

SUMMER NEWS 1

I have written and rewritten this opening page several times. How do I start? What do I say? Do I reflect on the past or look forward to the potential next half term?

What I can say is THANK YOU: Thank you for your ongoing support and patience. I can also say how proud I am of the children! Watching their achievements via videos and catching glimpses of their newfound skills or hobbies has been fascinating.

On reflection, each of us has experienced the last 9 weeks differently. Our individual family circumstances are unique and what has been easy and a blessing for some, has been an uphill battle for others. As of the last day of half term, there will be families relieved for the downtime the next week will bring, others will be wishing for more 'home learning' to keep the kids busy and some will be wiping their foreheads thinking 'We have survived (so far)!'

Whichever of these you may be (and perhaps, in reality, we are all a little bit of each), I hope you feel that we have endeavoured to work through this together.

As I type this, I do not know what June or July will bring but what I can say is that I am choosing to focus on the positives.

- Our Year 4's are preparing to fly the nest of Archibald and move onto the next phase of their education.
- Nursery children are getting ready to be Reception, joining Archibald or a new school. It really is very exciting!
- Staff are enjoying writing about your children's achievements in their reports.
- Many of us are appreciating what we have on our doorstep and taking advantage of exploring the local surroundings.

And...

ARCHIBALD STAFF NEWS

Mr Bourke officially started his role as Deputy Head Teacher on 20th April 2020. After initial plans of getting to know the school over a 3 to 4 week period, he has been well and truly thrown into life at Archibald. Mr Bourke is looking forward to meeting you all and working with the children too.



Mr Morrow and his wife welcomed the arrival of Jacob in March. We can confirm from the late emails, that Mr Morrow is up through the night!

Mrs Sinclair was due to officially start her maternity on Monday 18th May. We think 'Ella Sinclair' was aware of the schedule as she arrived in the early hours of the 18th May. Mum and Ella are both well. We are all looking forward to meeting Ella, and yes, I have asked for the first cuddles!

Finally, we are thrilled to share the news that Mrs Mullick is expecting her second baby early in the Autumn Term.



IN OTHER NEWS (SOME AWAY FROM WORK!)

- Mr Holman has fitted an outdoor tap, painted the kitchen and been enjoying riding his bike.
- Wake Up Wednesdays are now on Twitter giving advice regarding E-Safety.
- Mr Bourke's little girl has cracked riding her bike and is growing in confidence!
- Mrs Conway has painted her garden bench.
- Luke T (Reception) has become a big brother.
- Mrs Shaw has baked so much that she could run a very successful bakery.



EYFS

The Early Years staff have been blown away by all of the Early Years children on Tapestry. All of the children are working so hard at home with their grown-ups. There has been lots of baking, lots of learning to ride a bike with no stabilisers as well as lots of creative activities and obstacle courses.

Luckily, the children were at hand to help all of the teachers when their vegetables went missing and we needed to trap the Evil Pea. They've also been involved in passing a teddy, going on adventures, passing a smile, telling some jokes and of course sending a silly selfie.

We've had one member of Early Years using her home baking to donate some money to a food bank and someone even had caterpillars to stay in the Easter holidays. Someone sends Mrs Jones a lovely weekly diary to ensure they do a bit of writing and to let her know what he's been up to. We are amazed at how many of our children have also been to see the swans at Exhibition Park.

One of our children made a fantastic set of musical instruments using junk materials and even played their drums for the NHS clapping one Thursday evening and lots of the children have been enjoying Science experiments and are budding scientists.

We continue to miss everyone so much, but through Tapestry we can see you are staying safe and having some fun!

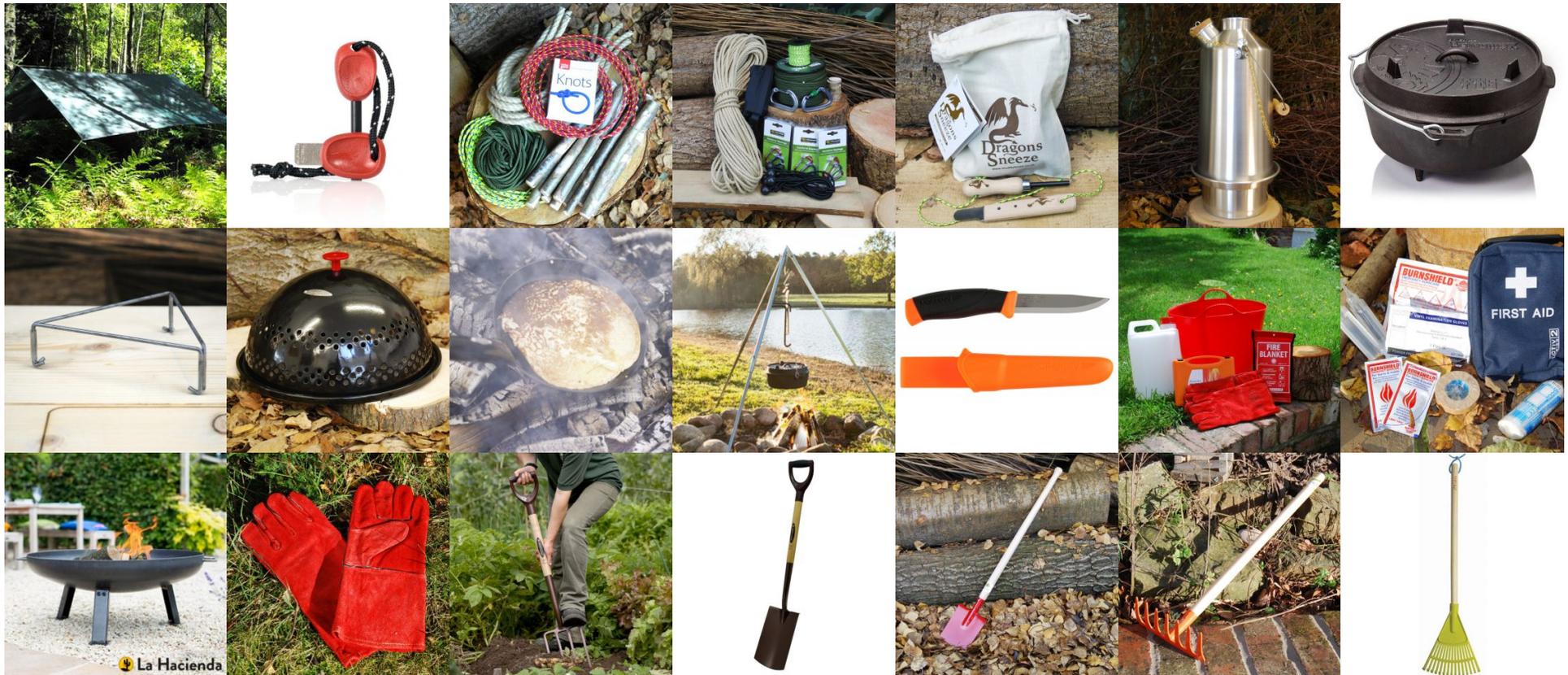
Over the half term holidays the teachers have plenty of gardening to do...I do hope they don't unearth something unusual! I wonder what they might find in the soil?

PTFA

The **PTFA** continue to actively support the school. Most recently, they have made a lovely donation to Early Years for just over £1000 to invest in a new playhouse and shed. Fingers crossed these should arrive in June. School has also invested in new furniture and equipment for the red, blue and green zones of Early Years (EYFS).



Mrs Ward and Mr Holman have been undertaking Forest Schools Training for the last year. We are working on embedding this into the work we do within EYFS and with groups of children throughout the school. In light of this, the PTFA have also made a generous donation towards Forest Schools. Have a look at the new equipment we have received. This is because of your generosity and support towards the school – THANK YOU



GRANT

School was recently contacted by Local School Nature Grants. After being unsuccessful in obtaining a grant for equipment and training last year, they have reconsidered our application. A £500 'Bits and Bobs' pack has been ordered which will be able to be used outdoors in Forest School and with EYFS.

A YEAR 4 GIFT FOR ARCHIBALD

A group of the Year 4 parents very kindly made a donation to school to invest in new signage relating to parking, speeding and idling. The two new banners are up, 1 of the 3 signs is in place and our new 'Slow Down' sign is ready and waiting for our return to school.

Thank you so much to the Year 4 children and families; this was an unexpected but extraordinary gift which will hopefully have a positive impact on our whole school community and the residents of Archibald Street.

VOTE FOR ARCHIBALD

Help us win £5,000 for our school library! Nominate our school to win and you could take home £100 of National Book Tokens just for you. Please ask family and friends to nominate us as well. Thank you.

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>



School Rules

Take a look at our new school rules. We hope these are easy for everyone to remember (including the staff).

- *We are ready*
- *We are responsible*
- *We are respectful*
- *We are safe*



What do you think they mean? How can you show you understand the school rules?

Share your ideas and thoughts in any way you choose.

Having fun, achieving excellence.

Successful learners. Confident individuals. Responsible citizens.

SCHOOL VOTE

What is your favourite school dinner/dessert?

Ask your grown up to complete the survey here... <https://forms.gle/PUE5ttbXQEWZEm4w7>

ARCHIBALD RECIPE BOOK

Over the last few weeks, you have shared your skills, interests, talents and new ventures with us. Throughout this the cooking and baking have been very prominent.

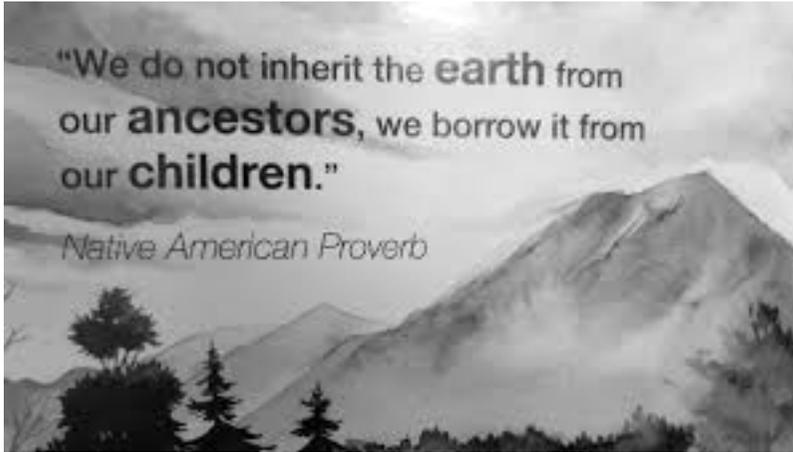
Could we create our very own 'Archibald Recipe Book' to be shared online with our families?

Make an A4 poster of your recipe including the ingredients and step by step instructions. Send this to homework@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk by 1st July and we will publish our very own community recipe book ready for summer holiday baking.

COLLECTIONS

- Please remember to collect lids for school.
- Rocks can be placed in the rock gardens in Early Years and the front of school in our return.
- Sun catchers can be left outside the main entrance. We will find places to hang these in the forest school area.

KEEPING GOSFORTH GREEN



Over the last few weeks, the atmosphere on walks has felt different, almost pleasant, calm, peaceful and clean. Why?... perhaps this has been because of the lack of cars on the road.

During lockdown, we have proven to ourselves that we don't need to take the car to get from A to B and it has had a significant positive impact on our environment with a 17% decrease in CO2 emissions.

Can we keep this up going forwards? Can you play your part in rejuvenating our world?

When we return to school, please walk, scoot, cycle or skate ensuring you all leave the car behind at home.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS AND SECRET LOCATIONS

<https://forms.gle/PUE5ttbXQEWZEm4w7>

So many of you have shared images of walks local to the school that you have discovered during lockdown. Can you share these to help other families discover the delights of Gosforth?

Let's appreciate what we have on our doorstep...

LOVE
WHERE YOU LIVE

WELL-BEING

I know that we can all feel under pressure and worried about how we are dealing with the current situation. These pressures can especially come from social media groups where we can compare ourselves to others and feel like we're not doing a good enough job. This can have a negative impact on our mental health and well-being. Try to focus on yourself and your family as only you know what is right for them.

REMEMBER: TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, DO WHAT YOU CAN AND MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Staying safe and keeping our children happy and supported in any way we can is the main focus and we will get through this.

Check out Mr Bourke's Post on 'Healthy Minds for Parents and Children' on our website:

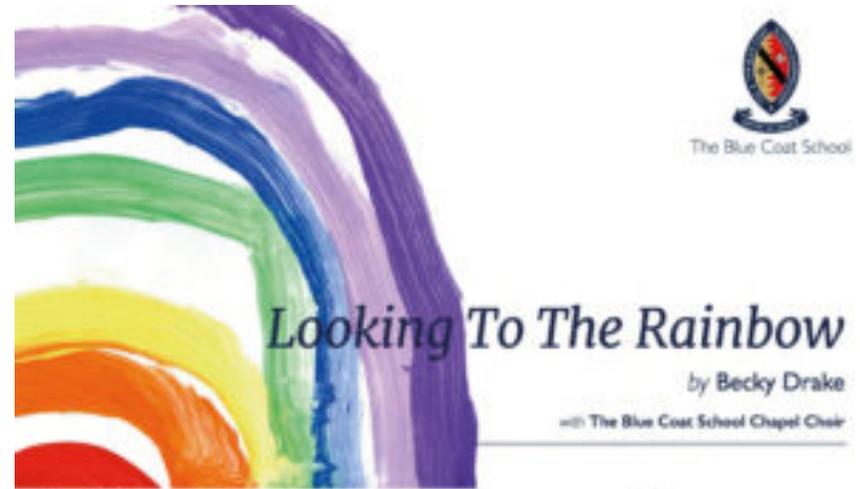
<https://www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk/news/healthy-minds-for-children-parents/>



LOCKDOWN SONG

<https://worshipforeveryone.com/looking-to-the-rainbow>

“Looking to the Rainbow” is a brand-new song from Nick & Becky Drake for schools to perform during the Covid-19 lockdown. Children may like to start learning the words. You can send video clips of them singing to homework@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk or add them to our Facebook Page.



MAKATON POP SONGS AND MORE...



Check out the Singing Hands website – www.singinghands.co.uk and their You Tube channel for songs and stories with Makaton <https://www.youtube.com/user/SingingHandsUK/videos>

We reckon that you will LOVE the CarPark Karaoke

Keep working hard on your Makaton at home as this allows everyone in school communicate together!

As we move forwards, we will keep you as informed as possible.

The guidance changes on a daily basis with updates from the government and local authority coming through on a regular basis.

Any decisions we make will be made with the children's and staff's safety and wellbeing at the very heart. They will be made to minimise risk as far as possible.

We all want our young people back at school, but we have to do this gradually and evaluate each of the steps we take.

There are many decisions to be made, and some of these will not suit everyone, but these will be made for the right reasons with careful thought and consultation with the LA, Gosforth Schools' Trust, Staff, Governors and families.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



Finally, have a lovely May Half Term and stay safe!

**Mrs Turner and the Archibald Team. X
(P.S. remember to share your daft pictures and look out for the staff on Friday 22nd too!)**