



Archibald First School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you read this, hopefully, most of the children will have received a phone call from their class teacher. To be honest, I think the teachers were a little nervous about this task but they have absolutely loved it! They have thoroughly enjoyed being in contact with the children and you, and have especially enjoyed hearing all the different things our families have been up to.

Equally, the support and feedback from many of our families has been overwhelmingly positive, and this has been much appreciated by all the staff in school. At such an uncertain time, the staff are working incredibly hard to try and get it 'right' for you all.

We have now been away from school for 6 weeks but what we must remember (as we put pressure on ourselves) is that, to date, our children have only missed 20 days of school. Therefore, our message still remains *'take what you need, do what you can and make it work for your family.'* As a parent home schooling, living with another key worker and working – doesn't it seem like a lifetime some days whilst a pleasure on others?!?

Predominantly through the Facebook Page, the skills and activities that you have been up to are brilliant: woodwork, vegetable plot building, baking and cooking, creations of all kinds, books being read, paddling pools coming out... are you sure you have any time for the suggestions from the teachers?

Behind the scenes there is an awful lot still going on at school. Just *some* of the tasks being completed...

- All staff are on a rota to be in school to provide the critical childcare
- Weekly blogs are being produced with staff following up the activities via Facebook and homework@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk
- We have offered our Nursery places and received a list of who will join us for Reception
- Packs and plans for welcoming everybody are nearly finalised.
- Teachers are writing all the children's reports for September to March. (We are hoping to be able to add something about the summer too...)
- Support staff have been researching a vast range of special educational needs and strategies to reduce the barriers to learning that some of our young people may have.
- We are setting up a new email system to help us go paperless!
- Conversations about how we can bring everybody back into school have begun.
- A set of new school rules has been produced which we are looking forward to sharing with the children.
- A deep clean of the areas not in use in school has begun.
- Staff are finalising plans for our curriculum which we have been refining over the last 6 months.

Please continue to stay in touch with use via Twitter, email, Facebook etc. If you need anything, please contact us and we try to help where possible.

Stay safe

Becky Turner and the Archibald Team

Having fun, achieving excellence.

Successful learners. Confident individuals. Responsible citizens.