



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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be well aware from the news and social media feeds that the biggest issue facing schools currently is the sheer volume of pupils that are in attendance at school as key worker children. We have received reports of parents sending their children in to school when there are adults at home who could enable their children to remain at home. The guidance states 'parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can'. This includes children from Nursery to Year 4 and those who are key workers.

The guidance for keyworkers is very clear - it is to allow frontline staff in a range of industries to enable the battle against COVID to carry on. Could I appeal to all keyworkers to consider how "critical" and "frontline" their roles are and particularly if they are working from home, or a partner is, to keep their children off. To those who already have – a huge thank you to each of you.

At this moment, I am not prepared to start cross-examining parents and asking for evidence. Instead I would prefer to point out the issues that arise with high numbers of pupils in school and appeal to the community to help each other out by keeping children at home wherever possible. Three reasons why this would help everyone are:

- The fewer pupils we have in school, the greater social distancing we can enforce.
- The fewer pupils we have in school, the fewer social interactions we have: This includes the children, staff and your families.
- If you are able to support your child at home, this provides a space for another family in critical need.

As you know the finite number of spaces we have in school are very sought after. Therefore, if your circumstances change or flex on a week by week basis, we would be grateful that you let us know so that we can look at the provision we have.

We currently have a waiting list and are receiving daily emails requesting places which at present we cannot accommodate thus presenting a very difficult position for both school and the parents who are BOTH CRITICAL in the response to Covid 19. This is especially difficult when there are children in school who could be at home with a parent.

And, whilst it has been openly commented to school that the risk of Covid 19 for children is negligible; please consider the wider impact that this virus may have beyond individual children or families and that our school community has children, families and staff who are clinically vulnerable.

We know how challenging this third lockdown is for everyone and, from first-hand experience, we know how difficult it is to work and provide home education. We would like to reiterate our key message that you must make the home learning work for your family: take what you need, do what you can and make it work for you. Please do this. Take from the work provided what is most poignant to your child and their needs, fit it around commitments and balance the academic with the broader curriculum areas and time for wellbeing (yours and theirs!). Don't try to do everything and don't worry about 'catching up' – just do the very best that you can!

Finally, we ask that you respect all the families of our school community and do not openly question why spaces may have been facilitated.

Thank you for your continued support as we all work to get through lockdown three together...

Rebecca Turner

Having fun, achieving excellence.

Successful learners. Confident individuals. Responsible citizens.