

Autumn Newsletter 5 2024

Year 4 Visit to the Hindu Temple

Year 4 had a fantastic visit to the Hindu Temple. One of our favourite parts was listening to some of the Hindu music which we will be following up in our RE lessons, comparing to music in other religions.



Year 2 – Caring

Year 2 have been learning that Christians believe a key message in the Bible is to love your neighbour. We then discussed how we can show care in our everyday life. [#AFSRE](#)

Our Language Ambassadors

We are delighted to present...our wonderful new Language Ambassadors!

[#AFSSpanish](#) [#AFSInternationalSchool](#) [#AFSCourageous](#)



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Curious, caring, creative and courageous.

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.



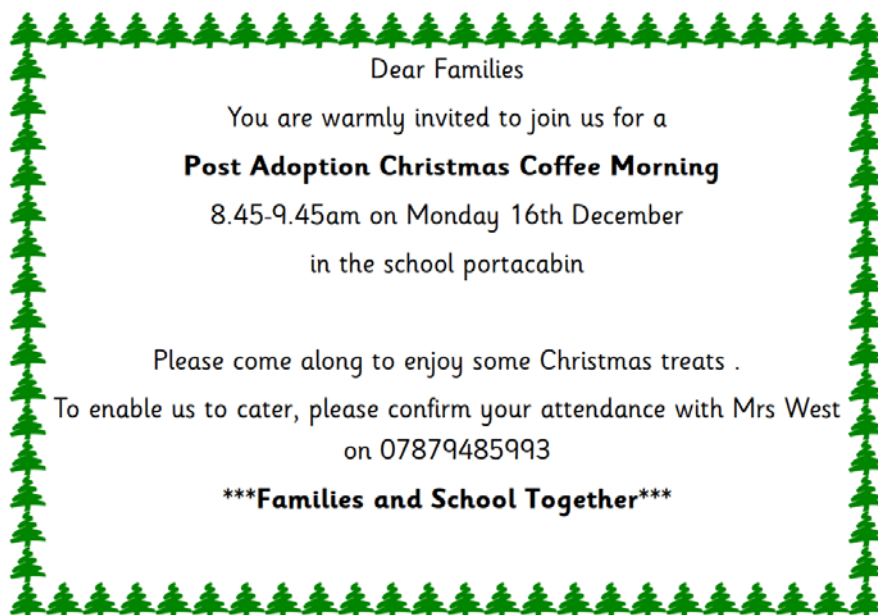
Christmas Thanks

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 would like to send the message to our families that none of our staff will be expecting a gift from any of our families this Christmas, so as kind as it is, please do not feel any pressure to buy staff anything to show your appreciation.

However, we know that some of you are super organised and have already bought a gift or are in the process of organising a class collection. This is very generous of you. In this instance, please can we ask you to be very mindful when organising class gifts that our Archibald families are all in very different financial situations, and some families have more than one child. We would hate anyone to feel pressurised into donating more than they can afford to or feel excluded because they opt out of present buying. We know that you will already very conscious of this too.

Throughout December we will be trying hard to create wonderful festive experiences for our children: it is these memories, smiles and reactions which the staff cherish more than anything. If you would like to show your gratitude, consider a donation to a charity that will support those who are less fortunate.



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Early Years are a Courageous Bunch!

Who's been eating our porridge? We have! Early Years loved porridge tasting this week. Some of us loved it, some of us not so much, but we all had a try. [#AFSCourageous](#)



Safeguarding

Online Safety Video from GEM Education

GEM Education has produced a short 5-minute online safety video for parents/carers. No doubt a lot of children will get tech for Christmas so this is an ideal time to remind parents about online safety. The main aim of the video is to show parents where they can find support to set up parental controls on new devices (which can set time limits, block spending, inappropriate content and contact among other features). The key resource cited in the video is the website: internetmatters.org.

The video is available to stream from YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5hJeHQen6tM>

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Compliments, Feedback and Queries

Contacting School



Strong relationships between home and school are important to us at Archibald. We value all feedback and hope that we can use it to continue to improve the school and provide the best experience for your child.

If you do have any suggestions, comments, questions or queries please do not hesitate to make contact with the staff when these arise: there is no need to wait until a parent's evening or an open afternoon.

We understand that often due to work commitments it may not always be possible for you to speak to a member of staff at the beginning or end of the school day. The staff are all very approachable and would be happy to speak to you on the telephone at these times or to make a mutually convenient appointment to meet in person.

Points of Contact

In the majority of cases, the first point of contact would be your child's class teacher.

We also have three senior members of staff within the school who lead the different age phases. These are Mrs McNally for the Early Years Foundation Stage, Mrs Howard for Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) and Mrs Graham for Key Stage 2 (years 3 and 4).

As Mrs Howard is on maternity leave, Mrs Sinclair is our current Key Stage 1 leader.

Mrs Ward in her role as Special Educational Needs and Disability Leader is also a point of contact.

Mrs Mullick as Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Turner, as Head Teacher, are also available.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Archibald is still looking for a parent/carer governor to join the governing body as of the autumn term 2024.

The role is about the school as a whole and the entire school community.

School welcomes and encourages applications for the position of parent governor from everyone. It is very important to us that our whole school community is represented on our Governing Body.



Did you know that no experience, education qualifications or specific backgrounds are required?

The only essential we ask for is parents/carers who are dedicated to the role of being a parent governor and who are in a position to firmly commit to the regular meetings across the year held at 5.30-7.30pm (between 4-10 meetings) and to coming into school at least 3 times per year.

The role involves being a critical friend – offering a clear balance of support, challenge, vision and accountability.

Please feel free to speak with any of our current governors to find out more about this role or come and chat to Mrs Turner and Mrs Mullick.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

Are you having a sort out at home in preparation for an influx of new things over the Christmas period???

Do you have any of these items which are looking for a new home...

- hats
- bags
- mobile phone handsets
- computer keyboards
- laptops
- scooters
- old photo frames
- corks (no judgements)
- musical instruments
- painting rollers
- milk crates
- life size prams/buggies
- bikes
- skateboards
- dolls prams/buggies
- jumbo chalk
- action figures
- masks
- builder's hats
- buttons
- paintbrushes (all sizes)
- wheel barrows

we are very happy to give them a home at Archibald...

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Year 1 Visit Our Local Castle

We had the best day at [@NewcastleCastle](#) learning all about the Norman invasion and exploring the amazing building that gave Newcastle its name.

[#AFSHistory](#)



Headlice – TAKE A PEEK, ONCE A WEEK!

Please continue to 'take a peek, once a week and check your child's hair.

Headlice are very common in children. If you know that your child has had or has headlice, please let us know so that we can also raise awareness within their class and let other grown-ups know that there are headlice in the year group. This means that everyone has the opportunity to check their own child's hair.

If your child does have headlice, and you would rather treat them straight away as opposed to waiting until that evening, we are very happy for you to do this and then bring your child into school. We would never want any of our children to be uncomfortable or itchy.

No child or family will ever be named regarding having headlice.

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



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Dates – It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

December 2024

- 03 Zones of Regulation Parent Event 9 – 10 am
- 03 PTFA Christmas Fair for the children in school time
- 03 Nursery 1 and Class 1 Christmas Stay and Play 2 pm
- 05 Nursery 2 and Class 2 Christmas Stay and Play 2 pm –
DATE CORRECT TO 5th December
- 06 Year 1 to Year 4 to the Panto
- 06 Christmas Zoolab for EYFS
- 09 Nursery Christmas Songs 10 am
- 09 Year 4 Christmas Concert 2 pm
- 10 Year 3 Christmas Concert 9.30am
- 10 That History Bloke working with Year 2
- 10 PTFA Cake Sale hosted by Class 8 in school yard
- 11 Class 2 Nativity 9.30 am
- 11 Christmas Jumper/Outfit Day & Christmas Lunch
- 11 Nursery Christmas Songs 2 pm
- 12 Winning Team VIP Day
- 12 Class 1 Nativity 9.30 am
- 12 Year 2 Christmas Concert 2 pm
- 13 Year 1 Christmas Concert 9.30 am
- 16 Post Adoption Christmas Coffee Morning 8.45 – 9.45 am
- 16 Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party
- 16 Nursery 1, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Film Afternoon (wear your pjs)
- 17 Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party
- 17 Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Film Afternoon (wear your pjs)
- 18 Nursery and Reception Christmas Party
- 19 Christmas Service at All Saints Church 1.30pm
- 20 School closes for the winter break at 3.15 pm



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DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

- Go on a winter nature walk 
- Start a holiday journal 
- Decorate the house and the tree together 
- Make Christmas cards for loved ones 
- Create salt dough ornaments 
- Drive around town to see the Christmas lights 
- Read holiday books 
- Make a snowman craft 
- Winter-themed playdough play 
- Christmas-themed scavenger hunt 
- Picnic under the Christmas tree 
- Build a gingerbread house 
- Watch a holiday movie 
- Family night with carols and hot cocoa 
- Winter-themed art project 
- Bake Christmas cookies 

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Anti-Bullying Information

What do we do to prevent bullying?

At Archibald First School, we work hard to prevent bullying occurring in the first place. Our school rules place respect, responsibility and safety at the heart of our school environment. We take part annually in the Anti-Bullying programme and have embedded behaviour, friendship and antibullying into our year-round curriculum provision.

We are a listening school, in which children are encouraged to express their feelings, fears and concerns. This is facilitated through PSHE Curriculum, Assemblies, class discussion time and role play.

We include everybody and celebrate difference through our assemblies, No Outsiders curriculum, RE curriculum, specific religious celebration 'days' and through the wider curriculum enhancement.

We promote and reward positive behaviour, celebrate achievements and develop whole school and class rules – as highlighted in our Behaviour Policy – and challenge negative language or behaviours in response to an incident. We respond as a whole school to negative behaviours through assemblies, or whole-school focused topics, to enable our school to continually evolve.

We provide a positive learning environment and educate children, parents and staff so that all members of the school community are hopefully confident enough to report bullying and know how to do so.

All staff members are trained and the pupils are regularly briefed on what bullying is, in order that the whole school community understands what bullying is and what it isn't.

We encourage the feeling of 'belonging' to a community and use peer group pressure to actively discourage bullying, especially through our work on the role of the 'Defender'.

We respect each other with careful consideration of how adults in school talk to children and children know that they will be believed by staff, should they need to report a bullying incident.

We take action and respond to all incidents quickly. We use CPOMS (electronic recording system) to record incidents, to ensure that all relevant staff members are aware and can take appropriate action.

We have a clear policy in place that is shared annually with children, but reinforced termly.

We have a school council to encourage children to have a voice.

We use Tweet Boxes in classrooms and key adults for children who are particularly vulnerable

We run Anti-Bullying Week annually and follow this up with throughout the year.

[Anti-Bullying Alliance](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/) <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

[Bullying | Parents Guide to Support | YoungMinds](https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/bullying/) <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/bullying/>

[Helping Children Deal with Bullying & Cyberbullying | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/) <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

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Archibald is Money Smart!!!

A huge thank you to HSBC for presenting us with our Smart Money Award 2024! The children really enjoyed your workshops and interactive assembly! [#AFSMaths](#) [#AFSPSHE](#)



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

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Our DECEMBER Bucket list

 build a snowman  look at Christmas lights


 watch Christmas movies  **VISIT SANTA**

 volunteer at local soup kitchen

 decorate the tree  bake cookies

 write a letter to our armed forces overseas


 PAY FOR SOMEONE'S COFFEE  make hot cocoa

 host a party

 **TRY A NEW RECIPE**  go ice skating

 have a Christmas music dance party

 go Christmas caroling  donate a toy

 attend an ornament exchange

 go sledding  **SIT AROUND THE FIRE**

 MAKE A HOLIDAY CRAFT  wear an ugly sweater

 **BE MERRY & BRIGHT!** 

This is our Bliss

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