

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Northumberland County Council Press Release: Council says thank you to schools

A press release was issued last night which, hopefully, will be of interest to you all:

Northumberland County Council has praised the fantastic response and ongoing efforts of schools across the county.

On the first day of the Easter 'holiday', 98 schools and alternative providers remained open to look after children of key workers or the most vulnerable children - with many of those schools remaining open on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Cllr Wayne Daley, Deputy Leader and cabinet member for Children's Services, said: "Those who work in our schools rightly take their place next to our NHS staff and other key workers who are crucial in our efforts in battling this virus.

"They are supporting families across the county through this difficult time, and we appreciate the selfless dedication that they show every day. We know they will continue to support us throughout the Coronavirus pandemic "

Cath McEvoy- Carr, Executive Director of Adults and Children's Services, said: "Although we have seen the number of children attending school drop to around 600 pupils this week, our schools are proud to provide care and support at this time. I know every member of staff in our schools will have made personal sacrifices to enable our key workers, including healthcare colleagues, to do their jobs and ultimately save lives.

"I can't thank them enough for the dedication they have shown and how they continue to get the job done in very difficult circumstances."

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/News/2020/Apr/Council-extends-heartfelt-thank-you-to-Northumberl.aspx>

An Easter Message from Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director, Children's Services

As another week draws to a close and the Easter weekend gives many people a little bit of extra time off, I know that many of you will still be working hard to support the most vulnerable children in communities right across Northumberland and the children of key workers.

I am so very appreciative of all of your hard work in these difficult times and the efforts that all members of your staff in our schools and settings are making are tremendous. Your contribution really does make a huge contribution to keeping people alive and protecting our most vulnerable children.

So, this Easter, take time to stop and take a breath and reflect on the valuable part that you have all played in our ongoing battle against this virus. We will continue to share the latest information and briefings with you. Please keep yourselves and others safe by following the national guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Thank you once again for your support and ongoing hard work.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and happy Easter.

A video message to schools from Cllr. Wayne Daley

Cllr. Wayne Daley has recorded a video message for all schools and settings and all the teaching and non-teaching staff that work in them: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-94JdA811uo>

Easter Holiday Update

We have had around 120 schools and Alternative Providers open this first week of the Easter 'holiday'. Between 550 and 600 children have attended each day. Around 65% each day are key worker children, 25% vulnerable children and 10% EHCP.

In pre-school provision, we have had over 200 settings open each day with around 800 children taking up places each day.

DfE Guidance Updates

Schools to remain closed until further notice

All early years settings, schools and further education providers will remain closed until further notice, except for children of critical workers and children who are vulnerable. We will only re-open settings when the scientific advice indicates it is safe to do so.

Use of video or teleconferencing to aid school governance

We advise against governing bodies meeting in person while educational settings are closed, and to instead adopt alternative arrangements, for example by using video or teleconferencing. If you are using video conferencing to meet as a governing body, then please consider the security of the platforms that you are using. You should read the privacy terms and conditions and ensure that where possible, you enable any security features. If you have any concerns, you might want to consult your IT provider or staff for support.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): school closures

What schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Updated information on mental health issues, educational staff from overseas, primary school place offers for April 2020, exclusion and the governing board's duty to reinstate excluded pupils.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures#history>

School complaints procedures: guidance for schools

Guidance for local-authority-maintained schools about setting up or reviewing complaints procedures.

Added information to the best practice guidance about handling complaints during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-complaints-procedures#history>.

Direction issued to the Chief Regulator of Ofqual

Directions from Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education, to Sally Collier, Chief Regulator of Ofqual, about awarding results for qualifications being assessed summer 2020.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/87761/1/Letter_from_Secretary_of_State_for_Education_to_Sally_Collier.pdf.