



Archibald First School
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Monday 31st August

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really excited to be welcoming back our pupils on Tuesday 8th September after what has been such a long absence for so many. We are also eagerly awaiting our new children and families joining us in both Nursery and Reception.

While coronavirus remains in the community, judgments must be made at a school level about how to balance minimising any risks from coronavirus and also ensure that all pupils receive a high-quality education that enables them to thrive and progress. With this in mind, we have been working on our September opening Risk Assessment since July and have continued to monitor and adjust this as the situation has evolved over the summer as the government have made regular amendments as well as producing new documentation.

Irrespective of any changes that may come over the next week or so, it is our aim for school to operate as normally as possible from September. We are really looking forward to getting some level of normality back to Archibald and are keen to get all of our children feeling settled, comfortable, safe, happy, confident and eager as soon as possible. When this is in place, we will ensure your children's learning is secure and progressive.

We are also aware that some of our families will be feeling anxious about the return. Attached to this letter you will find sections of information which we hope will go some way to providing reassurance. Within this there is some reiteration from the final letter sent in July which can be accessed via this link

<https://www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk/september-2020/>.

As stated in this letter, a key part of our full reopening will involve working in partnership with parents and carers. A selection of information can also be accessed via the above link as well as one form to be completed:

<https://www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Information-request-from-parents-before-childs-return-September-2020.pdf> Please note that this form only needs to be completed if you feel there is information which it would be beneficial for us to know to best support your child in school.

Having fun, achieving excellence.

Successful learners. Confident individuals. Responsible citizens.

We are obliged to remind all parents that school is compulsory again from September. The government has been very strong in its messages about this. The only pupils who are allowed to remain at home will be those classed as extremely clinically vulnerable who will have received written information from their doctor or those who have extenuating family circumstances. If this applies to you, and you haven't already contacted us, please make contact with us as soon as possible. We can then work together over the autumn term to support your child/ren in the best way possible.

Finally, whilst school is compulsory, if you have returned home from a country registered on the quarantine list by the government on or after the 24th August please remember that you will be unable to join us back at school on the 8th September. If this impacts on you, please let us know so that we can work together.

The encouragement from the community during the summer term was overwhelming and very much appreciated. Your ongoing support moving forward into such uncertain times will be greatly received. It is our intention to keep you informed of any developments as much as possible as we move through the Autumn term. If you have any queries, please contact us via admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk and we will make contact with you as soon we can.

Kind regards

Rebecca Turner and the Archibald Team