

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Headteacher HR Meeting, tomorrow, 3.30pm – 5.00pm

As requested at last Thursday's Headteacher Conference Call, we have organised a Headteacher HR Update to take place **tomorrow, Tuesday 19th May, 3.30pm - 5.00pm.**

Apologies for the late notice. It will be a Teams meeting and you have been sent the joining details in a separate email. If you don't get the email and would like to join us, please contact [Deborah Anderson](#).

Christina Ponting, our Schools HR Manager, will lead the meeting and will be joined by other members of the Northumberland HR team.

Middle School Headteachers' Re-opening Working Group Meeting

The Middle School headteachers' working group meeting will still go ahead tomorrow but will be restricted to 30 minutes to enable you to join the HR conference Call.

DfE Updates

Education Secretary's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 16 May

Find below the transcript of the speech given by the Education Secretary on the Government's response to the outbreak of coronavirus and plans to begin returning to school safely.

https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretarys-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-16-may?utm_source=e4467b2b-4d69-471a-a9df-4168aca10082&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak

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

This is updated guidance on the actions that schools will need to take in preparation for the wider reopening of schools on 1 June 2020.

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for educational settings

Guidance for schools and other educational settings about the novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

The information on the symptoms of COVID19 has been updated.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Updated guidance on providing free school meals during the coronavirus outbreak

The DfE has updated its guidance on the provision of free school meals during the coronavirus outbreak to reflect the plans for the wider opening of schools from 1 June, at the earliest.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>

Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak

What childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The guidance has been updated to include a new section clarifying the position on welcoming back all children to early years settings from 1 June, information on when childminders can reopen to more children, and what provision they can currently provide, information on testing for essential workers, and information for parents on temporary changes to the 30 hours free early education entitlements.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

Supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Guidance for education settings and local authorities about children supported through social care, with EHC plans or identified as vulnerable by their school or local authority.

The guidance has been updated to reflect wider plans for more year groups to return to education settings, stating that vulnerable children and young people remain a priority, and are expected to attend if appropriate. The DfE has not changed the groups included in the definition of vulnerable children but have provided further examples of what types of children might be considered to be 'otherwise vulnerable', at the education provider's discretion. The DfE has also included updated links to Public Health England advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

All the documents related to the government's recovery strategy for schools and settings can be found here:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/covidrecovery/>

Key Personnel for School Reopening

You will have noted from the DfE Guidance that four key members of staff should either be in school or available when a school is open:

- at least one person with paediatric first aid training available for work in school
- at least one person with up to date Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training available to work in school

- their special educational needs coordinator available for work, or an alternative staff member who could take on this role
- a caretaker and/or cleaning staff, and, if necessary, at least one office staff member available during the school day?

Please contact the local authority if this may prove to be a problem for you.

The DfE suggests that, if cover is required, arrangements should be made on a weekly rather than daily basis to limit contacts.

Preparing for the wider opening of schools from 1 June - additional questions on Daily Questionnaire 19 May

As Northumberland County Council continues to support schools preparing to open to additional year groups from 1 June onwards, tomorrow's Daily Questionnaire will include additional questions in relation to the number of pupils you expect to receive in the relevant year groups and whether you plan to open to other year groups other than those specified by DfE. In support of this, we will ask you whether any of the additional children you are planning for from 1 June will require Home to School Transport. We are also keen to support schools who are currently unable to access PPE, so there are a number of questions relating to this topic. It's hard to believe that half-term is looming already, so we'll also be asking which schools plan to be open over the bank holiday and half-term break.

Reopening of School Buildings Documents

Further to the document from our insurers, Zurich, that was on one of last week's Updates, see below for links to two further reopening of school buildings documents from Zurich:

School Site Reopening: Property Risk Management Guidance

As the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, educational buildings and facilities will gradually be reopened. Please use this guide to consider the steps needed to safely re-open your building. The guidance will also be of use to those schools who have remained partially open in line with Government guidance.

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Zurich-Guidance-for-reopening-schools.pdf>

Practical Guidance for equipment that is overdue an examination or inspection due to Coronavirus COVID-19

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Zurich-Building-Reopening-Guidance.pdf>

PE Guidance

Active Northumberland, through Franki Clarke, have asked me to distribute this guidance on COVID19: Physical Education Teaching in Schools and Settings that has been produced by Cambridgeshire County Council:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PE-Covid-Guidance-Final-2020.pdf>

School Cyber-Crime Survey (Repeat posting in Update)

The Northumbria Police North East Regional Special Operations Unit is conducting a survey of cyber-crime in schools. This was on the Update about a fortnight ago and, to date, 31 Northumberland schools have completed the survey. Please read the message below from Jonathan Green at the North East Regional Special Operations Unit and, if you can, complete the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/northeastschools>

The survey will be open between 1st May 2020 and closing midnight on 1st June 2020. A PDF version of the survey has been attached so the questions can be viewed before completing, however, the survey should be completed using the link provided above.

There are 81 questions in the survey, but not everyone will require an answer, for example, there is a significant number of questions which will automatically be skipped if you have not been a victim of a cyber-attack or incident in the last 12 months. The survey should not take any longer than 15 minutes to complete, however it will help to shape a regional police response to preparing for and responding to cyber attacks

Cyber-crime is a growing threat across the world to all organisations including schools. The result of a successful cyber-attack on a school can have significant impacts including the loss of work by students and teachers and has previously forced a school to close due to the loss of IT systems.

In November 2019, a pilot cyber exercise was run with a number of schools in the Northumberland area. One of the learning outcomes was that Cyber PROTECT Officers from the North East Regional Special Operations Unit (NERSOU) and three North East police forces (Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria) was to better understand the actual and perceived cyber threat, specifically to schools in the North East and their ability to respond to a cyber incident.

The results of the survey will be used to produce a findings report, highlighting threat areas and potential areas for development. These findings will be used to create future cyber exercises which can be used for schools in the North East and additional material.

If you have any questions about the above, my contact details have been provided below.

Kindest regards

Jonathan Green, Regional Cyber Protect Officer,
North East Regional Special Operations Unit
Mob No: 07970 845103, Tel No: 0191 375 2917,
jonathan.green@durham.pnn.police.uk.