

# Archibald First School Spring Newsletter 2 2024

## AFS gains the OPAL Platinum Award



We are absolutely delighted to announce that following our audit this week, we have been awarded the OPAL Platinum Award.

This has been a whole school effort between the children, staff and our families, however, HUGE credit and a MASSIVE thank you must be given to Mrs Johnston and Miss Watson who have led us on this journey. Both of them have done an AMAZING job and have been the driving force behind all that we have achieved.

Mrs Johnston and Miss Watson – THANK YOU!!!!!!



To Archibald First School,

Huge congratulations on achieving your OPAL Platinum Award. It has been wonderful working with your school over the past 20 months to see the transformation that has taken place in the school's approach to the provision of quality play.

The school has implemented many of the cultural and practical changes recommended in the OPAL programme and the results are clear to see, **Archibald is now truly an award level OPAL school. This means that every child has an amazing playtime every day.**

It also means that play is taken seriously at the school and is given appropriate leadership, planning, evaluation and resources.

OPAL Platinum status puts your school in the **top 0.05 percentile of UK primary schools** in terms of the quality of your play offer.

**Playtimes at Archibald are inclusive, joyful and provide a wonderful variety of types of play.**



The initial baseline audit in June 2022 scored 38%. That score is now 90% - wow, what an incredible journey you have been on at Archibald First school ...and what an amazing outcome. You have totally transformed your playtimes ensuring all children have access to the most amazing play offer every single day. You have opened up all areas of your site and developed a huge variety of zones. Allowing your children permission to get muddy, take risks, and have lots and lots of fun. You have changed lunch time practise, upskilled your staff, worked with parents so they understand the importance of play to their children's health and wellbeing with the result being an OPAL Platinum Award for quality playtimes. Only 2% of schools in the country have such an accolade for the quality of their provision. I am so proud of you all. The working party has been instrumental in this change, your inspiration and commitment are second to none. As a school it is evident play is valued, planned for and invested in. Well Done!

**Well done to you all, the play offer you have provided for all of your children at Archibald is outstanding.** Praise to all staff, including your play team and working party who are very much at the heart of playtimes.

To find out more about OPAL Play [The OPAL Primary Programme - Outdoor Play And Learning](#)

Explore Archibald's OPAL information here: [OPAL - Archibald First School](#)

## Our school value of Caring...



### Love and Kindness

Between now and the 14<sup>th</sup> February, we would love to see pictures of things that you love or pictures that represent love and kindness. Please share these via Twitter. Mention @archibaldfirst and include #AFSLove

### Attendance

As of 8.2.24, our whole school attendance is 96.8%. Well done to everyone who has been at school every day possible. Can we get it up to 97%???



### Appointments

#### Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

Dentist and doctor's appointments should NOT be made between 8.45am and 3.15pm.

When children are taken out of school for these reasons you **must** produce proof of the appointment by letter, email, appointment card or text message.

No proof of appointment will equal unauthorised absence.

### Free Service to Recycle Small Electricals

Recycling small electrical items has just got easier for residents after we launched a new free service. Residents can book online to have their broken or unwanted electricals, such as kettles, toasters and gadgets, collected from their doorstep for free. The Newcastle Small Electrical Recycling Service will be trialled for 12 months and aims to collect up to 30,000 items, which may not have been recycled.

You can find out more about the project [here](#)



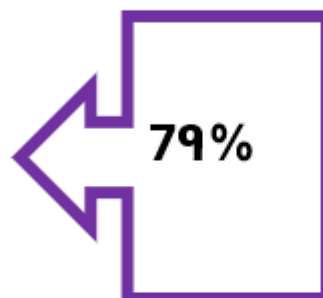
## Active Travel to School

Below are the results of our first survey of the school year. Well done to the 79% who actively travel to school. To anyone using the car because it is a necessity, please park away from Archibald Street and finish your journey to school with a short healthy walk.

# SCHOOL TRAVEL SURVEY FEBRUARY

Come on Archibald, let's leave the cars at home and travel to school in an active way.

- 0 wheelchairs (0%)
- 19 bikes (7%)
- 22 scooters (8%)
- 185 walkers (64%)
- 4 bus riders (1.0 %)
- 61 car users (21%)

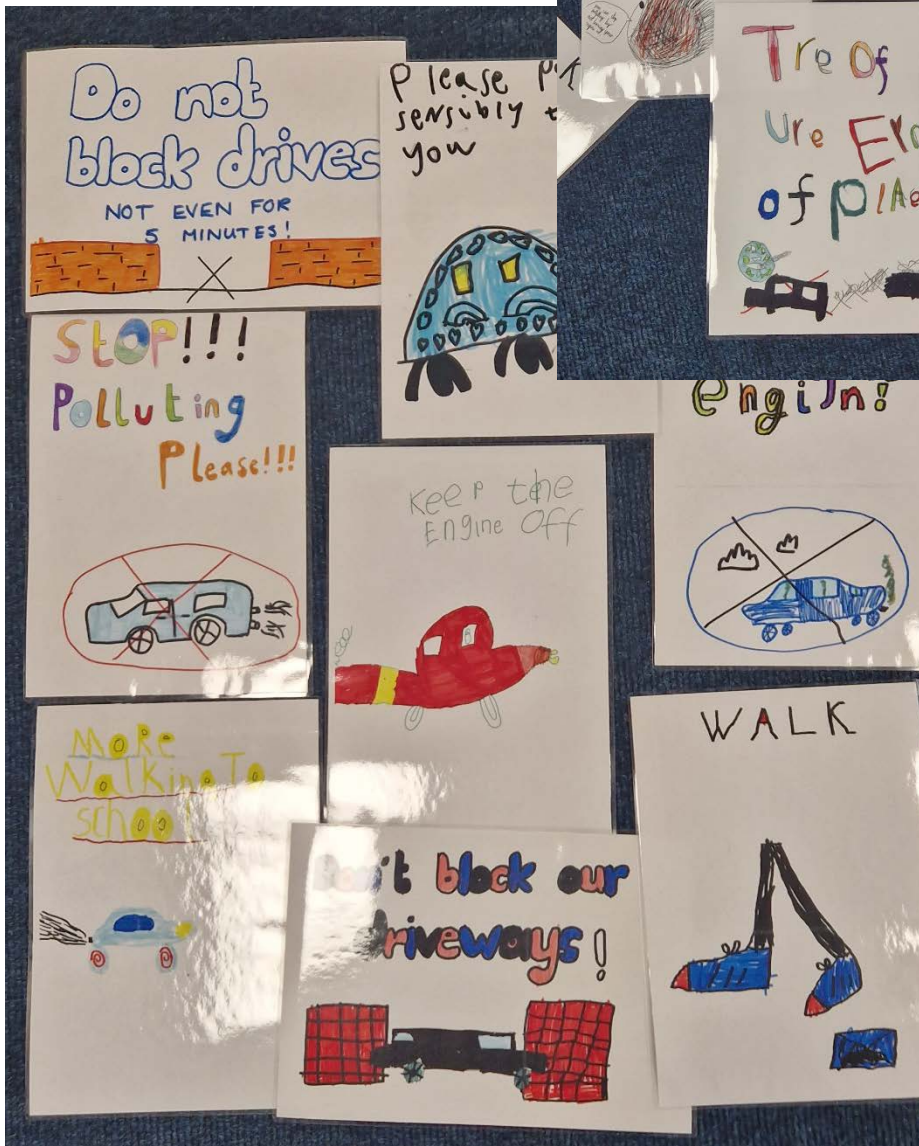


Last February, we had 78% NOT travelling by car. Can we get up to 85% in March? Let's aim high!!!

In March we will also ask who parked away from school and not on Archibald Street...






Thank you to our Planet Protectors for their posters linked to parking, idling and travelling to school. The residents were all delighted and we will hopefully see them up along the street very soon. Please do take notice of their messages.



# Our Children's Voice

All the children in school were asked about life at Archibald. Take a look at what they said below.

| ALL YEAR GROUPS 2023 |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--|--|---|---|
| 1                    | I am happy at Archibald First School (all)289                              | 83%  | 15%   | 2%  |
| 2                    | I enjoy learning at school (all)   | 84%  | 13%   | 3%  |
| 3                    | I enjoy the school visits (years 1-4)                                      | 87%  | 11%   | 2%  |
| 4                    | I enjoy the school clubs that I take part in – parent/child choice (all)   | 76%  | 14%   | 10%   |
| <hr/>                |  |  |   |   |
| 5                    | School helps me to learn new information and to understand more (all)      | 80%  | 19%   | 1%  |
| 6                    | School helps me to be curious, caring, creative and courageous (years 1-4) | 79%  | 20%   | 1%  |
| 7                    | School encourages me to try and to do my best (years 1-4)                  | 81%  | 17%   | 2%  |
| 8                    | School has helped me to know right and wrong (years 1-4)                   | 84%  | 15%   | 1%  |
| 10                   | The school rules are clear and we follow these (years 1-4)                 | 92%  | 7%  | 1%  |
| <hr/>                |  |  |   |   |
| 11                   | I can talk to the grown-ups in school (all)                                | 83%  | 15%   | 2%  |
| 12                   | The grown-ups are fair and listen (years 1-4)                              | 76%  | 21%   | 3%  |
| 13                   | The grown-ups help me to learn (all)                                       | 89%  | 10%   | 1%  |
| <hr/>                |  |  |   |   |
| 11                   | OPAL playtimes and lunchtimes are a good idea (years 1-4)                  | 83%  | 16%   | 1%  |
| 12                   | Forest School is a great idea for everyone (years 1-4)                     | 78%  | 17%   | 5%  |
| 14                   | The majority of the other children behave well (years 1-4)                 | 57%  | 34%   | 9%  |
| <hr/>                |  |  |   |   |
| 15                   | The homework is helpful (years 1-4)  | 53%  | 29%   | 18%   |
| 16                   | I enjoy the topic projects (R, Years 2-4)                                  | 95%  | 3.4%  | 1.6%  |

**Homework** is always a tricky one but we will keep working on making the homework as useful as possible.

**Clubs** – we have suggested that if anyone does not like the clubs they are doing that they could speak to their grown – ups. Please feed back to us too 😊

**For question 14 we explored this further... The children quantified this as 1 or 2 people as opposed to 'lots of people'. They would like everyone to: -**

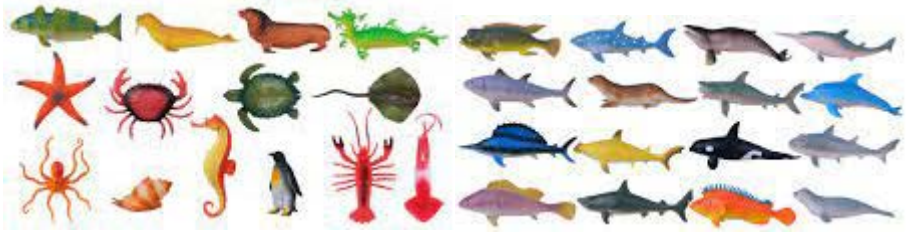
- look after the OPAL equipment
- be careful when running around so bumps don't happen
- not push in the line for lunch
- friends to let you play other games to the ones they want

# WE LOVE OPAL!

Our current wish list...

## Water area:

- ❖ Sea creature toys



## School Events

### February 2024

- 12 Class 10 Assembly 2.45 pm
- 13 Class 9 Assembly 2.45 pm
- 16 School closes at 3.15pm for the half term break
- 26 Welcome back to school for the second part of the spring term
- 26 SEND Coffee morning 9am
- 26-28 Year 4 at Robinwood
- 27 Class 3 Parent Lunch
- 28 Year 1 visit to the Laing Art Gallery
- 29 Year 2 visit to the Laing Art Gallery
- 29 Class 4 Parent Lunch

### March 2024

- 04 Understanding Bereavement Workshop with St Oswald's 2-3pm
- 08 PTFA Bake Sale – Class 5 3.15 pm
- 11 Egyptian Workshop from Durham University for Year 3
- 18 Reception to visit All Saints Church to learn about Easter
- 19 Parents' Evening Nursery to Year 4 3.30pm-6pm
- 20 PTFA Spring Disco
- 25/26 PTFA Easter Egg Hunt
- 25 Class 8 Assembly 2.45 pm
- 25 Class 9 Parents' Evening 3.30pm-6pm
- 26 Class 7 Assembly 2.45 pm
- 27 Parents' Evening Nursery to Year (not Class 9) 3.30pm-6pm
- 28 School closes at 3.15pm for the Spring break



## Competition Time...

### Archibald is challenging you to get the new Blue Peter Book badge...#AFSReads

If this wasn't exciting enough, **you can now apply for the brand-new Blue Peter Book badge!**

Did a story make you laugh out loud, whisk you away on a thrilling journey, or introduce you to unforgettable characters? By sharing your book reviews, you could earn this book-tastic badge.



#### To earn this badge, you must:

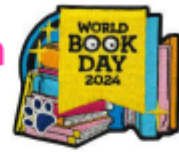
- Be aged between 5-15 years old.
- Apply for your Book badge using the paper application form.
- Ask your parent or guardian for permission to apply and ask them to read the **Privacy Notice** and **badge attraction terms and conditions**.
- Tell us about a book you have read and what you think about it. Maybe you liked the characters, or perhaps you enjoyed going on exciting adventures in faraway places.
- Attach your illustration of a character or a scene from the story. This could be a drawing, painting or even digital artwork.
- Let us know what other books and authors you have enjoyed reading and why.
- Get your parent or guardian to help you fill out your form and personal details.
- **Bring the form back into school by 7<sup>th</sup> March for school to send off as an Archibald Application Pack.** Paper forms are available from the office.
- Or apply by post yourself and send your application with the correct postage to: **Blue Peter, BBC Bridge House, MediaCityUK, Salford, M50 2BH.**

## Competition Time...





# Archibald Writing Competition



**TASK:** Write a description of a character  
from a favourite book.  
*A winner will be selected from each year group.*

**CLOSING DATE:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

|             |
|-------------|
| Name _____  |
| Class _____ |

|                    |
|--------------------|
| Name of book _____ |
| Character _____    |

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**Get to know more about the staff...**

Mrs Corrigan

Ms Darnell



**Favourite animal**

Giraffe

**Best thing about working at Archibald**

Working with the staff and children

**Best Joke**

What is worse than finding a worm in your apple?

Half a worm

**Fun fact**

Elephants can't jump

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

Crisps

**Describe yourself in 3 words...**

Great, wonderful, modest

**Worst nightmare?**

Having to answer these questions!

**Favourite colour**

Orange

**Best joke**

What kind of music do mummies listen to?

Wrap music

**When you aren't at work, what do you do?**

I love baking cakes.

**Interesting fact**

If you sneeze too hard, you can break a rib

**Favourite meal to cook**

Roast beef with all the trimmings

**What would you never eat even for a million pounds?**

Liver



BOOK NOW!  
19TH FEB - 23RD FEB  
LADYBIRD HOLIDAY CLUB- ARCHIBALD

HEART ART  
PROJECTS

CANDLE  
PAINTING

MAKE YOUR  
OWN SOAP

VALENTINES  
PARTY

SENSORY  
JARS

BINGO

HEART  
MAPS

GARDENING

GIVING BACK  
TO PEOPLE  
WE LOVE

SLIME

AND MUCH  
MORE...



CALLING ALL  
SUPERHEROES!



IT'S SUPERHERO  
WEEK 19TH FEBRUARY 2024 -  
23RD FEBRUARY 2024

LADYBIRD CHILDREN'S NURSERY - SCOTSWOOD,  
SANDERSON STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,  
NE4 7NQ  
TEL: 0191 226 0999

BOOK NOW FOR OUR HOLIDAY CLUB

# Share the Love Week

MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY TO FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

[HTTPS://LADYBIRD.CHILDCARE-ONLINE-BOOKING.CO.UK](https://ladybird.childcare-online-booking.co.uk)

TEL: 07586 606 609

LADYBIRD CHILDREN'S NURSERY - ARCHIBALD  
ARCHIBALD FIRST SCHOOL  
ARCHIBALD STREET  
GOSFORTH  
NE3 1EB

LOOK OUT, WE HAVE LOTS PLANNED!

EPIC HULK SLIME!

SUPERHERO MASKS!

ELSA WANDS!

KAPOW!

SUPERHERO SMOOTHIES

PAPER PLATE SHIELDS

SUPERHERO PARTY

POW!

SAVE THE DATE

19TH FEB - 23RD FEB  
EVERY DAY 8AM - 6PM  
LADYBIRD CHILDREN'S NURSERY  
SCOTSWOOD, SANDERSON ST,  
NE4 7NQ

BAM!