



# Archibald First School

## Spring Term Newsletter 3

### February 2022



After the excitement leading up to (and over) the winter break, this half term with the dark mornings and evenings can make it a harder one for everyone so we anticipate that half term is being eagerly awaited and will be well deserved.

It has been a long time since we have had a seven-week half term as Spring 1 and the Gosforth Schools' Trust training day in the 'middle' certainly misled some of the staff into thinking it was the half term break two weeks ago!

After having huge numbers of COVID cases with both staff and children affected in the Autumn term before Christmas, we are pleased to say that things have started to feel a little bit more 'normal' in school over this last few weeks. Like you, we are all hoping that the worst is over now and that we can look forward to warmer weather, longer, lighter days and more school events taking place when we return on the 28<sup>th</sup> February.

As always, school life is full of busy and everyone is working so very hard (children and staff). There is definitely a 'buzz' of energy in the air throughout the school each and every day. It was lovely to be able to welcome our Achievement Partner - Mike Howard, and one of our joint Chair of Governors - Matt Brown, into school this half term. Both were exceptionally positive in their comments. We are looking forward to more governor visits as well as being able to increasingly open up our school to you too.

Whatever you and your family do over the next 9 days away from school, we hope that you have a happy and enjoyable time together.

Rebecca Turner, Headteacher

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#### **'Smart Scoot' and 'Balance Bike' Training**

Our children in key Stage 2 recently completed their 'Smart Scoot' road safety training in school, led by the road safety team from the Local Authority. This is really important for our children as they become older, particularly for our Year 4 children who may be starting to walk to / from middle school very soon.

Reception have also completed 4 sessions on balance bikes too.





It has been so lovely to get class assemblies back up and running this week, as we have been desperate to showcase our knowledge and learning to you.



A couple of parents have commented on our one parent only decision to watch the assemblies at this point in time. To add context to this:

As a school, we did discuss the options available to us and I respect the collective decision of the staff to remain with our original plans, at this point in time.

Whilst we note that Covid restrictions are diminishing in the wider world, just like the NHS and other organisations, we have chosen to keep some restrictions in place for the safety of our school community.

In addition:



- We still have cases of Covid in school and in our family homes.
- Opening the school up to a wider number of parents could mean that we spread cases and ruin people's half-term holidays. We know that some of our families did not have a positive Christmas holiday due to Covid and would hate for this to happen again.
- We have parents and staff who are clinically vulnerable, some undergoing treatment etc. Understandably, we have a duty of care to these people.
- Asking the younger year group to watch the class assembly is important to us. We want the children to enjoy positive experiences (as well as the adults) and inviting them along to the assembly allows them to have an insight into the next year group and an opportunity to feel special too.

As you will appreciate, everything is a balance. We hope that parents can look for the positives and celebrate the steps that we are taking.



Archibald First School has just officially pledged to become a School of Sanctuary @SchsofSanctuary. We are committed to being a place of solidarity, compassion & welcome for all.

This is only the first step in the process for us, so watch this space for further updates.

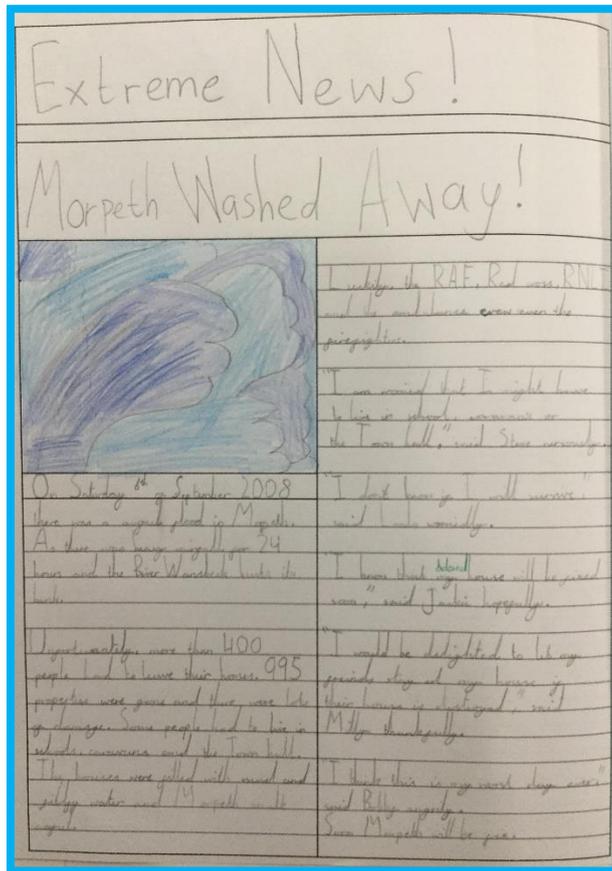


Mums and Dads, please pick 4 words to answer our question below and the sheet back into school by 29<sup>th</sup> February.

The staff and children have completed theirs this week and the governors will be asked at our next meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> February.

An Archibald Leaver should be...


### Year 3

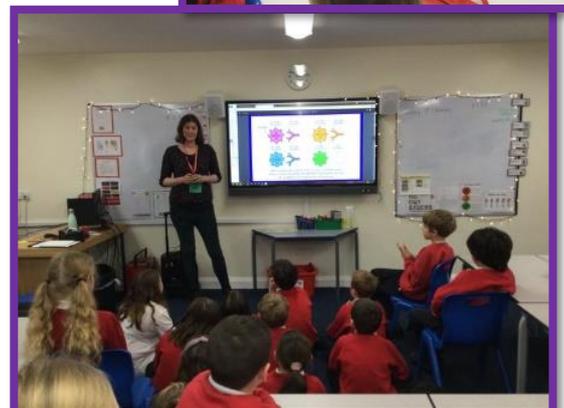


This half term our topic has been...EXTREME EARTH!!! In literacy, we became journalists to create our very own newspaper article based on the 2008 Morpeth flooding. We also enjoyed Escape from Pompeii and writing the middle part of the story. We included inverted commas and adverbs to make it as exciting as possible! In our topic lessons we have found out about the cause and effects of lots of extreme weather such as bushfires, volcano eruptions and earthquakes. Do you know what the Ring of Fire is or what tectonic plates are? If not, just ask us and we'll be happy to answer! In science we carried out an experiment involving making an eruption and investigating what happened when we changed the amount of vinegar. We've been working very hard on our column multiplication in numeracy and our eight times table. In music, we've had a great time learning some snazzy Samba skills! Everyone in Year 3 has worked incredibly hard and made all of the staff very proud indeed. It really has been an EXTREMELY excellent half term in Year 3!

### Year 4

This half term, Year 4 have been enjoying the Ukulele sessions on a Tuesday. They have played many songs of different genres. Who knew we had so many talented musicians! We have enjoyed learning about our amazing bodies and the functions of important organs. From our unique digestive system to our wonderful skeletons, we have learnt about it all! We also hope you enjoyed our Class assemblies! Recently, Year 3 and 4 competed in a tennis festival and amazingly, Archibald achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place! Well done to all the year 3 and 4 children who participated. As well as this, Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed the Newcastle Falcons coming into school to show us some amazing tag rugby sessions and skills. We would also

like to thank the parents who volunteered to come in and inform the children about their roles as General Practitioners or other occupations in the medicine industry. Very interesting!



## Consultation: Uniform September 2022:

### PE Hoodies/T-Shirts and Branded Jumper or Cardigan

As we renew our Uniform Policy for 2022, we would like to inform you of two changes we anticipate making. If you have any comments about this, then please do send them in to [admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk) by 1.4.22.

T-shirts, shirts, trousers, skirts, shorts and summer dresses will remain the same with these items able to be purchased from any high street store or supermarket.

The items that we will expect to be branded with the school logo are the school jumper/cardigan, PE t-shirt and our new PE Hoodie (optional). We are planning to introduce a PE hoodie for Reception to Year 4 to be worn on PE days only, as of September 2022. Having these items branded will ensure that all the children are shown to be representing the school at all times e.g. educational visits, PE competitions etc.

### Year 4 Times Tables Check

All children in Year 4 have to complete a statutory Times Table check in June. This check is to test all multiplication tables up to 12 x 12. The children are tested on their rapid recall of these number facts using an online system, where the children use either a computer screen or a tablet.

There are two brilliant applications which directly replicates the format of the times tables check which our Key Stage 2 children, particularly in Year 4, could use over the next few months as additional practice. The website addresses for these are <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check> and <https://tt.serveweb.co.uk/new/>.



### DATES

#### February 2022

18 School closes at 3.15pm for the half term break  
28 School opens at 8.45am – Welcome Back!

#### March 2022

01 Archibald Sponsored Read begins  
03 World Book Day – bring in your favourite book  
16 SEND Coffee Morning at 9-10am with guest speaker from Newcastle Carers  
28 That History Bloke to work with Year 3

#### April 2022

04 Closing date for Sponsored Read donations  
04 Eco Week at Archibald  
04 Class 8 Assembly  
06 Class 7 Assembly  
08 School closes at 3.15pm for the Easter break



We hope you agree that our children's new displays in the hall look brilliant. A great way of celebrating some of the **religions** and **celebrations** of our school community



## **Nursery Applications**

We currently have one space for Nursery 2, for children who turned 3 on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. Archibald First School offers 15 hours of free nursery provision to children who are aged 3 on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. The hours are offered as either Option 1 or Option 2. We also offer Option 3\* (full time) for 30 hours per week.

### **Option 1:**

Monday 8.45 – 3.15  
Tuesday 8.45 – 3.15  
Wednesday 8.45 – 11.30

### **Option 2:**

Wednesday 12.30 – 3.15  
Thursday 8.45 – 3.15  
Friday 8.45 – 3.15

### **Option 3\* – 30 hours per week:**

Daily, Monday to Friday:  
8.45 – 3.15

\*Option 3: For those parents who are eligible for the 30-hour code. Please see the [Prospective Parents Area](#) of the website for more information on this. Here you will also find our Prospective Parent video and visit dates, as well as how to book your place. Due to the current climate of Coronavirus, we may need to rearrange these evenings. We hope our 'Welcome' presentation gives you an insight into life at Archibald!

### **Nursery Deadline Dates for a September 2022 start**

Nursery applications will be available online from January 2022. The 2022-23 Nursery application form must be used and returned directly to the school. Please note that your child's birth certificate and proof of your home address must be shown with the application form.



**Deadline for applications: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

