



Archibald First School

Spring Term Newsletter



As the Easter break approaches, we see the end of a very busy Spring Term. We have worked our way through another lockdown with children, families and staff adapting to all kinds of pressures and changes to every day life. We are very proud of all our children's efforts and thank you for supporting them in schoolwork and most importantly emotionally as they developed new routines.

Since reopening our staff have been very conscious of supporting the children as they have become re-accustomed to school life. They have supported the children with opportunities for mindfulness as well as leading class assemblies focussed on emotional well-being.

We wish you all a good break over Easter and we are looking forward to enjoying the summer term together.



Sponsored Read

In addition to the newsletter you will find a form for our Easter Sponsored Read which we are holding from 1st April and 20th April.

We are very keen to sustain the memento with reading for pleasure, encouraging our children to read more often and more widely in addition to developing as readers. Sadly, our individual reading book selection has become rather depleted and many of the books are very 'well loved'. Within the classrooms, the staff are busy sorting out class libraries removing old and battered books that are no longer fit for purpose.



All money raised will fund new individual reading books for children in every year group and we also hope to raise enough money to buy high quality texts for class libraries too.

We would be very grateful if all sponsor money could be paid via the PTFA website where it is possible to claim gift aid. A nominal amount will be listed, however, this can be amended to reflect either the donation you wish to make or the amount of sponsorship money raised.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/archibaldfirstschool/index.cfm?event=Shop#.YGF5zqZYaUk>

The final date for sponsorship money is 30th April. If you are unable to make payment this way, please send money into the school office in a sealed envelope labelled 'Sponsored Read'.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Sinclair back to Archibald after her maternity leave with Ella. Mrs Sinclair will be primarily working with the children in years 1 and 2 including teaching in class 6 on a Thursday and Friday to cover Mr Bourke's management time. Welcome back Mrs Sinclair!

Sadly, we say goodbye to Mrs McGurk who joined us back in September until Mrs Sinclair's return. She has been a brilliant member of the Archibald team and we wish her well. Thank you, Mrs McGurk.

Travelling to and from school



We are delighted that so many of you choose to travel on foot or by scooter or bike. It makes for a healthy start/end to the school day as well as being more environmentally friendly.

During the summer term we will be taking part in the Walk to School initiative to encourage these methods of travel.

From recent news articles, you may be aware of the School Street initiative which will see some streets which have a school located on them closed to traffic at key times of the day. This is trial that has been launched and, if successful, we hope that we can be a part of this too.

In the meantime, to those families who travel to school by car; we would like to encourage you to park away from Archibald Street and complete the end of your journey on foot. Can you 'Park and Stride'.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to our families who are considerate to our neighbours. Sadly, however, we continue to receive complaints regarding drop off and collection times. No matter how much of a hurry you are in, please do not park across our neighbours' driveways, mount pavements, idle engines or drive irresponsibly.

Postcards Home

You will receive a postcard home to update you about your child and their return to school. How many stars out of 5 will they get for key areas such as their friendships, manners and effort?

We hope these are supportive in helping you to see how your child has returned to school since the 8th March.

Please remember to sign up for Parents' Evenings appointments the week of 26th April.

Bags2School

Please remember to fill the Bags2School bag and return it to school on **Thursday 29th April by 9am** (we will collect the bags to the rear of the bike shelter).



Go Far Playgroup @ Archibald



The Go Far Playgroup / Preschool is an established playgroup based in Fenham, Ofsted outstanding in all areas. Go Far@Archibald has been open on site since January.

For information and application details please contact Sophie at Go Far Playgroup on 07957717366 or email gofarplaygrouparchibald@gmail.com

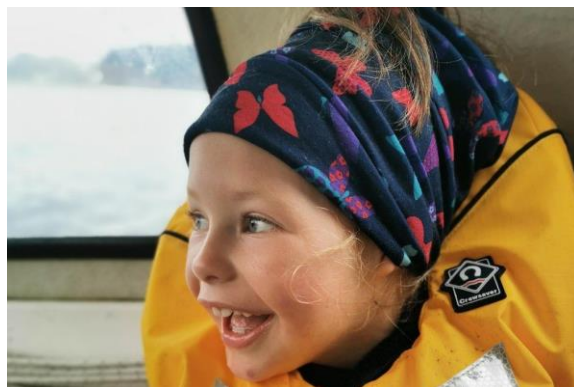
Great North Wren

Did you spot our very own Great North Wren on BBC news?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-56550321>

Wren is in Year 2 at Archibald, always with a smile and never without her friends.

Wren's family are raising money for an Innowalk machine to give Wren the benefits we all gain from an active lifestyle. Through controlled movement and weight-bearing, Wren's muscles, bones and motor functions will develop beyond what we can achieve with manual physiotherapy. The Innowalk will last Wren into adulthood and should help to reduce some of the long-term effects of her condition.



Wren's equipment and therapy needs are significant, life-long and evolving. The family would be very appreciative of any help towards funding this equipment so if you are in a position to help, please have a look at the Go Fund Me page.

<https://uk.gofundme.com/f/great-north-wren>

PE Kits

We will continue to ask the children to come into school dressed for PE on their PE days. Please check that all PE kit fits including outdoor trainers. A plain red -shirt, royal blue shoes and trainers will be needed.

If the weather is colder, a school jumper/cardigan can be worn with plain navy/black jogging bottoms. Other branded jumpers/trousers should not be worn. Thank you.

Summer Uniform

As the weather brightens, summer dresses (red checked) and navy shorts can be worn. Socks should remain plain white, red or navy. If sandals are worn, these must be plain white, navy or black, be flat and fasten securely around the ankle. Socks must be worn with sandals.

Regardless of the weather, a coat is needed everyday as the children will play outside.

Fancy hair accessories and hairbands need to be kept for weekends, thank you.

Staff Development Day

School is closed to all children on Monday 19th April. The staff in EYFS will be working together to explore and plan for the new EYFS curriculum which will be in place in September 2021 whilst the staff in Years 1 to 4 will take part in training with external professionals to further develop our history and geography curriculum.

We will see all the children back on Tuesday 20th April.

PTFA Updates

Christmas 2020

It may seem like a lifetime ago now but we wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone who got into the Christmas spirit and ordered the PTFA Elf Packs back in December. Along with the Sounds of the Season CD, this raised £1,500 in total. A great effort given we sadly couldn't hold the traditional Christmas Fair.

Tesco Bags of Help scheme

Thanks to Tom Wooldridge, who has kindly secured a £1,000 grant for the PTFA linked to the original playground improvement project. We are pulling together ideas about how this will be best spent on activities and equipment to most benefit the children.

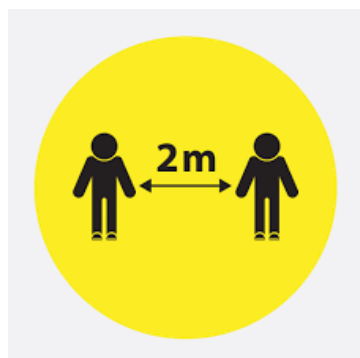
Backpacks

We've been contacted by a few parents recently who are keen to buy an Archibald backpack so we're going to make these available to buy again. Our plan is to only do this twice a year - April and October - as we unfortunately can't process these as individual orders.

You can purchase a backpack by following this link and making the payment via Stripe. They'll be available for sale **until 20th April** and will hopefully be available to hand out in early May. After that, the next chance to get one will be October:

[Archibald First School PTFA](#)

Social Distancing



We are extremely heartened by the lowering number of positive covid cases across Newcastle, however we are mindful that there are still cases occurring in local primary and first schools and as such remain vigilant as we maintain our hygiene regimes and continually update and review our school's risk assessment.

Please can you help to support this effort by adhering to your drop off and pick up slots, maintaining a 2m gap from other family groups when moving through our site at drop off and pick up times and ensuring that your children move with you.

We know how hard this is given the fact that we have 336 children on site but we very much appreciate your support in this matter.