



Archibald First School

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Newcastle upon Tyne
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Headteacher **Mrs R Turner**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that the announcement made by the government at 8pm this evening has left many of you in some degree of turmoil. As leaders, staff and parents ourselves, please know that we are feeling exactly the same emotions as you and that we find ourselves in the same predicament.

Only 24 hours ago (after days of actively seeking concrete and clear advice from the government, local authority and unions) Archibald was in the position to open yet here we are...

Tonight, after an urgent virtual meeting with the Senior Leadership Team and consulting with the Gosforth Schools' Trust Headteachers, I am making the difficult decision to close school to ALL pupils on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

This will allow staff to be in school where we will work together to plan for Wednesday 6th January onwards.

Next Steps

To enable decisions and actions to be made at the earliest opportunity tomorrow:

1) If you DO NOT require a critical key worker or vulnerable child space, please email admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk as soon as possible and by 8.30am at the latest.

2) A NEW questionnaire will be sent tonight to ask for explicit details of roles and confirmation of the request of a key worker space. We ask that anyone wishing to be considered for a space replies by 8.30am at the latest.

We will not be able to facilitate places for all requests and we ask that you recognise the difficult position we are in. In turn we thank you for your understanding regarding this.

We hope to allocate places in school from Wednesday 6th January.

3) Please do not contact the school; we request that you allow us the day to focus on the job ahead to ensure that the staff in school are equipped to provide the best remote education possible for your children which will go live from Wednesday 6th January.

Further information will follow and as ever I will work to keep you informed at all stages.

Finally, we have done this together since March 2020 and whilst it has been turbulent, challenging, frustrating and demanding (and so much more) we have moved through it and I am confident that we can keep going until we come through the other side if we do so together as the Archibald community we are.

Rebecca Turner

Having fun, achieving excellence.

Successful learners. Confident individuals. Responsible citizens.