

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

WARN AND INFORM LETTER FOR PARENTS/CARERS ABOUT COVID CASE(S) IN SCHOOL

12.1.22

Dear Parent/Carer,

Information and advice about COVID-19 case in school

We have been advised that there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Newcastle City Council's Public Health Team and the UK Health Security Agency. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child.

Data as of 12.1.22

Nursery – 2 cases	Class 6 – 1 case
Class 1 – 4 cases	Class 7 – 2 cases
Class 2 – 2 cases	Class 8 – 1 case
Class 3 – 2 cases	Class 9 – 0 cases
Class 4 – 1 case	Class 10 – 5 cases
Class 5 – 0 cases	

The school will continue to ensure that all confirmed cases of COVID-19 do not attend school until the end of their self-isolation period. Schools are no longer required to carry out routine contact tracing of anyone that has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This is now carried out by NHS Test and Trace. They will work with either the positive case or their parents or carers to identify close contacts.

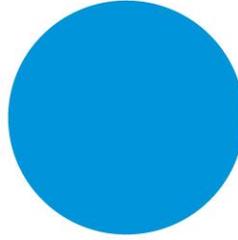
That said we will continue to you inform you of class classes for your awareness.

Anyone between the ages of 5 and 18 years and 6 months who is **told by NHS Test and Trace** that they are close contact of a positive case are strongly advised, to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test **every day for 7 days** from their last contact with the person who tested positive. Children aged 3-4 can also do this at their parent's discretion, and as a school we strongly advocate this happens to keep our community safe especially as we have staff who could be severely ill if they contract Covid.

They should attend school as normal, unless they get a positive result or have symptoms, in which case they must self-isolate. If they have symptoms, they should get a PCR test as soon as possible and self-isolate.

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For every LFD test your child takes, you should report the result at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

As well as doing daily LFDs close contacts should also take a precautionary approach by limiting close contact with people who are vulnerable and try to avoid crowded or enclosed spaces as much as possible out of school. They should also follow government guidance on wearing a face covering.

Please consider that a classroom is a crowded and enclosed space. Therefore, if you have any doubt or niggles, please urge on the side of caution and complete an LFD test.

It is strongly encouraged for all of our families and children, along with our staff, to undergo twice weekly testing. By doing this and identifying cases we will be able to keep our community as safe as possible.

It will also help to stop children passing on infections to the staff and staff to staff transmission which then may result in class closures and remote learning as a worst-case scenario.

****We want our children and staff in school together and are therefore asking for your continued support with stopping the transmission of this awful virus.****

Where to get Lateral Flow Device Tests

There are different ways to get LFDs for use at home.

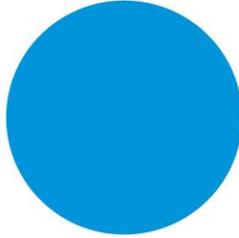
Go online to order for home delivery to <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

- Pick one up from a local pharmacy or collection point – put in your postcode at <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/> to find your nearest one. Alternatively call into a local pharmacy and ask if they have any LFD home test kits.
- Go online to <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits> and put in your details to get a 'collect code' to give to the pharmacist to receive a free home test kit. If you cannot go online, you can get a code by calling 119 (free from landlines and mobiles. Lines are open from 7am to 11pm.)
- Call 119 for free and request a LFD test kit.

Each test kit contains 7 tests. They are free of charge and can be re-ordered as often as you need them. Occasionally supplies of test kits run short. You are advised to keep checking locally or online to obtain supplies.

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What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

For most people, especially children, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

However, these symptoms do not always present themselves and COVID-19 may appear in other ways, including in some cases cold-like symptoms. If your child develops any of the symptoms of COVID-19, no matter how mild, they must **not** attend school. They **must** remain at home and get a PCR test as soon as possible. They should do this even if they have received one or more doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Children at Archibald have exhibited sore tummies and feeling sick prior to testing positive.

To book a PCR test, either call 119 or go to the NHS website at www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test

- If the test is positive, they must self-isolate.
- If the test result is negative your child can attend school as normal.

If the PCR test is positive, your child must self-isolate for up to 10 days from the date the symptoms first started. If your child does not have symptoms, but tests positive for COVID-19 using a Lateral Flow Device they must self-isolate, from the date the test was taken (report the result at For every LFD test your child takes, you should report the result at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>).

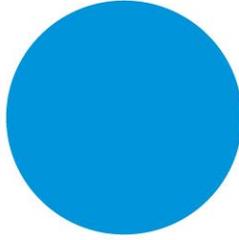
NHS Test and Trace will confirm the dates of isolation with you. In this time your child **must not** go to school or to public areas: they must remain at home and must not mix with anyone outside of their household. They may be able to leave self-isolation early before the end of 10 full days if:

- They take two lateral flow device tests **24 hours apart no earlier than 6th** full after the day their symptoms first started (or the date of their test if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day.
- Both test results are **negative**
- They do not have a **high temperature**

These would need to be taken prior to the start of the school day on both days 6 and 7 for your child to return to school on day 7

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They can return to school after their second consecutive negative test result. For example; If the first test is taken at 8am on Day 6 and then 24 hours later at 8am on Day 7 and both are negative, and your child does not have a high temperature, they can end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school on Day 7.

If your child is not released from self-isolation early, they should not take another LFD test after the 10th day of their isolation period and can stop self-isolating after this day. This is because they are unlikely to be infectious after the 10th day of their isolation period. Those who continue to feel unwell after the 10 days period should seek medical advice.

Your household must follow the 'Stay at Home' guidance at www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

Your child should not take a PCR test if they have had a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19. This is because it is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection.

Support to Self-Isolate

If your child is entitled to an income-based Free School Meal this will still be provided. Please contact the school office to arrange collection of packed lunches.

If you need support with self-isolation Newcastle City Council's Welfare and Wellbeing Team may be able to help you. If you can, you should try to seek help from your friends, family and community first, or look online at www.newcastle.gov.uk for local support services. Where this is not possible, the Welfare and Wellbeing team can help.

Visit www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfare or call 0800 170 7001 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm Saturday) to get the support you need.

You may also be entitled to a Test and Trace Support Payment. Apply online at <https://newcastle.gov.uk/TestandTraceSupportPayments>

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

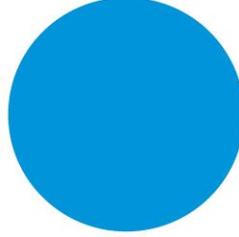
There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

Remember; **'Hands, Face, Space, Let Fresh Air In, Test Regularly, Self-isolate when advised, Get Vaccinated'**:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

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- Try to stay apart from anyone you don't live with as much as possible.
- Use a face covering when you are indoors in crowded places such as supermarkets and public transport
- If meeting others, try to do so outside as much as possible. If inside, open the window to let fresh air in
- Take part in regular Lateral Flow Device testing especially if you are meeting others you do not live with. This helps to identify those who do not have symptoms of the virus and helps prevent it spreading to others. You can get free LFD test kits from most pharmacies or by ringing 119 or online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. Twice weekly testing is recommended for all those aged 11 years or above. Primary aged pupils should test daily if they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive.
- Take up the offer of the COVID-19 vaccine. It is safe and effective and gives you the best protection against the virus. There are locations across the city where you can be vaccinated; for details go to www.newcastle.gov.uk/covidvaccine

Further information

Further information is available at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Thank you for your support. Your efforts do help to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Turner
Headteacher

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