



Archibald First School

Summer 2 Newsletter 2021



This year it has taken me a while to pull together the message for the front page of the final newsletter of the year. After a number of false starts, I went back into the archives and opened up the Summer 2 Newsletter from 2020 where the following message was on the front page...

'We have officially made it to the end of the summer term. Usually I would say that it doesn't seem 5 minutes since we were welcoming our new families into school as the children joined Nursery and Reception whilst some of us can still remember welcoming our Year 4 children into school all those years ago! Now whilst this is true does anyone else feel the last 4 months have been the longest EVER!

Whilst the last 4 months have been challenging, thought provoking, different, alternative, a learning curve, a new way of life, hard, fun, enlightening... it is still worth thinking back over the school year to reflect on how much your child has grown and developed not only academically but socially and emotionally too.

One positive about lock down has been the children having time to discover talents and embrace life skills that they otherwise may not have. We have seen bird boxes built, bike riding conquered, art work perfected, letter writing to friends attempted, mesmerising culinary talents and so much more.

Some of you have even braved cornflower gloop, painting and mud! Others have embraced pyjama days, film nights and board games. Whilst many have dug out the old PE kit to venture on bike rides and discover new local walks.

I must finish my part by saying thank you; what an exciting, nervous, daunting and challenging first two terms as a Headteacher. The support from the children, staff, families and governors has been very much appreciated.

Thank you'

Reading this I smiled as I reflected on how challenging I felt the spring and summer of 2020 was... if only I had had a crystal ball. In truth, if I consider the past 12 months, I suspect that I would say much of the above remains true (both the good and the bad) although the length of time of the restrictions combined with the surges through the winter months certainly added to the undesirable feelings I felt at times. But enough of the doom and gloom.

The key message to end the year on has to be one of positivity, pride and happiness so here it goes...

Whilst we have made our way through the last year your children have showed us the very best of themselves. They have shown determination, resilience, eagerness, empathy, patience, understanding, care and a whole lot more. They have worked so incredibly hard that they are in a really good position to move into their new class.



★ They have not let the pandemic define them. They have not become the 'lost generation'. They
★ have continued to move forwards and develop as young people.

★ Your children make teaching here a pleasure and the staff and I are really looking forward to
★ working with them in September. We can't wait to see them continue to thrive both academically
★ and personally.

★ In June, our School Achievement Partner came to visit the school. His report stated, *'The overall
★ impression during the visit was of a school that has managed the challenges of the last eighteen
★ months well, rapidly returning to a 'business as usual' position. Pupils appear to be thriving,
★ enjoying their time in school and showing enthusiasm for learning.'*

★ Thank you to you all as this is the result of our school community working together – the children,
★ staff and families. I can't wait to build on this further in the new school year and for us all to
★ continue to work in partnership.

★ Until then, I wish you and the staff a lovely summer.

★
★ Mrs Turner



Reports

We hope the end of year reports capture your children and give you a further insight into their time at school. A **huge** thank you has to go to each of the teaching staff; the reports take an incredibly long time to write as each one is personal to your own child. Please return the reply slips by Friday. Thank you.

A New Buddy Bench - thank you Year 4



A huge thank you to the Year 4 children and parents for their kind present of a new Buddy Bench. You will see it standing proudly in the yard as a lovely gift for the whole school.

Thank you very much xxx



Daniel McAdam Award

This year the Daniel McAdam Award goes to a young girl who has absolutely knocked our socks off! She has experienced many changes but over the course of the year she has never let these define her. In fact, she has risen to the challenges the staff have set her every day.



As a young girl, we have watched her blossom. She has emerged from her shell developing her friendships and confidence. With her resilience, determination and hard work, this young girl has also made absolutely astounding progress over the course of year 2 (and when we say astounding – we mean ASTOUNDING!!!).

She is without doubt an Archibald Superstar and we couldn't be prouder of her!

The Daniel McAdam Award goes to **Miss Emily K** in year 2.

September Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform and how smart the children look wearing it. The summer holiday is a great time to check out your child's uniform ready for the new school year.

Please ensure all uniform fits, especially PE shoes and school shoes, as we expect the children to return to school dressed ready for the year ahead. Replace name labels too!

School shoes must be plain and dark in colour – trainers are not school uniform even if they are black!

Thank you for supporting this and promoting our school uniform.

Photograph and Communication Permissions

All our families have identified how your children's images can be used:

- Displays
- Newsletters
- Publications
- Archibald Website
- Archibald and GST Twitter
- GST Publications
- GST Website
- External Agencies

Please remember you can change your permissions at any time by completing a new form at the school office and informing us in writing. If you would like to check the permissions you originally gave, please contact the school office.

This also applies to the school sending text messages and emails as a form of communication. However, please remember that by declining to receive texts or emails information must be obtained via the website after an initial paper letter has been sent. No reminders will be sent in paper form.

September

Please read the letter sent out on 20.7.21 regarding arrangements for September. If there are any updates prior to the 07.09.21, we will be in touch via email.

Welcome

We would like to welcome Ms Moffett to the Key Stage 1 support team, Mrs Birkett to the Key Stage 2 support team and Senora Dunlop who will teach Spanish to Years 1-4.

(Early years teachers will deliver this to their own classes)



Sporting Events and Sports Days

Activ5 & Sports Day 2021

What a fabulous week we had taking part in Activ5 and Sports Day this year! We enjoyed taking part in daily live streams which helped us develop core values such as respect, self-belief and teamwork. We also loved completing games like Ball Juggle and orienteering in maths. It was great to see everyone taking on new challenges and earning points for their school teams. After all the fun and competing, the results were as follows:

1st place: **Team Swan**

2nd place: **Team Grey**

3rd place: **Team Darling**

4th place: **Team Stephenson**

5th place: **Team Cookson**

Well done everyone for all your fantastic efforts!



Wellness Week

We had a great time during our last week of school! It was great to take part in activities that helped our bodies and minds. We especially loved joining in with Tracey from *Hoopstarz* who challenged us to try lots of new tricks using a hula hoop! We also really enjoyed taking part in a Multi Skills session with Mr Holman, and Key Stage 2 had great fun competing in their Football Tournament. There were lots of smiles as we scooted, cycled and roller skated on the yard, and lots of laughter during our water fights!

Well done on a fantastic end to the year everyone!

Schools 500

Years 1-4 enjoyed taking part in Newcastle PE & Sport Service's Schools 500 Games. We worked in teams to take part in a multi skills tournament, which Class 3 came 3rd in; well done! Year 3 also placed in the Cross Country, coming 3rd across all schools that took part. Well done everyone!



Year 1's End of Term Celebration...

We're All Mad Here!

Year 1 finished off their *It All Started with a Mouse...* topic with their very own Mad Hatter's Tea Party! We enjoyed harvesting the vegetables from our *Roots, Shoots and Juicy Fruits* topic and making healthy sandwiches with them. We also wrote our very own shopping lists, chopped and prepared healthy Rainbow Fruit Kebabs. Outside, we enjoyed dancing and playing games with all our friends. What a wonderful end to a fantastic year!



Staffing News

Feliz retiro Senora Linfoot! We will miss you!

We will also miss Mrs McGurk as she leaves us to have baby number two.

Mr Bourke is off to pastures new in North Tyneside – a huge thank you, goodbye and good luck to you Mr Bourke.

Mrs Douglas, a member of our dinner team, is also off to a new role but we look forward to her returning to Archibald in a volunteer capacity. Don't stay away too long Mrs Douglas.

A massive welcome back to Mrs Mullick returning after her maternity leave. Mrs Mullick has spent this week in Early Years meeting the children moving into Year 1 with her in September.

And finally, we are waiting excitedly for wedding pictures from Mrs Howard and Mrs Bramley (currently Miss Pearson and Miss Turner). We hope you both have fabulous days!!!



Daniel's Den and our Chill Space

Last year we were exceptionally lucky to receive a donation of £10,000 pounds. The remit of the donation was to do something we couldn't have afforded to do without this generous and thoughtful gift. Finally, we are able to announce that over the summer we are having two rooms transformed using this donation.

Room one will become our Sensory Room, which will be known as Dan's Den, in memory of Daniel McAdam, whilst room two will become our Chill Room. The Sensory Room will contain a range of resources including sensory toys, beanbags, UV lights, bubble tubes, multisensory objects and padded seats and flooring. The Chill Room will be a calm space to work in, host meetings in or meet visitors. Both rooms can be accessed by all the children. Watch out for photos in the autumn term.

A huge thank you to our donor from all at Archibald!

The Pond

The PTFA were awarded £1,000 from Tesco. This is being put towards the cost of upgrading the pond area to the rear of forest school. The whole area will be securely fenced off, the entrance relocated and a ramp built to access the area. Within the area, new decking with a safety rail will be built making it an accessible space for all year groups to use over the course of the year.

We do need help clearing the pond itself – any volunteers...??? We would also love any volunteers to treat our new wooden fencing to help preserve the wood. Please let us know if you are available for either job.

Classes 7-10

The key stage 2 classes are being transformed over the holidays. A new coat of paint, carpet and wet flooring will be complemented with an interactive TV screen, new tables and chairs.

A Future Project

We would very much love to transform our green zone – the outside court yard by nursery – over the next year.

Our aim is to create a space which is explicitly designed for purposeful play and outdoor learning. We would like to replace the flooring to include different surfaces and also a road map, have a fixed sand area, a new climbing frame and slide, an established reading zone and a new water feature that can be actively used all year round.

Our current shelter is no longer fit for purpose and will need to be removed so we are hoping to create a new covered area with sides.

This will cost anywhere between £30,000 and £40,000. We'd love to hear from you with fundraising ideas and we'd also be interested in any companies that do matched funding.

Early Years

There has been quite a Commotion in the Ocean this half term in Reception. We have loved finding out all about under the sea, diving deeper each week until we reached the bottom of the sea and the Mariana Trench. The children can talk about lots of different sea creatures and know all about whales, sea snails, anemones, hermit crabs, octopuses and much more. We shared what we learnt in our performance of Commotion in the Ocean, showing off our singing and dancing skills too.

We have also loved Wellness week, developing our hula hooping skills and loving the water fight. It has been a super end to our year in Reception. The teachers are very proud of how the children have worked so hard at home and then returned to school ready to learn even more. What a resilient bunch they are!



Year 4 - Our Last Week

What a fantastic week we have had, full of laughter, fun and excitement. It all started with a water fight on Monday morning and finished with a fantastic disco. We had lots of fun, enjoying pizza and dancing with our friends; even the teachers had a little dance! Thank you for all of your efforts in helping this to go ahead - we thoroughly enjoyed it. We enjoyed lots of other exciting activities as well in our last week, including the inflatables, our board game afternoon and the football tournament. After the year that we have had, Year 4 more than deserved this week and we wish you all the best for the future. Good luck at your new schools.



Diary

The school diary of events is published on the website. Dates are always on this well ahead of time, and we highlight where any changes are made which happens in the busy life of a school.

We also endeavour to share upcoming dates on each newsletter.

Many dates have already been added (as we anticipate running as 'normally' as possible) but the diary will continue to be updated over the school holidays.

Calendar

September

06 Staff Development Day: School Closed to Pupils

07 Welcome back! Please see the plans for returning to school.

And finally, a huge heartfelt thank you to you all for all the support, words of encouragement, laughs and patience as we have navigated the last school year together.

The staff and I wish you all a happy and healthy summer break.

With love

Archibald 2020-2021



HAPPINESS IS



**...the first day
of summer holidays.**



the most
important
time is
family time



SUMMER
IS TIME FOR WATERMELON
COLD DRINKS
BAREFOOT AND BARBEQUES
POPSICLES PICNICS POOLS
CORN ON THE COB LEMONADE SUNSHINE
READING CAMPFIRES CHERRIES
ROAD SEA SHELLS
TRIPSSMORES **FUN**

life
laugh
love