

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Edenred / FSM Voucher Update

Local Authorities received an update letter from Edenred yesterday regarding the National FSM Voucher Scheme. We thought that it would be worth sharing the table, below, with schools showing the values that can be redeemed at one time.

This is the first time that we have seen this, and it may help to explain why some parents, carers and schools have had issues redeeming certain values on the supermarket Gift Cards. Now that orders can be placed four weeks in advance, it may mean that some have been trying to redeem £60 at once but, because of the £50 limit in a supermarket like Morrisons, have been unable to do so.

Spending eGift cards

- Your eGift card will not be topped-up: you will receive a new eCode which must be redeemed to create a new eGift card

Supermarket	Expiry	Denominations available	Spend online	Spend in-store
Sainsbury's eGift card	24 months from last transaction	Open value, £1	No	Yes
Tesco eGift card	5 years from last transaction	Open value, £1	No	Yes
Asda eGift card	24 months from last transaction	Fixed £10 or £15	Yes	Yes
Morrisons eGift card	12 months expiry	Fixed £10, £15, £25 or £50	No	Yes
Waitrose eGift card	24 months from last transaction	Open value, £1	Yes	Yes
M&S food eGift card	24 months from last transaction	Fixed £10 or £15	No	Yes
Aldi eGift card	5 years expiry	Open value, £1	No	Yes
McColl's eGift card (including RS McColl's and Martin's)	All eGift cards expire on 31/12/2021	Fixed £15	No	Yes

Attendance Data

On Monday 4th May, we had 143 settings open, with 1405 children in attendance. Of these, 912 are the children of key workers, 350 are classed as vulnerable and 143 have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Both the number of vulnerable children and those children with an EHCP are the highest since the lockdown began.

In addition, a further 357 children were in pre-school settings yesterday. This was comprised of 326 key worker children and 31 children classes as vulnerable.

Weekly Safeguarding Monitoring Returns

Thank you for the weekly safeguarding monitoring returns. We had a fantastic response from our NCC schools last week, and this helps us to build the picture that we need regarding our vulnerable children.

I would like to remind you that the Week 3 return form is now available for you to complete and would request it to be returned by 5pm this Thursday.

Headteacher Conference Call Thursday 7th May

This week's Headteacher Conference Call will take place at 2pm on Thursday 7th May. If you have not already done so, can you let me or Deborah Anderson

(Deborah.Anderson01@Northumberland.gov.uk)

know who will be representing your locality? In addition, if you are representing your locality this week, please let your locality colleagues know so that they can raise issues with you to bring to the meeting.

DfE/North of Tyne IT Kit survey

Many thanks to those schools that responded to the request for information for the DfE and North of Tyne IT Kit schemes.

- Devices procured via the DfE scheme are not due for delivery until the end of May at the earliest. The Education & Skills and Social Care teams are now working on identifying which pupils are eligible for a device and/or connectivity, based on the information you have submitted.
- No further details on the North of Tyne scheme are available at present. As soon as we know more, we will let you know.

New virtual cyber initiative for teenagers

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has announced an online initiative that aims to inspire school pupils to work in the cyber security sector through a range of extracurricular activities including online classes. This provides the opportunity to learn and develop the important skills required for future jobs in areas like cyber security from home.

Full details of this announcement and the resources available can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-virtual-cyber-school-gives-teens-chance-to-try-out-as-cyber-security-agents-from-home>

Northumberland County Council Staff Supporting Schools

We continue to have a list of Education and Skills staff that we can deploy to help support schools during this challenging time. Many are SEN specialists, and all are willing to help you to keep your setting open and running. We currently have around a dozen colleagues from the Education and Skills SEN Support Services working in schools.

If you are interested in having an extra pair of hands, specialist or otherwise, at no cost to your school, please **contact Simon Baxter on 07870 365983**. This will allow us to get all the information we need to follow up quickly. The daily return to NCC provides the opportunity for you to request any support, and all requests are forwarded to the relevant service. In each case, a follow up conversation is required so, if possible, phoning Simon is preferable and quicker.

A number of schools have specifically requested Behaviour Support staff. We intend to support this when we can, and when it is necessary, as far as capacity allows. It may be that a Behaviour Support teacher is deployed to assess the situation and provide a behaviour plan, but once that is done, another member of staff will be able to help with the implementation of the plan. This will be worked out with the referrer on a case by case basis.

Puberty Education at Home

The summer term is the time when many schools would have addressed learning about the physical and emotional changes of puberty, usually with Year 5. This is one of the statutory elements of Relationships, Sex and Health Education RSHE. Children tell us that learning about puberty and body changes from parents and carers is the next best thing to learning about it at school.

To help parents and carers to have these important conversations at home, we've put together some of the resources that will help families to discuss these themes with confidence. We know how important it is to have quality-assured factual information, and to protect children from myths and misinformation.

[This link](#) takes you to a Padlet of resources about male bodies and puberty.

[This link](#) is to a Padlet of resources about female bodies and menstruation.

Good quality RSHE would teach children to understand about male and female body changes, so it a good idea to share both with all families.

If there is a resource you would like to see included, or another aspect of PSHE for which you would like to see a Padlet of resources, please email [Gill Finch](#).