



Archibald First School
 Archibald Street
 Gosforth
 Newcastle upon Tyne
 NE3 1EB

Headteacher **Mrs R Turner**

0191 285 1957
 admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk
 www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, school will close at 3.15pm for ALL children on Friday 20th March.

If your child has medication in school and you need it during any closure, please come to the school office at the end of the day to collect this.

In response to the new government guidelines this morning we will remain open on Monday for **children who are offered places only**. This will be done on a priority basis and we have been told to offer no more than 20% of our school population which will include staffing.

The school day will run from 8.45am until 3.15pm

It is **exceptionally** clear from government advice that 'if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading'. **If you have a nanny, childminder or carer for your children in place, we would expect that you use this service.**

I ask that you please follow this advice to allow me to prioritise those who are working tirelessly to stop the spread of the virus, keep our country safely running and administering urgent medical care.

The advice clearly states that as parents, you should also do everything you can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Please note:

If you are offered a place to attend school and this guidance is not being followed stringently the offer of the place will be immediately withdrawn.

We also ask that if others are aware of this fact, that we are informed as this is paramount to the safety of everyone.

Due to the numbers in our school, we will be following our original statement that **BOTH** parents must be key workers.

Having fun, achieving excellence.

Successful learners. **Confident individuals.** Responsible citizens.

Places will be offered on a priority basis in this order to:

- Vulnerable children (on an EHCP plan or health care plan - **if they CAN NOT be looked after safely at home**).
- Children of critical workers (where both parents are key workers or only one parent is at home)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>
- Children in households where one parent is a critical worker (only in circumstances where it is not possible for a child to be kept **safely** at home)

You have been asked to let the school know by this morning of your working status. Lists will be drawn up from 10am onwards and a priority list established. I anticipate sending out offers of places by the end of the day.

Information received after 10am will only be considered if there are spaces available.

Please note: if you do not get a direct offer from the school then, regrettably, a place is not available for your child/children.

Please do not phone the school office with other queries today as they need to deal with the urgent matter of keeping school open for children of critical workers.

Home Learning

The home learning page on the website is heavy with content for you to engage with. As time extends, this will be refreshed.

During this period of school closures, we will not be operating normal lessons. If we do have children in school, we will be doing similar home learning activities to those that we have set for all other children. No other teaching will be taking place so as not to disadvantage the vast majority of children who have been told they must stay at home.

How will we communicate with you including when our school is closed?

The situation is ever-changing so it is important that we can communicate with you to update you as things develop. We will continue to communicate with you using our current, well established methods.

- School Website www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk

Our website includes a tab with Coronavirus updates

- School Twitter @archibaldfirst
- Emails via ParentPay
- Texts via Teachers2Parents

Contact

In addition, email contact details, which will be checked regularly, are as follows:

- Office admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk,

At the moment, we will be based at Archibald and can be contacted on 0191 285 1957.

In an emergency, and should we need to relocate, please use the number 07951058767.

Other Considerations

I am also very mindful of my staff; they are understandably anxious too and want to spend time with their own children. Although we are key workers, many staff do not want to send our own children to school in these times and I respect all their decisions. We all dearly love our jobs but it is right that we all prioritise our own families in these moments of national crisis.

Most teachers will be working from home, as with much of the population, while they care for their own families. I am currently in the process of organising a rota of staffing within school; we will operate with a minimum staff for as long as I can safely do so to enable us to care for the children who need to attend. Your children will therefore not have the same teacher each day. If your child currently has one to one support in school and you choose to send them in, it will not be possible for us to continue this support full time.

As a school and within the Gosforth Schools' Trust we will be continuing to review and monitor the situation closely.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank parents for the support of the school, your kind words and emails many of you have sent. I am going to miss you all over the coming weeks and I wish you all the very best. I will continue to send at least weekly messages to you all during the closures.

Kind Regards,



Mrs. R. Turner