

Autumn Newsletter 7 2024

Happy Christmas, Everyone!

It's been a very long term and everyone is definitely ready for a rest! When the holiday arrives, I hope that you all manage to find some time to celebrate and to relax with family and friends.

From everyone at Archibald, we wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Kindness Wins

Thank you to Emily from [#52Lives](#) who came to deliver a kindness workshop to Year 2. We learned the three main qualities of kindness: friendliness, consideration and empathy [#AFSPSHE](#)

👉 In a world
where you can
be anything 🧡
be kind



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We Have A Winner!!!

We are delighted to share that Camilla, Year 3, has been awarded a prize from the European Day of Languages Competition.

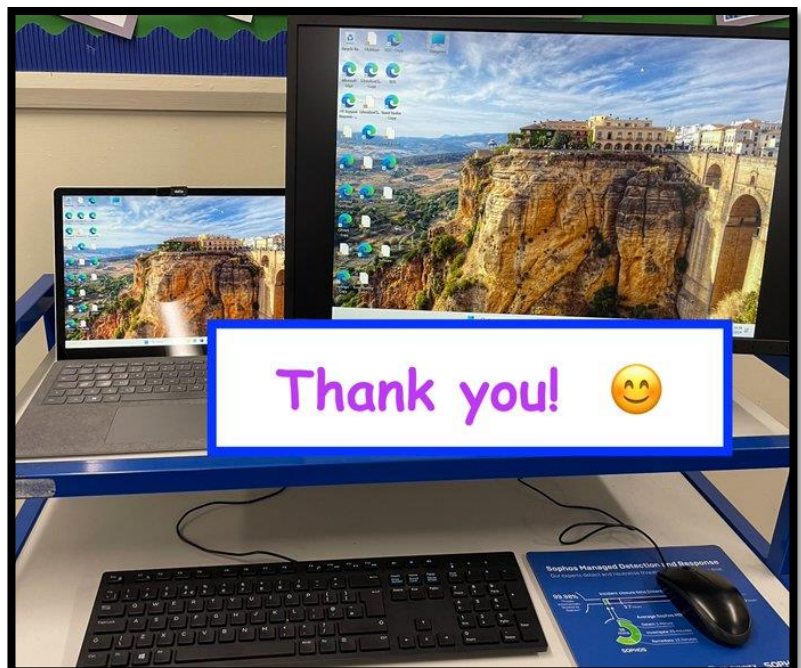


Well done Camilla!

Donation – Thank you

We are very grateful for the fabulous pre-loved computer equipment that was recently donated to the school by the team at Synergi!

[#AFSPlanetProtectors](#) [#AFSCaring](#) [#Synergi](#)



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Governor Update Autumn 2024

During the autumn term, the governors have:-

- Approved the Admissions Policy for 2026-27
- Carried out an informative school visit looking at the provision of teaching and learning for specific groups of learners from Nursery to Year 4.
- Conducted the Headteacher's Performance Management review of 2023-24 and established clear targets for 2024-25.
- Visited school during our Creative Week 'Maybe'
- Met with the Early Years Team and the Local Authority Early Years Advisor.
- Held two Safeguarding and Attendance meetings.

Christmas Concerts

Thank you to everyone who came to our concerts last week. It has been wonderful to see all year groups performing for their visitors and we know that we have warmed your hearts with Christmas joy! Thanks also to staff for their hard work in preparing and practising to get the children to performance standard!

Of course, the biggest thanks go to the children who have entertained us with their singing, dancing, storytelling and team work. We are all very proud!

A Christmas Gift from the PTFA

A huge thank you to the PTFA for gifting every child in school a new book to enjoy. We hope that the children enjoy reading these with you at home. #AFSReads



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A Festive Meal for Everyone

Thank you to Lesley and her fabulous team for a delicious Christmas lunch last week.



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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.common sense media.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.

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Attendance

Our current attendance data shows good attendance in most year groups and we know that children are usually only absent due to illness. However, we would like to remind everyone that good attendance is essential for learning and progress and children need to be in the habit of good attendance right from the start.

It is a myth that Nursery and Reception are mostly play and therefore children can miss out. Every day in Reception, there are lessons such as phonics and maths as well as targeted teaching in other key areas of the curriculum. All of the play and learning opportunities in both Nursery and Reception are part of the planned continuous provision which lead to the best learning and development. If children miss out on these foundations in learning, there are very limited opportunities to catch up and progress is negatively impacted. Children who do not have good attendance also find it challenging to form and maintain strong friendships.

Whole School	97.1%
Nursery	95.9%
Reception	95.8%
Year 1	97.1%
Year 2	97.0%
Year 3	97.9%
Year 4	98.1%



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

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School Reading Books

Please return all school reading and library books on Monday 16th 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

Christmas Bingo



Name _____
Class _____

<p>Read a book with snow on the cover</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>	<p>Read a book from an author who's new to you</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>	<p>Read a graphic novel</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>
<p>Read a book that makes you laugh</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>	<p>Read a book with a friend</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>	<p>Read a non-fiction book</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>
<p>Read a book with an animal character</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>	<p>Read a book outside</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>	<p>Read a book published this year</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>
<p>Read a book with a one-word title</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>	<p>Read a book that someone else recommended to you</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>	<p>Read a book with a mystery</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Book _____</p>



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Dates

January 2025

- 06 Welcome back to school for the spring term
- 06 Art and DT Week
- 13 SEND Coffee Morning 8.45 am
- 13 Year 2 Coffee and Curriculum 2.30 pm
- 14 Reception Coffee and Curriculum 2.30 pm
- 15 Year 4 Coffee and Curriculum **2.30 pm**
- 17 PTFA Cake Sale hosted by Class 7 in school yard
- 20-31 Class 7 Swimming
- 22 Year 1 Coffee and Curriculum 9.00 am
- 22 Year 3 Coffee and Curriculum 2.30 pm
- 24 Family Learning for Years 1 and 2 Wellbeing and You - 4 weeks
- 29 Metro Safety Workshops

February 2025

- 03-14 Class 8 Swimming
- 03 Chinese New Year Workshops
- 10 Online Safety Parent's Meeting with GEM Education 3.30-4.30 pm
- 14 PTFA Cake Sale hosted by Class 6 in school yard
- 17-19 Year 4 to Robinwood
- 17 Class 3 Parent Lunch
- 17 Class 6 Assembly 2.45 pm
- 18 Year 3 to Vindolanda
- 18 Class 5 Assembly 2.45 pm
- 19 Class 2 Parent Lunch
- 19 Art Assembly led by Laing Art Gallery
- 20 Winning Team VIP Day
- 20 School closes at 3.15pm for the half term break
- 21 Gosforth Schools' Trust Staff Development Day: Staff will be working with colleagues on curriculum development



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Support for Families at Christmas

Although Christmas is meant to be a happy and joyful time, this isn't how everyone feels at this time of the year.

If you require support, there are a number of charities who can help but also, if you are able to help and support families in need, there are various ways you can contribute and support a family this Christmas.

If you are in an emergency or crisis situation there are some funds available from Newcastle City Council and the Department for Work in Pensions. Please click [here](#) for further information.

[The Household Support Fund](#) provides additional funding for residents in Newcastle.

Additional support provided by Newcastle Local Authority including information on food banks in the local area, support with energy payments and accessing advice regarding debt and benefits can be found [here](#).

[Turn2us](#) provides information regarding support and help available for families in need.

[Family Lives](#) and [Better Health](#) provide useful information and advice around "surviving" the Christmas period.

[Feeding Families](#) help families at Christmas by matching a family who need help with one who could donate a Christmas dinner.

[Crisis](#) provide vital support such as meals and gifts for families in need at Christmas

[Action for Children](#) provide support to many children with their Secret Santa appeal.

The NHS - 999 and 111 services are available for emergency and urgent mental health matters, while the website also has details of care on offer

[If U Care Share](#) - The charity has a range of resources on its website, including a 24/7 confidential Crisis Messenger for anyone struggling

[Hub of Hope](#) - A searchable online resource which provides suggested services for a range of mental health and addiction issues based on location

[The Samaritans](#) - The long-running charity offers 24/7 support by phone, email or its Self-help app

[Cruse Bereavement Care](#) (CRUSE) is a national charity committed to promoting the well-being of bereaved people. Patients may contact the national Helpline seven days a week (various times) which is run by trained bereavement volunteers who offer emotional support to anyone affected by grief, calling free on 0808 808 1677.

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There are many reasons why you might not be feeling the Christmas spirit this year: struggles with loneliness, social anxiety, family difficulties or dealing with the loss of a loved one. [Kooth](#) (11-25 year olds) and [Qwell](#) (adults) are free digital mental wellbeing support communities, providing information, support, guidance and support.



Seven Stories are delighted to announce that we are delivering our HAF Programme again this year as part of Newcastle's Best Holiday Ever. We would appreciate if the below information could be circulated to parents and carers within your school community.

We will be running free sessions on **Friday 27th December, Monday 30th December, Thursday 2nd January and Friday 3rd January** from **10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm**.

Sessions will take place at Seven Stories, and are open to any pupils entitled to **means tested free school meals** as places are intended for those most in need. Children will get to take part in interactive story times, crafts, exploring our magical building and local area and will finish with a hot meal.

Places are limited, please direct families to book via our website through <https://sevenstories.org.uk/event/haf-best-winter-ever-2024/>

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