



# Archibald First School Spring Newsletter 1 2022



## Welcome to 2022 at Archibald

It has been lovely to see the children and staff back in school this week. The children returned happy and eager (well, once the shock of getting up had passed), and are already back to working well. This half term promises to be a busy one with visitors supporting our topic work, class assemblies, computing workshops and also key events such as Children's Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day and our relaunch of our No Outsiders focus. Extra-curricular clubs also begin again from the 10<sup>th</sup> January. Our hope is to maintain all that we can at Archibald for the children's education and personal/social development.

## Reading Helpers

We are still keen to recruit more reading helpers. Crucially, we would like reading helpers for Reception. If you feel that you could support this by listening to children read for one hour a week (or even more), please get in touch.



## Library



Thank you to the 3 people who have volunteered so far – we will be in touch as soon as possible now we know the plans for covid following the winter break.

We ideally need more volunteers to get our library open once again in January. After careful thought, we'd ideally like the library to run over a Monday, Tuesday and/or Friday lunch time 12.15-1.10.

This would give the children an opportunity to change their books outside of lesson time AND provide them with an opportunity to sit and read over the lunch period.

If you would be interested in helping to run our library please make contact via [admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk) marked 'Library'.

We are also looking to invest in school outdoor cushions to place in the wooden gazebo for the children to sit and read on.

*Can you help????????????????*

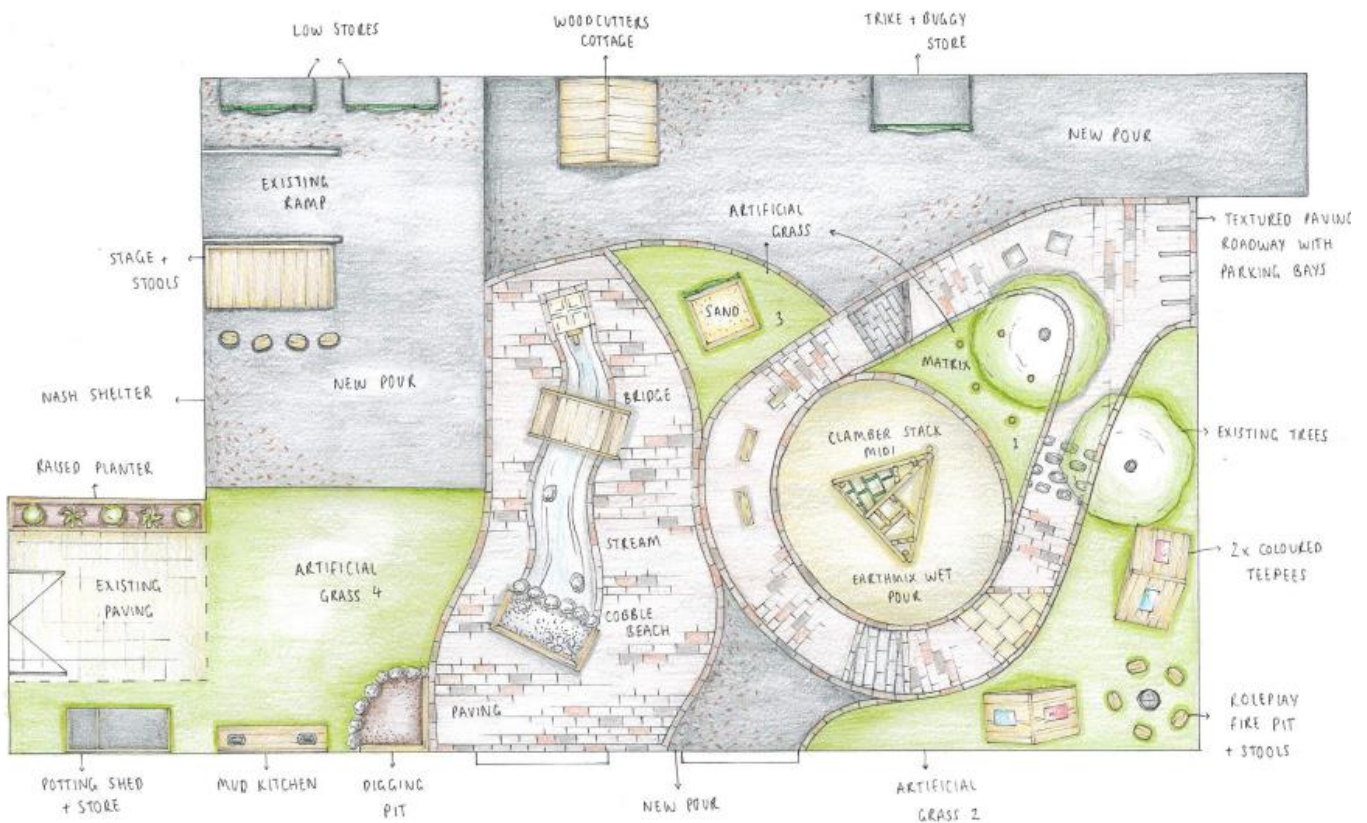
## *A Future Project*

We would very much love to transform our green zone – the outside court yard by nursery and Reception – 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, 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.

**We have now had a fabulous design made for us with a quotation of £38,000. We'd love to hear from you with fundraising ideas and we'd also be interested in any companies that do matched funding.**



## *Gardeners and Pond Keepers Wanted!!!*



Are you a keen gardener? We'd like to establish a gardening group on the first Thursday of each month. (In reality – any day that anyone could do...)

Each year group has been given a plot of land to look after and in October they all planted seeds as part of the Billion Seed Challenge.

Would you be interested in coming into school to help small groups of children to look after their patch? We also have spare patches which we would love to add to.

We are also look for anyone with pond expertise. Our new pond area has been fully renovated and we now need to keep it maintained

and useable.

Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles...if you would be interested in helping please make contact via [admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk) marked 'Gardening'.

## *Covid Updates*

The measures in school that were implemented before Christmas, remain in place with increased ventilation which is monitored via in-class CO2 monitors, and face masks being worn by all adults in communal areas of the school. These are further supported by the long-standing measures of high priority and focus given to handwashing and personal hygiene, additional midday cleaning duties and the reduced mixing of classes.

Children have key stage break and lunchtimes outside whilst assemblies will be held in classes or year groups only.

Please be reassured that school sees the welfare of its pupils, staff and wider school community as a highest priority, and will continue to work hard to ensure this, while enabling the children to have the fullest, richest learning opportunities that we can provide.

## *No Mud Please!*

As the grass is now wet and muddy, **please stay off the adventure playground before and after school.** This keeps you safe from slipping, your shoes and clothes clean from mud, and the school carpets spotless!

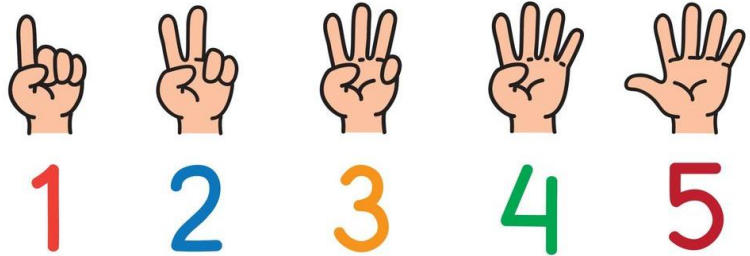


## Show Me 5...

From January, we are extending our Show me 5 trusted adults initiative to encompass a wider safeguarding remit.

Staff will regularly ask class to show them...

- 5 ways of staying safe online
- 5 ways to keep a healthy body
- 5 ways to keep a healthy mind
- 5 trusted adults
- 5 ways of being a good friend
- 5 ways of staying safe in the home



Etc.

A key message to the children is to talk to a **trusted adult**. In school this is any member of staff they feel comfortable, happy and safe talking to. Please support us in reminding the children that they can talk to any adult in school if they need to. Could they say who this could be if the need was there?

Perhaps try the 'Show me 5...' at home with your own children too.

## 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.

## Report Cards and Attendance

Parents with children in Reception to Year 4 should receive a report card on the 14<sup>th</sup> January. This will update you on effort, attitude, behaviour, achievements and attendance. We hope these are useful for you.

The attendance will show your child's attendance from 6<sup>th</sup> September (or their start date) to the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The aim for each child is to have 97% attendance or above.

Attendance below 90% can be referred for legal monitoring and attendance between 90% and 95% can result in a parenting contract if there are concerns around the reasons for absence.

School records all reasons for absence and take these into account. If there was a wider concern, the class teacher or senior leadership team would be in touch with you as we look at attendance fortnightly as a whole school team. Therefore, please look at the attendance for your reference only. If you are surprised or unsure, then please contact us.

Since our last attendance letters, due to statutory government requirements, some attendance codes have had to be amended.

Children can only be marked as an X whilst they get a PCR test and await their results. The X mark does not count towards their attendance. However, once the positive result is confirmed the children have to go down as an I and this counts as absence.

Whilst attendance is very important, the communication with school regarding attendance and illness is also crucial.

