

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

DfE Updates

Celebrating Thank a Teacher Day

Today, the DfE and organisations across the country are saying thank you to teachers, senior leaders, support staff and all those working in education settings who are making a difference to their schools and communities during the coronavirus outbreak. To mark the day, you can send a free thank you card to a colleague.

The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, said: "Thank a Teacher Day gives us all a great opportunity to thank everyone working in education, but I especially wanted to express my respect and admiration for all staff in nurseries, schools and colleges for going above and beyond to help this country tackle coronavirus and continue to support young people."

Free thank you cards can be found here:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/>

To find out more about what the department is doing celebrate, sign up to our teacher mailing list here:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDFE/subscribe/new>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers

Guidance for schools and colleges to support them keeping children safe, including online, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

This has been updated to provide guidance on what schools and colleges should be thinking about as they plan for more children to return from week commencing 1 June - especially around updating the child protection policy, designated safeguarding lead arrangements, protecting vulnerable children and mental health.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for educational settings

Guidance for schools and other educational settings about coronavirus (COVID-19).

A poster within the guidance has been updated.

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

Edenred FSM

There has been a regular issue of parents/carers not receiving eGift Cards from their chosen supermarket once redeeming their eCode from Edenred. Upon investigating this, the majority of issues were the result of parents/carers entering the wrong email address at the checkout on the Free School meals website. In some cases, the email address field was prepopulated with an alternative email addresses using autofill.

To prevent any delays in receiving eGift Cards, could you ask parents/carers to please check that their email has been correctly entered at the online checkout when redeeming eCodes.

Thursday Locality Headteacher Meeting

Just a reminder that this week's Locality Headteacher meeting will begin at **1.30pm tomorrow** and finish at 3pm.

Can you let [Deborah Anderson](#) know who will be representing your locality if it is a change from the original list?

Today's Health & Safety Conference

Many thanks to all the headteachers and senior leaders who attended today's Health and Safety Conference. At one point, we had 109 people in the room, which is fantastic and was a good test of the network. I hope that you found it useful.

The presentation used can be found at:
<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Headteachers-QA-conference-call.pdf>

Chairs/Vice Chairs Briefing

Many thanks to those who attended the Chairs and Vice-Chairs briefing this morning. We had over 80 people in attendance. A list of the questions asked, and the answers provided, is being prepared and will be distributed shortly.

EHCP Annual Reviews and Social Care – note for all SENCos

Children's Social Care are centrally coordinating their contribution towards annual reviews for children and young people with EHCPs who are open to Early Help or have a Social Worker.

Please can you send all annual review invitations to: SCEHCPreviewinvites@northumberland.gov.uk and social care will ensure that, where a child or young person is open to them, an update will be provided for their annual review. In order for this to work effectively, please provide at least four weeks' notice for the update to be provided.

Weekly Safeguarding and Monitoring Returns

Thank you once again for your ongoing attention to this task; this week we had 100% of the Northumberland Schools completing a return for the first time which enables a truly robust analysis of the situation for our vulnerable learners. We know that we are ahead of other areas in achieving this level of scrutiny. The deadline for returns this week is once again tomorrow at 5pm.

We have had some queries about completing the returns for the **Year 11 and Y13** cohorts who would ordinarily be on study leave after the May half term holiday. Schools are required to safeguard pupils for the duration of their time on roll, and we request that you continue to complete the returns until the end of the Summer term to provide assurance that those open to social care, with EHCPs and/or who are otherwise identified as vulnerable by yourselves are being checked.

Forward Planning for Inclusive Education Services

In the [Planning Guide for Primary Schools](#) published this week, Section 6 is concerned with external support for SEND and behaviour.

As you make your plans and prepare for reopening, we are aware that you may be looking for some support from the services usually available to you. Please be assured that we are, like you, working up plans in order that we have an offer available for the second half of the summer term. We will notify you as soon as we can, once we have undertaken the steps required; looking at staff availability and risk assessments in particular.

If you have immediate and individual queries about specific learners with EHCPs who you may be including back into your school or setting for the first time, please contact the service relevant to the primary need, or the educational psychology service:

psychservices@northumberland.gov.uk
asd.behaviour.slcn@northumberland.gov.uk
literacysupport@northumberland.gov.uk
EAL@northumberland.gov.uk
sensorysupport@northumberland.gov.uk
lynne.mckillup@northumberland.gov.uk (for Portage)

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Section 10 of the guidance above draws attention to wellbeing. Please be reminded that this padlet includes a wealth of resources to support wellbeing of staff and pupils, particularly around reopening: https://padlet.com/nies1/return_to_school.