

# Archibald First School

## Spring Term Newsletter 1

### June 2023

#### Baby News

We are delighted to share with you two bits of very exciting news...

Mr Nettleship and his wife are expecting their first baby in late autumn. It is such lovely news and we are thrilled for both of them.

Nievie McNally will become a big sister by late autumn as Mrs McNally is expecting her second baby. We can't wait to see their family increase from 3 to 4 (5 if you count Bobby the dog).

The Archibald family is certainly continuing to grow and we are delighted.



#### Book Swap

Don't forget that the book swap trolley is available most days at drop off and pick up. If it's not outside on a day when you want to use it, just come to the office and we will bring the trolley to you! There is a good range of books for children and for adults too. All you need to do is donate a book to take a book. Let's keep it going as it is a great way to keep us all reading without the expense of new books.

#### Support@Archibaldfirstschool.co.uk

This is our new confidential email that only 3 staff members have access to. If you have a very confidential issue that you would like to get in contact with us about, please email [support@archibaldfirstschool.co.uk](mailto:support@archibaldfirstschool.co.uk) This could be financial concerns or queries, personal matters etc. We can then discretely look at these and either make contact with you or sign post to the best place / person.

## Staffing Updates

### Miss Stewart

Miss Stewart arrived last September to cover Mrs Howard's maternity leave. We honestly couldn't have wished for a better teacher to join us and we have thoroughly enjoyed having Miss Stewart as a part of the Archibald Team. We did try to encourage her to stay, however, Miss Stewart and her partner are venturing on their travels for at least 6 months starting with a visit to South America.

We can't wait to receive postcards and updates about their travels and wish them both fun filled adventures

### Mrs Elliott

Mrs Elliott began working with us last September too. She initially covered as an interim member of staff before becoming a regular face at Archibald through supply (because she is super). Mrs Elliott will be officially joining us in September and will teach on a Thursday and Friday in Year 1, Class 4.

### Miss Lightfoot

After a rigorous process, we are delighted to appoint Miss Lightfoot as a Reception teacher from September 2023. Miss Lightfoot currently teaches in North Tyneside but we hope that Miss Lightfoot will be able to join us on key dates before September to get to know the children and staff. Please say a huge hello and welcome if you see her about.

### Mrs McNally

Due to baby number two, Mrs McNally will be going on maternity leave at the end of October. Mrs McNally will work across the unit supporting the children to settle into school life and giving them the very best start that we could wish for.

## Class Swaps

The teachers are busy looking at the children in Reception and Year 2 to formulate the new classes for September 2023 as the children head into Year 1 and Year 3 respectively. A letter will follow in June.

## Reports

It is also the time of year when the staff are beavering away writing the children's reports. These will come home to you in July.

## Panto

We are off to the Pantomime again in December 2023. Letters have already gone out so that payment can be budgeted for between now and November.

## School Uniform and Shoes



Please remember that full school uniform including plain, dark school shoes must be worn when it is not a PE day.

Now it is summer, red gingham dresses can be worn too.

On PE days, the school PE kit of plain royal blue shorts and a plain red t-shirt may be worn with a school jumper.

Trainers may ONLY be worn on PE days and no other sports kit is appropriate for school.

If you have an after-school PE club (and do not have PE that day), please come to school in uniform and **change into school PE kit** at the start of the club

### Sandals

Plain blue, black, white or red sandals may be worn as long as:

- They are flat
- Fasten securely
- Are worn with socks to protect toes.

Crocs, flip flops, slip on and heels cannot be worn!

### Growing feet

If children grow out of their school shoes over the next 6 weeks, consider a part of sandals for them to see them through until the end of term. This will save buying new school shoes before September.

## Uniform Exchange

Our uniform exchange boxes are quite full!

If you do need some new uniform for this half term for the next school year OR at any time during the year, please just come in and speak to the school office.

It all needs a good home and is as good as new.

There will be a donation tin which you can add anything you feel able to give. This will go to the PTFA.

Let's save the planet by passing on to others.

Uniform will be on sale/exchange at our summer fayre too.



## Financial Circumstances

If you have experienced a change in your income or are worried about your finances, we would really encourage you to get in touch with Mrs Turner or Mrs West.

There may be some additional support that you may be entitled to or we may be able to assist with some school costs.

As a school, we're here to help you through the process. Some assistance that might be available to you includes:

- > free school meals
- > welfare and debt advice
- > support for families with no recourse to public funds
- > grants or in-kind support.

If you ever find yourself in a position where you feel like you are struggling with the cost of attending school, please do contact us and we can work with you to address your concerns.

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/help-school-and-learning-costs/apply-free-school-meals>

Use this link to check about Free School Meals

## Parent Governor

We will be hosting an election for the role of parent governor in the new academic year. Please feel free to speak with any of our current governors to find out more about this role.



## School Office

If you have had any changes in phone numbers, home address or update of medical/allergies, please let us know asap as it is vital we have the most up to date information.



# Poverty Proofing Archibald Together

Only school uniform or PE kit should be worn for clubs.

This takes away the ability to identify anyone who doesn't have the latest designer trends.

**PICKUP  
POINT**

**COLLECTIONS**

The Office will be a central point for families to drop off any donations to charity events/fundraisers such as food banks.

**DELIVERIES**

**DROPOFF  
POINT**

This means it's not possible to know who has or has not made a donation.

The Office will be a central point for the collections of school photos, cards and gifts.

This removes it being shared in class who has and who has not made an order.

Hair accessories must be plain and simple – no ears / trends / large bobbles etc

This means that everyone is the same and reduces the peer pressure of the latest fashion.



Toys, swap cards and fancy keyrings on bags are to be kept at home.

This prevents those who cannot afford the latest craze or the packets of cards, and those who do not have toys at home from feeling different.

Only simple reusable water bottles should be used in school. Air Up Bottles (or any other expensive craze bottles are not permitted).

This prevents those who cannot afford the latest craze from feeling different. It stops pressure from children to grown-ups to have the 'same' or the 'best'.



## School will...

Continue to cover the cost of all school visits, with the exception of the residential (50%) for children who are entitled to Free School Meals. Continue to do this discreetly by simply not adding payments to Parent Pay.

Continue to cover the cost of one school club over the academic year for each child who is entitled to Free School Meals.

This supports everyone accessing the visits/clubs and means that no-one is left behind.

Publish up and coming events with anticipated costs (where possible or as soon as possible). Ensure that visits with a higher cost can all be paid incrementally up until the due date.

This will enable families to forecast ahead for up-coming events.

Continue collecting money discreetly by having a drop box by the doors.

This prevents asking children for their donation.

We will also provide information about where to make a donation outside of school, for example, a [JustGiving](#) page, charity website, or text to donate number through a platform such as [Donr](#). We will also remind our families that not all siblings need make a donation.

This will allow people to donate in their own way and at a time that may be more appropriate.

Whilst the 'dressing up days' have reduced; we will consider how we can adapt our non-school uniform days. We will focus on wearing uniforms back to front, inside out, adding a spotty item or encouraging home made items etc. We will also continue to highlight to children that just normal uniform is fabulous too!

This will reduce pressure on children and families for the 'right' outfit and make sure that children know that they are okay as they are.

Keep the token system at the children's Christmas fair so that all students can be given one to make a purchase.

No one will miss out on events in school or worry about not having the same as others.

School hopes that the PTFA continues to be in a healthy position to continue to offer subsidies for large trips.

Supports all families in school by lowering the cost of visits.

## Safeguarding

Please see below useful links for parents and carers should the need arise.

### Clennell EDUCATION SOLUTIONS

## Some useful resources for parents:

- [All about bullying \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](http://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)
- [Bullying | Parents Guide to Support | YoungMinds](#)
- [What can I do if my child is bullying people? - Support for Parents from Action For Children](#)
- [Advice for parents and carers - Bullying | Mencap | Learning disability](#)
- [Bullying at school | Bullying advice for parents and children \(nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk\)](http://nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk)



## Attendance

Our current school attendance percentages are:

Whole School: 95.8%

Nursery: 92.7%

Reception: 95.1%

Y1: 96.5%

Y2: 97.2%

Y3: 96.1%

Y4: 95.5%

*I would ask our families to please think very carefully before submitting that holiday form and remember that 'A term time holiday may be cheaper, but a child's education is priceless'*

## Persistence Absence

Sadly, we have 40 children whose attendance is below 90%. These children are classed as being persistently absence.

Our Local Authority Attendance Officer, Yvonne Devine, will be reviewing these children's individual attendance sheets and may be in touch with you regarding this. If there is wider cause for concern, a parenting contract may be issued or the legal monitoring process started.

## Dates

### June 2023

12-16 EYFS Sharing Week Early Years Sharing Week June 2023 (emailed 16.5.23)

14 Class 10 Parent Lunch 12 – 1 pm

16 Year 4 Author Visit

21 **Nursery 1 ONLY** – Contributions for the Summer Fair – Non-Uniform Day

22 Nursery and School Ready Workshop 9-10 am

23 Contributions for the Summer Fair – Non-Uniform Day

26 Class 2 Assembly 2.45 pm

26 Year 1 to Scotswood Garden

26 SEN Coffee Morning 9 am

27 Year 1 to Scotswood Garden

27 Class 1 Assembly 2.45 pm

28 Reception to Year 4 Beach trip Cullercoats 2023 (emailed 4.5.23)

### July 2023

01 Summer School Fayre Time 12 – 2

03 Year 1 Sports Day 1.30 pm

03 School Disco Reception and Year 1 3.30 pm – TBC, Years 2-4 5.00pm – TBC

04 Reception Sports Day 9.30 am **UPDATED DATE AND TIME**

04 Year 2 Sports Day 1.30 pm

05 Year 4 transition visit to Gosforth Junior Academy

05 In school transition and new starter visits

06 Nursery and School Ready Workshop 9-10 am

06 Year 2 to the aquarium

06 Year 4 transition visit to Gosforth Junior Academy

06 Year 3 Sports Day 1.30 pm

06 New starter visits

07 Year 4 Sports Day 9.15 am

07 Nursery 2 Sports Day 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm **UPDATED DATE AND TIME**

10 Nursery 1 Sports Day 9.30 am – 10.30 am **UPDATED DATE AND TIME**

10 Year 4 Celebration Day and Evening for the children (no parents) – **Change of Date**

12 Wellbeing and Self Care Wednesday 9.30-11.30 am

12 Year 4 Leaver's Assembly 9.30am

14 ALL reading and library books to be returned

14 Post Adoption Lunch 12pm Post Adoption Family Lunch Summer 2 14.7.23

17 Wellness Week – non-school uniform for all children (own PE kits – not a school PE kit)

18-20 Uniform Swap Shops

21 School closes at 3.15pm for the summer break