

# Headteachers' Update

## The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

### DfE Updates

There were two important DfE updates last night to the published guidance on the wider opening of schools and the guidance on implementing protective measures:

#### ***Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020***

Next steps for the phased wider opening of educational and childcare settings.

An initial planning framework for schools in England has been added.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

#### ***Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings***

Guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement protective measures.

Footnotes and links have been added to explain priority groups and amendments have been made to PPE section.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

#### **Headteacher Meeting Tomorrow (Thursday)**

Our weekly locality headteacher meeting takes place tomorrow. I think that this will be a very important meeting where we can consider schools' responses to the reopening proposals published on Monday.

I am keen for headteachers to consider collectively, as a locality, what that reopening may look like and bring those ideas to the meeting. Issues that you

may wish to consider include which year groups may start first, which children will be prioritised within that year group, which days they will be in school on, which children will re-start school later once systems are established, and, within that thinking, your own locality logistics, including transport, mealtimes and cleaning, amongst others.

The guidance gives you a good degree of flexibility and is more of an ambition or proposal for reopening, rather than a blueprint. Community based proposals that you develop with other local schools that take into account each other's circumstances, including, for example, vulnerable families with children in different year groups, will be far stronger than single-school proposals. Your priority is to keep your children, your staff and yourself safe whilst trying to manage some sort of reopening. Remember - this is not meant to be anything like the start of a new year in September and will be, in fact, a first attempt to try to reopen schools after a national crisis.

I look forward to hearing your suggestions tomorrow and I'm looking for some guidance from you as to how we can best support you through this very difficult couple of months.

### Cleaning in Schools

We have produced a document that brings together all the guidance and main points on cleaning in schools. The key document is the first one and is extremely clear on what needs to be done and why. The others on the list are also useful.

You can find the document here:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Cleaning-in-Schools-Government-Reference-Documents.docx>

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## The Reopening of School Buildings – Guidance from Zurich

The Northumberland County Council insurers, Zurich, have issued a risk management guidance document on the actions that should take place when the time comes to reopen school buildings. Zurich has requested that this be distributed to all schools and not just those schools that have remained closed throughout the COVID19 crisis: <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Zurich-Building-Reopening-Guidance.pdf>

### Weekly Return Form for Safeguarding and Monitoring

The Week 4 forms have been available in your school 360 account since Monday.

Please can I remind you of the importance of this piece of work in Northumberland, and request that the forms are completed with detail for each individual learner by the deadline of **Thursday (tomorrow) at 5pm.**

We appreciate that this is an additional task to be completed but are very grateful for your ongoing participation in the exercise so that we can target services where they are needed.

### COVID 19 Early Help Hub and Early Help Assessment

A note from Children's Social Care:

'This is just a short note to reassure families and professionals that, although we are having to work slightly differently, the Early Help Hub and Early Help Assessment processes are still in place in Northumberland.

Where the need is clear and is likely to be met by a single agency, Hub referrals are still being processed in the normal way and an Early Help Coordinator will look to broker the most appropriate support for the child, young person or family. This may look a little different, but it is still available.

Early Help Assessments can still be initiated, in line with social distancing, so, rather than arranging a face to face meeting to complete the form, you may want to consider a phone call.

TAF meetings can happen virtually or in stages and the Early Help First Contact team can help you think this through, if necessary.

We have postponed the introduction of the new Early Help Assessment form for now, but we are keen that, as soon as possible, we will be asking professionals to complete the new form rather than the current one in use.

Any questions please call the Hub on 01670 536400

The Early Help Website can be found [here](#).

### Sophie's Book of Poetry

One of our pupils at Blyth Croftway Primary School, Sophie Moan, was recently featured in the Chronicle after she wrote a book of what she called 'quarantine poems'. You can find the full story at: [https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/childs-coronavirus-poem-thanks-nhs-18052910?fbclid=IwAR36NBqUqbA6awl-io\\_CoPH4KSh4HxdAYeALL7hXRuITdaNqnlJlmLZO4c](https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/childs-coronavirus-poem-thanks-nhs-18052910?fbclid=IwAR36NBqUqbA6awl-io_CoPH4KSh4HxdAYeALL7hXRuITdaNqnlJlmLZO4c)

We were asked to share them more widely, which I am really pleased to do, and so we have put the book on our website, which can be accessed from the link below. Please take the time to read them at: <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/sophies-poetry/>.