

# Headteachers' Update

## The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

### Message from Cath McEvoy-Carr

This is just a short message as I will be writing to you more fully next week.

I want to once again express my huge appreciation for everything that you and your staff have done, and will be doing, in order to open your school to a wider group of pupils. I am aware of the difficulties and challenges that you have encountered and wanted to thank you for your determination and professionalism in getting the county to a point where we have had, this week, up to 170 education establishments open, with around 106 of those having the wider group of pupils in them. Furthermore, my understanding is that, next week, we will have virtually every school and academy in the county open to the wider, eligible age groups.

I was hugely impressed with the way that our schools efficiently and successfully managed the closedown almost three months ago and I have been impressed again over the last two weeks as I see the way that children have started to return in a calm and organised manner. Be assured that we will continue to provide you with as much support as you need throughout the rest of this term.

Please feel free to share with me any issues that you may have and also your success stories. I hope that the rest of this term goes well and my best wishes go to those schools that will be opening to more children for the first time next week.

### Face Masks and School Transport

Last night, the DfE updated its guidance to parents ([https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?utm\\_source=3500a74e-692a-4ebf-992b-1458201d9191&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?utm_source=3500a74e-692a-4ebf-992b-1458201d9191&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily)) and included the following paragraph on face masks and school transport:

When deciding whether children wear a face covering on school transport, it is also important to remember:

- school transport is unlike public transport, in that it generally carries the same group of children to and from the same destination each day – this may help reduce the risk of cross infection
- children and staff won't be expected to wear face coverings in school
- it is important that those using face coverings are able to do so properly – guidance on [how to wear and make a cloth face covering](#) is available
- face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 3 or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly

In line with this, the local authority has decided that it is not necessary at this stage to make the wearing of face coverings on home to school transport mandatory. We are advising, however, that children over 3 years can choose to wear a face covering if they wish. We would also reiterate that the most important measures to reduce risk of contamination are:

- a) only travelling when asymptomatic
- b) keeping a 2m distance as much as possible
- c) good hand hygiene

### DfE Updates

#### ***Supporting staff in curriculum planning for a phased return***

NEW GUIDANCE: Examples of supporting staff in curriculum planning.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-staff-in-curriculum-planning-for-a-phased-return>

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### ***Planning a curriculum to teach at school and at home***

NEW GUIDANCE: Deciding what to teach during a phased return.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-a-curriculum-to-teach-at-school-and-at-home>

### ***Identifying and addressing gaps in pupils' understanding***

NEW GUIDANCE: How schools can find out how much pupils know, and do not know, after a long period of remote education due the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/identifying-and-addressing-gaps-in-pupils-understanding>

### ***Pastoral care in the curriculum***

NEW GUIDANCE: How schools can provide additional emotional and pastoral support for pupils when they return to school following the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pastoral-care-in-the-curriculum>

### ***Case studies: remote education practice for schools during coronavirus (COVID-19)***

UPDATED GUIDANCE: Examples of practice for remote education from schools and academies across England.

Four new case studies related to remote education have been added to the guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/case-studies-remote-education-practice-for-schools-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

### ***Examples of teaching practice during coronavirus (COVID-19)***

UPDATED GUIDANCE: An opportunity for schools to learn from each other's emerging practice as they develop their approaches to providing remote education.

Links to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance on planning a curriculum to teach at school and at home have been added.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remote-education-practice-for-schools-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

### **Safe to Learn Edition 41**

This week's edition of the Northumberland schools' safeguarding bulletin, Safe to Learn, can be found at:

[https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Looked after children/Safe-to-Learn-Bulletin-Issue-41-12-06-20.pdf](https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Looked%20after%20children/Safe-to-Learn-Bulletin-Issue-41-12-06-20.pdf)

### **Coronavirus NHS test and trace: employer issues**

Christina Ponting has sent me this article which I think you will find helpful and informative:

[https://www.eversheds-sutherland.com/global/en/what/articles/index.page?ArticleID=en%2Fcoronavirus%2FNHS-test-and-trace&utm\\_source=vuture&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=vuture-emails](https://www.eversheds-sutherland.com/global/en/what/articles/index.page?ArticleID=en%2Fcoronavirus%2FNHS-test-and-trace&utm_source=vuture&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=vuture-emails)