

Archíbald Fírst School Autumn Term Newsletter 5 2021



Reception 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.



<u>Library</u>



After a pause in service, we would love 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 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.

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 marked 'Gardening'.

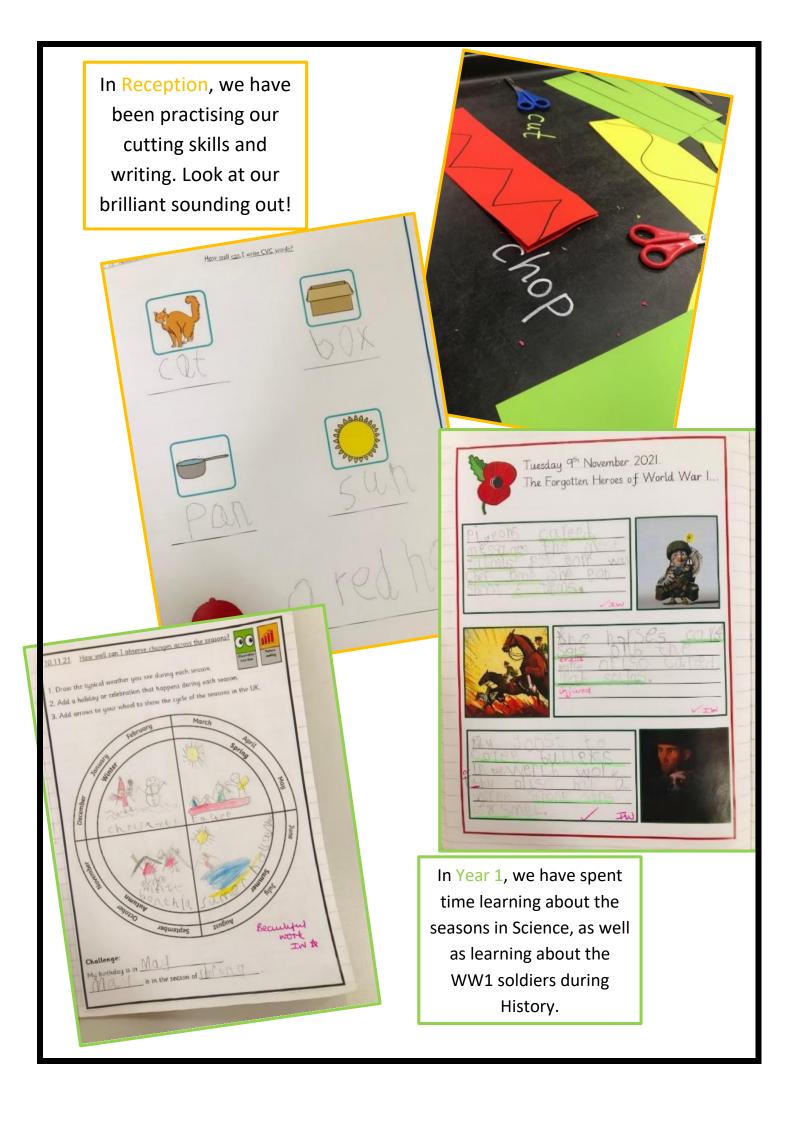


A 'minion' reasons to be proud!

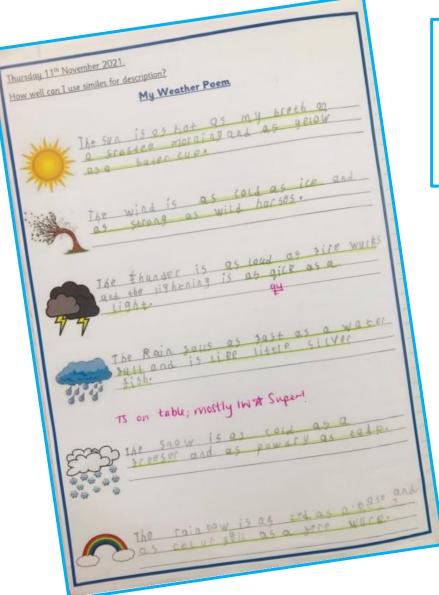
We have been working exceptionally hard since returning to school after the half term break. Here is some of what we have been up to!



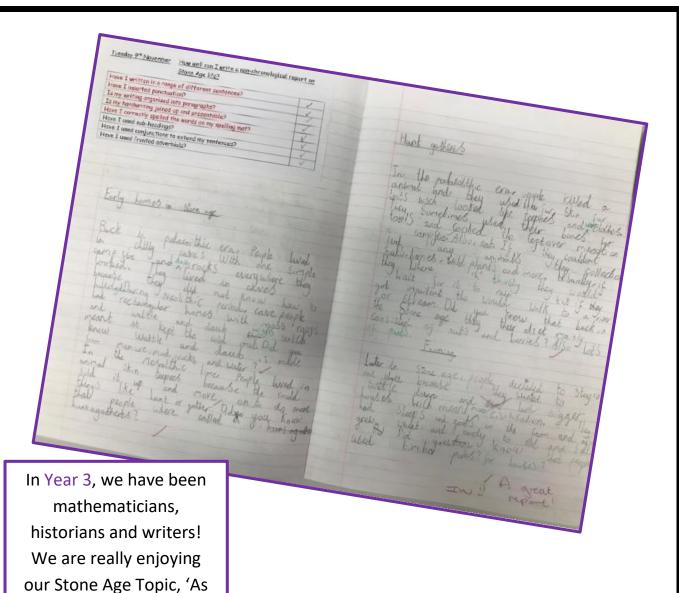
In Nursery, we have been developing our fine motor skills & counting to 5.

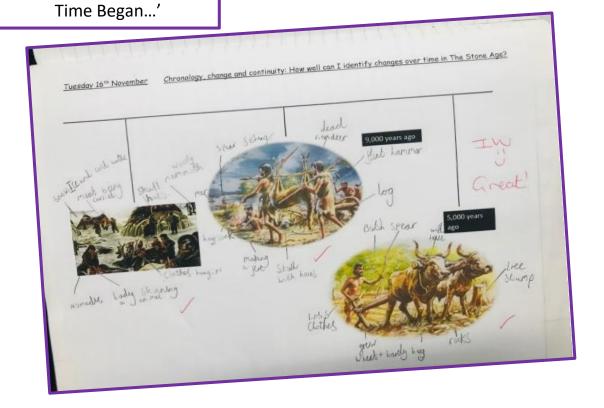




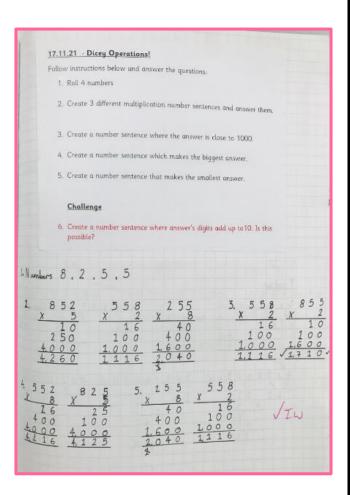


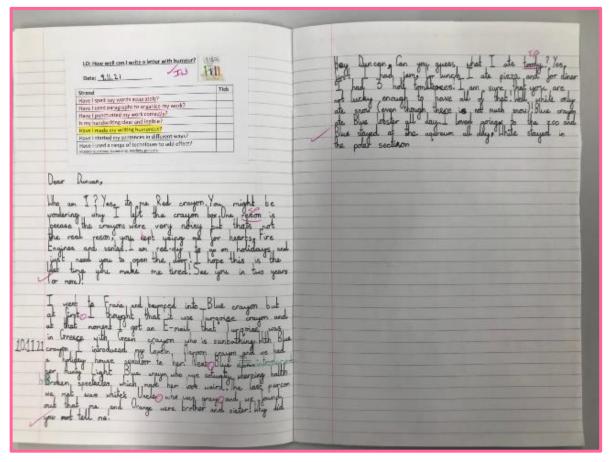
In Year 2, we have learnt all about similes and used these to write our very own weather poems. We have also taken inspiration from Andy Warhol, and started developing our printing skills.





In Year 4, we have been mathematicians, writers and geographers! What do you think of our 'punbelievable' letter writing to Duncan?





School Attendance

Regular attendance at school is an essential part of making good progress and research shows that children with poor attendance face increasing struggles throughout school because they have huge gaps in their learning. Not only does it have an impact upon their academic success, it can also affect a child's self-esteem and confidence as they become more aware of the gap between themselves and those children with good attendance.

Our attendance target is 97% or 185 days in school from a possible 190 days.

We are legally required to monitor attendance but, more importantly, we want to ensure that all of our children enjoy the positive impact of good attendance and that they have the best possible foundation for their school careers.

Did you know that if school attendance falls to under 95%, it is permissible for a parenting contract to be put in place between the school and the family or that attendance under 90% is eligible for legal monitoring through the Local Authority?

Every half term, we will be highlighting attendance superstars. These are children who have been in school as much as possible (reasons for absence being genuine illness are fully taken into account and children who have been off for genuine illness, Covid or other exceptional circumstances will all be considered for attendance superstars).

We will also inform you on a termly basis if your child's attendance has slipped to below 95% or even below 90%. These letters will be sent out for your information only. As the letters state, genuine illness and Covid absences are taken into account. You as parents, will know if the fall in attendance is due to such reasons, so please do not panic in this instance.

As always, if there are any issues we can help with or support you with please let me know and we can work together.

<u>Absences</u>

AUTHORISED	UN-AUTHORISED
Illness	Absence without valid reason.
A hospital medical/ dental appointment that	Latecomers beyond 30 mins after session
cannot be made outside of the school day	starts
(8.45-3.15pm)	
Family Bereavement	Persistent lateness within the first 30
	minutes of the day
Religious observance	Minding the children, brothers or sisters.
Excluded children	Special occasions, e.g. birthday.
Sport/ Music/ Exams	Extended holidays
Agreed other educational reasons at the	Being tired
discretion of the Headteacher	
	Wanting a day at home

Holidays in Term Time

Children of school age who are registered at a school must, by law, attend that school regularly. This is even more critical following the last 20 months of disruption the children have encountered to either their schooling or preschool experience.

When a child is absent from school, he or she misses not only the teaching provided on the days when absent but is also less prepared for the lesson building on this when returning. The children themselves can feel very overwhelmed by this on their return to the classroom.

There may be occasions when a child has to miss school – for example, if unwell. Any other absences must be kept to an absolute minimum. In particular, parents should avoid taking children out of school during term time in order to go on holiday.

Head teachers cannot grant any authorised absence during term-time, unless in exceptional circumstances. That said, if your child is/children are going to be absent, please send in a holiday request form as it is vital we know this so that they do not become a 'child missing in education'.

Rearrangements of holiday plans due to Covid will NOT be authorised. There remains 13 weeks of the year in which holidays can be taken and we ask that you adhere to these times.



31 days to go!