

Archibald First School

Autumn Newsletter 6 2023

Goodbye Mrs Wallace

We are announcing this with a huge bag of mixed emotions...

Mrs Wallace has been a member of Archibald staff for 27 years, however, as of 31st January, Mrs Wallace will be retiring from school.

Our school, staff, families and children are all exceptionally lucky to have had Mrs Wallace as a part of our school journey and she will be a huge miss.

We have no doubt that with her husband, Mrs Wallace will enjoy a holiday or two as well as having the time to spend with her children and grandchildren who have relocated to Wales and Manchester.

Please watch out for communication from the PTFA.

We'd love to hear and see your memories & photographs of and your messages for Mrs Wallace as we try to summarise 27 years at Archibald.



Happy Hanukkah 2023

To our children, families, staff and community who are celebrating Hanukkah, we wish you a very Happy Hanukkah!



An Alternative to Christmas Cards

Did you know that after each Christmas, approximately 1 billion Christmas cards are thrown into landfill in the UK? That's the equivalent of 33 million trees!

Please **do not** send Christmas cards into school. Let's keep the trees, reduce our carbon footprint & save some pennies.



Christmas Thanks

At this time of year families can feel an extra pressure to buy adults in school a Christmas gift. The continuing rising cost of living is making an already very expensive time of year even harder and, whilst your generosity has always been appreciated by all the staff in school, we worry this adds another strain on parents.

Therefore, we are encouraging parents **not to** buy gifts for the staff this Christmas. We all love our job and it is a delight to work with your children every day. Throughout December we will be trying hard to create wonderful festive experiences for all the pupils at school: it is these memories and occasions that matter the most.

If you would like to show your gratitude, consider a donation to a charity that will support those who are less fortunate.

Year 3 Sings...

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed learning their music lessons with Claire from Newcastle Cathedral. Our favourite parts of the lesson were following the music notation using the drum sticks. We also enjoyed learning about the dynamics of different pieces of music (piano and forte) and learning how to sing a range of new songs, changing our voices accordingly. Our favourite song this term was Winter Carol by Fiona Lander. We were so proud of one of our students who chose to sing a solo in our Christmas concert! #AFScourageous



Our New EYFS Outdoor Area

We are delighted to announce that our outdoor area for EYFS will undergo a full transformation before September 2024!!!

We are absolutely thrilled to share with you the design and equipment.

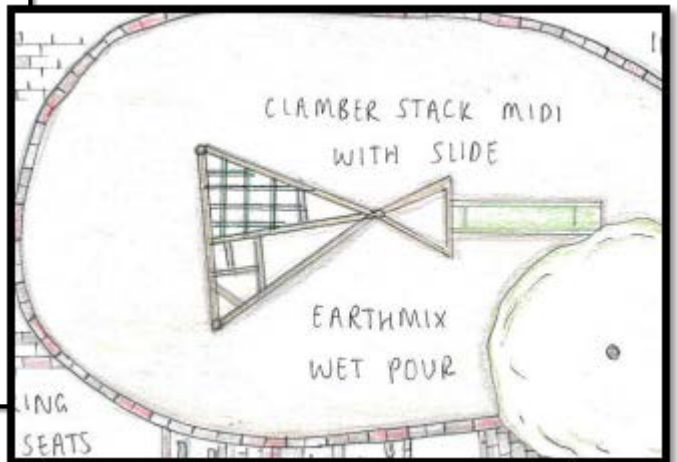


Water Chutes

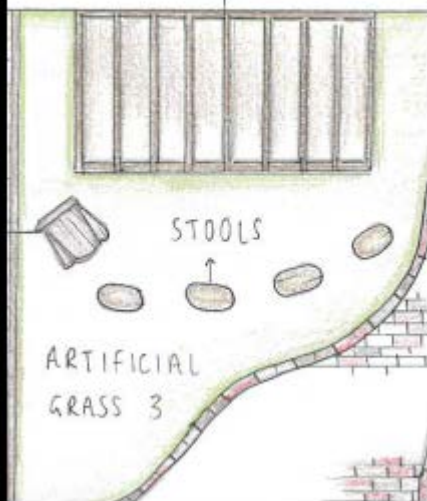
H-Shaped Water Wall



Path of interest



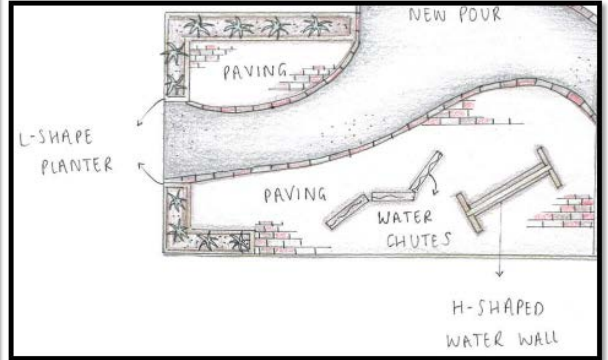
STAGE WITH PERGOLIA
ROOF + CHALKBOARD



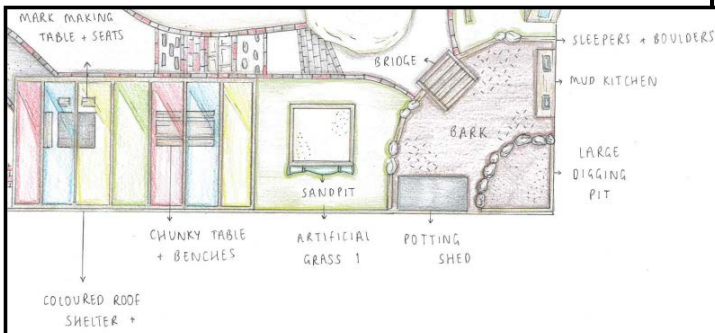
Clamber Stack Midi with deck and slide



Stage with pergola roof and chalkboard



Coloured roof shelter



Headlice – TAKE A PEEK, ONCE A WEEK!

Thank you to all those who have taken part in our 'Bug Busting' campaign. Please continue to 'take a peek, once a week and check your child's hair.

[Head lice and nits - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)



Smart Devices and Toys Advice



With Christmas soon to arrive, many families and children will be receiving gifts, presents and toys in celebration of the festive period.

Much like the Internet of Things (IoT), The Internet of Toys refers to a future where toys not only relate one-on-one to children but are wirelessly connected to other toys and/or database data. While existing toy companies and

start-ups are eagerly innovating in this area, problems involving data hacking and other privacy issues have already occurred.

Guidance has also been [released](#) by the National Cyber Security Centre for consumers so that smart devices and toys can be set up and used safely and securely.

If you are looking to purchase a smart device or smart toy for this upcoming festive period for a child, Which? have released a [checklist](#) to help you in choosing the right device. The checklist can be found summarised below:

Before buying:

- 1) Read the description of the connected toy carefully in the shop or online.
- 2) Check what technology it uses.
- 3) Is there a mobile app?
- 4) Search online for the toy's name.
- 5) Consider whether you really need a connected toy for your child.

When setting it up:

- 1) Submit only the minimal amount of personal data required.
- 2) Read the company's T&C's and privacy policies.
- 3) Download and available security updates.
- 4) Look for any security features available.
- 5) Keep an eye on your child when they're playing with the toy.



Safely set up those new devices before your child plays with them on Christmas Day.

Visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/> to help set up your child's new devices.

Has your child asked for a new game for Christmas? Want to find out more?

Visit <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/game-reviews> to find out what the game contains.

We use National Online Safety to teach our children. Sign

up <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/archibald-first-school> for lots of useful information for parenting online.

Support@Archibaldfirstschool.co.uk

This is our confidential email that only 3 staff members have access to. If you have a confidential issue that you would like to get in contact with us about, please email 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.

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

Hall Hire

Do you have a health and fitness club for adults that could be run from our school hall? Perhaps you have another idea which requires a large space and could involve our school community?

We are able to hire out our larger hall for £10 per hour.

Hirers would need:

- Public liability (to £5 million)
- Employer liability (to £10 million)
- Accidental damage insurance
- First aid certificate
- Enhanced DBS









Please make contact if you would like any further information.

Year 1 Superstars

In year 1 we have been trying really hard with our writing this half term. We have been brave and written longer pieces that have included adjectives and verbs. Mrs Mullick and Mrs Sinclair have been blown away by the children's confidence and creativity. Just look at this progress!

14.11.23 How well can I write a recount of our trip to Newcastle Castle?

capital letters	finger spaces	full stop	read it again
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Finally we worded up lots of steps to the top we saw the whole of our city.

✓ IW ☆ An excellent recount!

5.9.23


yesterday year 1 went on an interesting school trip to Newcastle Castle. It was the best day. We went there on a bus first we learnt about William the Conqueror Harold Godwinson Harald Hardrada. Next we did a fair battle William the Conqueror was the winner. After that it was time for lunch. I had a yummy chocker sammil and crisps. After lunch we had a look of the old rustle castle. I saw the old dark dungeon.

5.9.23

I went on a record castle trip with my class.


2023

Character description about Rapunzel?



5.9.23

How well can I write about a character that I was brave?



Rapunzel is a nice beautiful girl. She has long golden hair. Rapunzel was very lovely. When she was small. Rapunzel is creative. She felt excited when she went to live with the funny prince.

✓ IW ☆

I was brave when I lost my toes. It hurt.

School Reading Books

Please return all school reading and library books on Monday 18th December. We will not be sending out school books over the holidays. We hope you enjoy reading all your books at home.



Can you take part in our Winter Bingo Reading Challenge? Post @Archibaldfirst #AFSReads

Winter Reading B I N G O

borrowed a book from a friend	read a book about crafts	read a book about holiday	read a book about music	read a book about poetry
read a book about royalty	read a book about space	read a book about sports	read a book about winter	read a book after dinner
read a book before bed time	read a book from library	FREE SPACE	read a book released this year	read a book set during winter
read a book set in another country	read a book set in the future	read a book that became a movie	read a book to kids	read a book wearing PJs
read a book with an animal on the cover	read a book with blue cover	read a book with snow on the cover	read a book written by a female author	read a multi cultural book



EYFS Stay and Play

Class 1, Class 2 and Nursery enjoyed their Christmas stay and play's this half term. The children loved showing their grownups all the special and exciting activities there were to do. It was lovely to see so many parents in our busy classrooms and it was clear that the children had a wonderful time!

The children really enjoyed 'Magic Andrew' yesterday. They were brilliant helpers with the tricks too and made us really proud as they listened, joined in and showed their lovely manners. We also have Art Venturers coming up in spring

Dear Families

**You are all invited to a
Pre-Christmas Get Together 9-10am
on Wednesday 20th December
in the school portacabin**

**Please come and join us for a cup of
coffee and a mince pie or just a sit
down and a catch up before the
children finish for the holidays**



Dear Archibald Families

**Please come to our
*Post Adoption
Support Lunch***

**Please join us to share your
experiences & support
agencies with other families and
Mrs West and Mrs Ward.**

**12-1pm in the school portacabin
Friday 9th February 2024**

Families and School Together

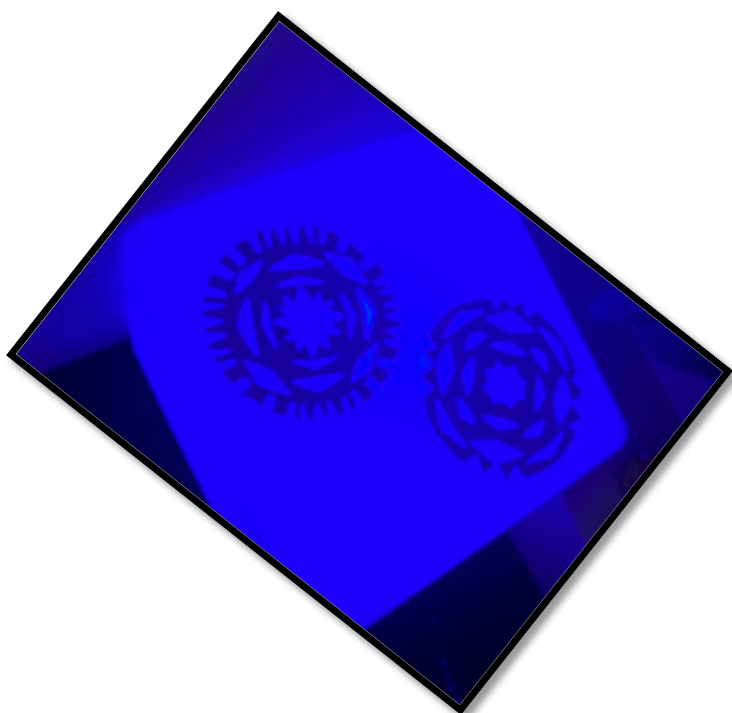
POLITE REMINDER - SEVERE ALLERGY WARNING

This year we have a high number of children who have severe allergies in school. The children have adrenalin pens in schools due to the possibility of anaphylaxis.

Therefore, these items / ingredients are **not** allowed in packed lunches.

- whole nuts
- peanut butter (including sandwiches)
- chickpeas
- hummus
- chocolate hazelnut spread (any brand)
- nut-based sweets or biscuits including chocolate & nut-based bars/biscuits such as Nutella bars

Thank you for your care and attention regarding this, and for reducing the risk of reactions and anaphylaxis to our children.



World Nursery Rhyme Week

For World Nursery Rhyme week, Early Years did a Sponsored Nursery Rhyme sing. They sang 10 - nursery rhymes including Jack and Jill and Incy Wincy Spider. We asked our grown ups to sponsor us and raised an amazing £427.50. We have spent some of this money enhancing our light and shadow play with a lovely new light box and some spot lights for shadow play. We have added new Bear Hunt objects to our loose parts play and some fabulous seasons rollers to our playdough area. Thank you to everyone who sponsored us.

Dear Archibald Families

Please come along to our

SEND Support Coffee Morning

Please join us to chat to each other and to Mrs West & Mrs Ward in a supportive space to share strategies, discuss experiences and ask questions

9am – 10am

Monday 15th January 2024

in the school portacabin

Families & School Together

Dear Archibald Families

Please come along to our workshop linked to *'Understanding bereavement and its impact on adults and children.'*

The workshop will be led by Brenda - a bereavement support coordinator from St Oswald's.

2-3 pm Monday 4th March
in the school portacabin



<https://forms.office.com/e/M0kPnH2FA3>

We have 20 places

***Families and School
together***

Get to know more about the staff...

Mrs Mullick



Favourite season of the year

Winter

Best crisp flavour

Prawn Cocktail

Fun fact

I can do the splits

Choose

Diet Coke or Pepsi?

Cinema or **Theatre?**

Eat out / Dine In?

Chocolate or Cake? **YES – BOTH!**

What super power would you like for one day?

To be invisible

Do you have a claim to fame?

I performed with Jade from Little Mix

If you could only eat one thing forever, what would it be?

Pizza and salad

Mrs Nisbet



Favourite biscuit

Biscoff

Favourite thing to do

Spend time with my family

What makes you smile?

Seeing other people happy

If you didn't work at Archibald, what else would you be?

Own a book shop with a coffee shop inside

If you could only eat one thing forever, what would it be?

Fresh fruit and yoghurt

Favourite place in the world

South America – I got engaged at Macca Pichu

If you go missing, where will we find you?

Hot tub

Amazon Wish List for Care Leavers

Newcastle City Council are asking residents and businesses to help care experienced young people have the **Best Christmas Ever**. We know these young people can often find Christmas a difficult time, particularly with the additional challenges caused by the Cost-of-Living crisis.

The **ambition** is for every Newcastle Care Leaver to wake up to a wrapped gift on Christmas morning. This means providing gifts for up to 300 young people.



For those who feel able to this year, we are asking residents and businesses to buy items from the online Amazon Wishlist for Care Leavers. The Wishlist has been designed with Newcastle Care Leavers. Items picked by the young people include hats & gloves, pyjamas & slippers, Christmas gift sets and fitness watches.

If you would like to buy an item from the Wishlist, it will be delivered directly to a council building, and gifted to young people in time for Christmas. You can find the Wishlist for Care Leavers [here](#). Please select VI Christmas Collection address for delivery.

Governor Update Autumn 2023

During the autumn term, the governors have:-

- Welcomed four new governing body members – Jill Branch, Rebecca Thompson, Sarah Pope and Heather Banks
- Approved the Admissions Policy for 2025-26
- Approved the plans and costings for the Early Years Outdoor area
- Carried out an informative maths walk to look at teaching and learning of maths from EYFS to Year 4
- Conducted the Headteachers Performance Management review of 2022-23 and established clear targets for 2023-24
- Attended Pupil Progress Meetings
- Discuss future visits and the focus of these
- Taken part in the Inclusion Quality Framework process



School Events

All of our events can be found on the school diary. Please check this for regular updates. [Diary 2023-24 - Archibald First School](#)

December 2023

- 13 Class 2 Christmas Nativity 9.30 am – 10.30 am
- 13 Christmas Lunch
- 13 Nursery 2 Christmas Songs 2.00 pm
- 14 Reception and Year 1 visit to the Tyne Theatre Pantomime
- 15 Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 visit to the Tyne Theatre Pantomime
- 15 PTFA Bake Sale – class 8 3.15pm
- 18 Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party
- 18 Nursery 1, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Film Afternoon (wear your pjs)
- 19 Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party
- 19 Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Film Afternoon (wear your pjs)
- 20 Nursery Christmas Party (Nursery 1 am, Nursery 2 pm)
- 20 Archibald Christmas Service at Trinity Church (tickets for 1 adult per family for children in Reception and Year 4 only due to space) 1.30 pm
- 21 Nursery 2 Christmas Film Afternoon (wear your pjs)
- 21 Reception Christmas Party
- 22 School closes for the winter break at 3.15 pm

January 2024

- 08 Welcome back to school for the spring term
- 10 Reception Curriculum and Coffee 9 am
- 11 Year 2 Curriculum and Coffee 9 am
- 12 Year 1 Curriculum and Coffee 9 am
- 15 Year 3 Curriculum and Coffee 9 am
- 15 Nursery Curriculum and Coffee 2.30 pm
- 16 Year 4 Curriculum and Coffee 9 am
- 18 Nursery Curriculum and Coffee 9 am
- 19 PTFA Bake Sale – Class 7 3.15 pm

Winter bucket list



40 fun outdoor activities for kids



Go for a frosty walk

Keep a nature journal

Make a bird feeder

Plant a colourful pot of winter flowers

Build a den

Hunt for mistletoe

Make a nature mandala

Collect twigs to make a rustic indoor tree

Build a snowman

Go on a litter picking walk

Jump in puddles

Sow winter salad seeds

Make a Christmas wreath

Go on a nature scavenger hunt

Make clay pressings with natural items

Collect pine cones to make Christmas decorations

Go sledging

Take a sketchbook on a walk

Make a nature garland for the garden

Find the perfect stick



Try walking mindfully

Climb a tree

Watch the sunset on winter solstice

Turn sticks into magic wands

Make snow angels

Go for a Christmas lights spotting walk

Make ice ornaments with leaves and berries

Have a snowball fight

Grow herbs on a sunny windowsill

Fly a kite

Go geocaching

Make a journey stick during a walk

Blow bubbles on a cold day and watch them freeze

Identify animal tracks

Wrap up warm for a winter picnic

Make a bird bath

See how many robins you can spot

Collect nature treasure for an indoor display

Feed the ducks

Make a rustic star from twigs and string

