



### Archibald First School

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Headteacher **Mrs R Turner**

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Dear Parents & Carers

Following the government's announcement on Sunday, and the subsequent documents published, we are working hard to prepare for a *possible* re-opening of school to more children, in addition to the children of critical key workers who have already been in school during the current lockdown to date.

The transition towards reopening our school to more pupils will need to be extremely gradual and very carefully monitored in order to ensure that we can use our level of staffing and school space as safely as we can to minimise the level of risk for everyone.

This also means that, as much as we would love to have all of the children back at once, this is simply not possible, so we will need to carefully *prioritise which children* come back to school first.

My hope is that once we have established the number of specific and critical key worker children and ensured that they are settled safely in school, we can slowly extend this to more children and potentially build up our numbers from there, IF and when it is safe to do so.

However, I have to ensure that whatever my hopes, the decisions made keep your children and our staff as safe as we possibly can.

It is also important for me to be open and honest that whilst I can work to minimise the risks, I cannot alleviate all risk.

I understand that the current uncertainties may be causing some anxiety and that many of you may not wish for your children to return at this time. Some may be shielding, deemed as vulnerable or feel that their child is safer at home.

The choice of your children returning to school is absolutely yours as parents and carers. You are the ones who are best placed to make the decisions regarding returning to school or remaining at home. Please be assured that I fully acknowledge and respect the opinions of each and every one of you. No-one will be penalised for not attending school.

Therefore, I will be sending out a short parent survey to gauge your thoughts on whether or not you would like to send your child/ren back in school in order to be as fully prepared as possible for a potential reopening of school for more pupils at some point in the future.

If you have more than one child in school, please complete a survey for each.

I have attached appendices to this document containing further information about potential school provision as the school that we all currently know, and love may not be quite the same for a little while. Please read this before completing the survey which can be found here <https://forms.gle/9cHwbdZW6ZZCa1VX7>

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I am aware that specific year groups were listed by the prime minister during his announcement, however, for parents of children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1, please do **not** to expect that they will be returning straight away in June (1<sup>st</sup> June remains a training day and closed to all pupils).

For all families, please be reassured that, as there will still be a large number of children at home, we will continue with home learning and staff will maintain contact with you and your children.

Following the survey(s), any decisions that are made linked to potential reopening to more children will have the welfare of our children and staff at the very centre, so please do try to bear this in mind, even if some of these decisions would not be your preferred choice.

As ever, I will keep you informed of any developments and updates as soon as possible especially regarding information towards possible reopening but in the interim, thank you for being patient.

Lastly, a HUGE thank you for your continued support; I really appreciate it.

Best wishes

Becky Turner

The Archibald Team

Archibald Governing Body

Head Teacher

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## **Additional Information**

### **Critical Key Worker Places**

- Children of critical key workers will be prioritised for the initial places. Those children who are on the original places will be given the first places.
- We hope to then request information from families to be able to prioritise additional children of critical key workers to join us back at school.
- Key worker children will form their own small groups (EYFS, KS1 and KS2). If children are in a Key Worker group, they will not be able to join their 'year group' small groups. (See below)
- These places will run in the same way as they have done to date.

### **What we will be focusing on in school**

- Crucially, we will be placing a heavy focus on the emotional wellbeing of pupils to ensure that they feel safe and settled in school.
- We will have to adapt what we do and find different ways to deliver parts of the curriculum will not be taught in the same way that it was before lockdown.

### **Children at Home**

- Home learning will carry on as usual for year groups and the children asked to stay at home.
- Teachers will make contact with you.

### **How will school be organised**

- The children will be working in small groups ('bubbles') with a teacher and / or a member of support staff working with them. This may not be their usual grown up but the grown up will stay the same for your child.
- The small groups of children will not be able to mix with other groups. This includes play times and lunch times.
- The group that pupils are allocated to will be the group that they will stay with.
- We will endeavour to enforce social distancing as best as we can (2m) for both children and members of staff, therefore physical interactions, including cuddles for reassurance, between children and staff will be extremely limited, unless it is absolutely necessary (eg, for first aid etc.)
- Depending on our risk assessment and staffing, a part-time timetable may be needed. This will also enable us to thoroughly clean our working spaces and resources.
- School start and finish times will be staggered to keep families safe and request that only one parent is present for this. There will be no breakfast or after school club provision to limit social interaction.
- The small groups of children will have staggered play and lunchtimes to enable more social distancing to be met.
- Packed lunches will be provided to EYFS and KS1 children. Children in KS2 will be able to either pay for a school packed lunch or bring their own.
- We will have to have a clear system to enter and exit the school grounds.

### **Health and Well being**

- If one member of the small group displays symptoms of the virus, all of the children and staff who are in that group will need to self-isolate at home for the specified period.
- If your child or anyone in your house is in one of the extremely clinically vulnerable groups, it is not currently safe for your child to come back to school and we will continue to make provision for them to learn at home.

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