs Nisbet is also keeping everyone going with Timestables Rockstar battles, so if you have not logged on yet...

Please remember, we are only giving you some guidance and ideas, we absolutely don't expect you to home school your children or to replace the curriculum, and we really want you to be as relaxed as you can be during this period. Learning is so much more than simply the formal lessons in school. The well-being of your whole family is the most important thing for you and us.

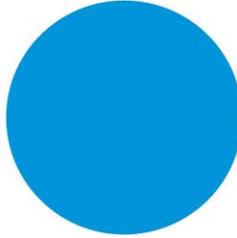
During the Easter holiday period (starting Monday 6th April for two weeks), school will be closed and staff will not be working from home or on site (with the exception of our critical childcare arrangements). The staff will be enjoying a break with their own families. If you want to keep some learning and some structure going, it would be a good idea to look at the resources on the website and to see what we have shared on Twitter as well as looking at the whole host of ideas that families have posted on Facebook.

The key message is to take what you need, do what you can and find the balance that works for you and your family. Everyone is in a different position right now so please don't feel any pressure – just enjoy seeing the fun and ideas!



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I will keep posting links and ideas on the school Twitter account so it is worth checking in. I also keep an eye out for any ideas about well-being and if I see any, I will share them.

Myself and Mrs West may check in with you via phone calls using our school phones whilst Mrs Ward may be in contact from school after the holidays.

Today (Friday) would have been the day we were breaking up for the Easter Holidays and so let's see how many people can record a Happy Easter/holiday message for their friends and everyone in our school family. Tweet it, mentioning @Archibaldfirst, so that we can all share this special ending to the term, not quite as good as a hug but at least we can all see each other smiling! I think this will make a lot of people very happy!

Remember to check out the Easter Challenges – perfect ideas for this week coming up. The prizes will be awarded at a later date but we'll give a big thumbs up to you on Twitter/Facebook.

It is impossible to turn on the TV or radio without hearing worrying news and feeling anxious. If you're using social media, you will know that the stories and information really feed anxieties and can lead to lots of worrying. Try not to watch too much and limit your time on social media if you can. On my own Twitter account, I have muted certain words (in settings) and it has made my experience much more positive – not hiding from the world, but focussing on the better bits of news! Find your way to make it bearable and make sure you try to have some relaxation time. But please still follow the rules and stay home to stay safe and to protect the NHS and our communities. I've had many conversations over the past two weeks with our parents and carers who are working on the frontline, mostly NHS and Police, and their positivity and acceptance is humbling. Well done to everyone working to make us safer, keep up the hard work and know that you are appreciated.

If in the holidays, you need to contact school urgently or you have concerns with which you think we can help, please do so via the admin email admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk or on 07951058767 (emergencies only or for the critical childcare in school families). I will keep an eye on incoming mail and will help if we are able to.

Stay well, everyone.

Best wishes

Rebecca Turner
Headteacher

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