



Archibald First School
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Headteacher **Mrs R Turner**

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Thursday 19th March 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the update which we sent you last night, unfortunately we are still waiting for further guidance from the Government regarding the details of which children can attend school after Friday.

I must stress that school is open only to children who have both parents/carers who work as 'key workers' (or one parent/carer in single parent/carer households), children with an Education, Health and Care Plan, and children subject to a care order/'with a social worker'.

Key workers have not yet been defined but are likely to be NHS staff, school workers, Police, delivery drivers, Emergency Services etc (this is the key information we were promised this morning but we still do not have).

If you have not yet sent an email to homework@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk with your child's name and both parents names, occupations and contact details, working days plus hours, please do so immediately so that we can begin to get a sense of how many children we might need to accommodate.

We understand that some of you in other jobs and professions will have to be away from work, including your own businesses, and incur loss of earnings as a result of having to look after your own children, but we must stress that we are only staying open to provide care to the children of people who are an absolute necessity in reducing the impact of the Coronavirus, or to keep some vulnerable children safe.

The measures to keep schools open are not being taken to support with childcare in any other capacity. We are expecting only a small number of children. School staff, just like all other front line workers, are putting themselves and their families at risk by attending work and therefore we want to have the smallest number of children and staff on site at any one time.

School staff also have vulnerable relatives at home and partners who are also key workers and are therefore having to navigate their own childcare issues whilst maintaining their own health and well-being. Please try to understand the urgency and to support us with this.

Our initial plan is to open Archibald First School with the minimum number of staff necessary to meet the ratio of children we have and to make the provision work. Staff will work on a rotational basis therefore there will be different staff every day.

We will not be providing a curriculum, but will provide a range of activities, and we cannot guarantee that your children will be looked after by staff who know them as we now have several members of staff self-isolating and we expect this to continue and grow.

Apologies that we cannot be more specific and again, thank you for your patience and support.

Best wishes

Mrs Turner - Headteacher

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