

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

HR Drop-In / Surgery

I am pleased to tell you that we are offering an HR Drop in/ Surgery tomorrow, Friday 22nd May, from 11am - 1pm via Teams. Members of our HR team will be on the call and it will be possible to book in follow up calls, if necessary.

You can join this session at any point between 11am and 1pm tomorrow using this link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YjA3ZjYzODQtZTU2OS00NWJhLTIINWQtZWQzYWYwODI2ZmJi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bb13a9de-8290-42f0-a980-dc3bdfe70f40%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22940c1b3a-21a4-4c5b-9886-1eeb58dd66f1%22%7d

DfE Updates

Help secondary school children continue their education during coronavirus (COVID-19)

Advice for parents and carers supporting the home learning of secondary school children (year 7 to 11).

This is new guidance that has been issued today.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Help primary school children continue their education during coronavirus (COVID-19)

Advice for parents and carers looking after primary school children.

Information has been added regarding returning to school for some children.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Supporting your children's education during coronavirus (COVID-19)

Information, guidance and support for parents and carers of children who are learning at home.

The guidance for secondary school children (above) has been added to this document.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

What parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak

Information for parents and carers about the wider opening of nurseries, schools and colleges, transport, attendance, free school meals and remote education.

Information has been added about the Bank Holiday and half term as well as updated information on 30 hours free childcare, transport and SEND.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Letter to parents: School Transport Arrangements should your child's school re-open on or after Monday 1st June 2020

See below for a copy of the letter that will be sent by the School Transport Manager to the parents of all children that are entitled to school transport.

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-05-21-Ltr-to-Parents-re-School-Transport.pdf>

Revised Admissions Appeals Process

Following the recent postponement of all admission appeal hearings due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak, the government has made regulatory changes to relax some of the current requirements set out in the School Admission Appeals Code 2012.

These changes allow admission authorities to proceed with their admission appeals and, crucially, offer flexibility to manage the appeals in a way that best suits local circumstances. The changes have been made carefully to ensure that all families are supported and that none are disadvantaged by the measures in place to protect public health.

The new regulations came into force on 24 April 2020 and will remain until 31 January 2021. Specifically, the regulations state that we may choose to hear appeals in a format other than face-to-face. Appeal deadlines have been relaxed, to ensure that all appeal submissions are facilitated and heard within reasonable timescales. A legal clerk will remain a necessary part of the hearing process and their presence is important to ensure the appeals are conducted fairly.

After exploring all possible options available within the temporary regulations, we can confirm that all admission appeals coordinated by the Local Authority will be heard on the basis of written representation only. This process will allow for all transition appeals to be heard by September, with hearings being scheduled throughout June, July and August 2020.

We appreciate that extending the appeals into August will require headteachers to be available in order to provide any additional information/questions. It is important that all appeals are heard in time for the start of the new school year. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

If you require further information, please contact Jill Varney (School Admissions and Inclusion Manager) jill.varney@northumberland.gov.uk.

Alternatively you can visit our School Appeals webpage

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.northumberland.gov.uk%2FEducation%2FSchools%2FSchool-admissions-places-appeals-1%2FAppeals.aspx&data=01%7C01%7Csue.aviston%40northumberland.gov.uk%7C5fcb413909b24ab3ebcc08d7fd894465%7Cbb13a9de829042f0a980dc3bdfef70f40%7C0&sdata=uj06leE%2FNiyhC41nVckCU5TXQVdyRwvH7bGSbLZPIkU%3D&reserved=0>

Exceptional Costs associated with coronavirus (Covid-19) for the period from March to July 2020

Schools are reminded that the DfE has published guidance on exceptional costs associated with the Corona virus which is available [here](#). Schools are not expected to make a claim if they anticipate that they will be able to add to their reserves in the 2020/21 financial year.

All schools are asked to make the necessary payments from their existing budgets and record these in line with local finance policies. In June, the DfE will publish further guidance for schools on the process of informing them of any additional costs relating to coronavirus(Covid-19).

Three areas where schools may face additional costs are:

- Increased premises related costs;
- Support for free school meals (FSM) eligible children who are not attending school, where those costs are not covered by the FSM national voucher scheme;
- Additional cleaning

If a school faces other, extraordinary costs to deliver appropriate support to their pupils through this period that are not covered by this list and cannot be met by existing budgets, they should contact DfE.CoronavirusHelpline@education.gov.uk. Other queries should continue to be directed towards central enquiry channels.

Limits of between £25,000 and £75,000 per school have been set depending on the type of school and pupil numbers. Schools should keep records of all expenditure relating to Covid-19, which will be required for local audit arrangements, and the headteacher or school business manager is required to sign off any claims to be submitted.

Schools are advised to review the DfE guidance (reproduced again [here](#) in relation to any potential claims.

Vulnerable Learner Monitoring Forms

This is a reminder to return the Vulnerable Learner Monitoring forms next week if your school is open. The forms will be available in the 360 accounts on Tuesday to take account of the Bank Holiday.

Children NE Survey of School Closure Experiences

The latest research for Children NE on the impact on parents and children's experiences of school closures can be found here:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Parents-and-childrens-experiences-of-school-closures-latest-survey-findings-20-May-2020.pdf>