

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Health & Safety Executive (HSE) Alert: Face Masks

The HSE have issued an alert regarding face masks from China. I can confirm that Northumberland County Council has not purchased or distributed this type of mask, but schools may have purchased them independently. Details can be found at:

[Health and Safety Bulletin: HSE Safety Alert - KN95 facemasks](#)

Wider Opening Issues

As discussed at the Locality Headteacher call yesterday afternoon, last Monday, 15th June 2020, the DfE issued this document:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june?utm_source=7e680b25-5b40-4425-90c0-82710f1abe00&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Within the document, there is both a Primary and a Secondary Update: the Primary Guide can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>

Within the Primary Guide, there are key points which we know that headteachers have been considering as part of their planning for wider opening of schools as noted below. We have highlighted the areas that we believe will be of interest for First, Primary and Middle School Head teachers:

4. Inviting back additional pupils, where there is capacity

We know that in some schools, there will be capacity to welcome more children back, in group sizes of no more than 15, before the summer holidays. This may be because take-up amongst eligible children is lower than expected, or because there is additional space still available within the school and available staff to teach and supervise. There is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so.

Primary schools should only welcome back additional children where:

- they have already made provision available for children of critical workers, vulnerable children, and children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 and have ensured as many as possible are able to attend (especially for those who would particularly benefit from being in school because of other disadvantage)*
- they can accommodate more children while still following the approaches set out in the protective measures guidance and their own risk assessment*
- they do not require additional funding, staff or classrooms to do so. If schools have access to space on other school sites (for example, local secondary schools, if that is feasible alongside the secondary offer) they may use this, taking care to ensure children stay in allocated groups. **However, other community buildings (such as village halls) should not be used to expand capacity this term while they remain closed in line with the government's roadmap.***

There was also an update on Critical Workers issued on Tuesday, 16th June 2020 which applies to all schools. We have provided a separate update on this.

DfE Updates

Billion pound Covid catch-up plan to tackle impact of lost teaching time

DfE PRESS RELEASE: New measures to help primary and secondary pupils catch up

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-covid-catch-up-plan-to-tackle-impact-of-lost-teaching-time>

(Further to this, you may want to look at this (below) from the Education Endowment Foundation which was released today:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/national-tutoring-programme/#closeSigungnup>)

Supporting children and young people with SEND as schools and colleges prepare for wider opening

Guidance for settings managing children and young people with complex special educational needs and disability (SEND) during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

UPDATED GUIDANCE: The guidance has been updated to include a number of changes, which are listed within the document under 'Main changes to previous guidance'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance>

What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

NEW GUIDANCE: This is new information for parents and carers about the opening of early years providers, schools and colleges, safety in schools, attendance, transport, school meals and exams.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Safe to Learn Edition 42

This week's children's safeguarding bulletin, Safe to Learn, is available from:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Looked%20after%20children/Safe-to-Learn-Bulletin-Issue-42-19-06-20-2.pdf>

Families Newcastle Gateshead Magazine

The editor of this magazine, which is distributed free to some areas of Northumberland, has asked me if we are prepared to distribute this edition of the magazine to our schools. Having spoken to her, looked at the magazine and talked to our Comms team, I am happy to add the link to it below on the understanding that the local authority is not promoting the magazine or suggesting that schools pay to place adverts in it. You can find it at:

<https://bit.ly/30NpzLG>

LAST CALL: Coronavirus Oral History Children's Book Project

You may recall that, a few weeks ago, I provided a link to a diary of the coronavirus / school closure that one of our pupils, Sophie Moan from Blyth Croftway Academy, has been keeping throughout the school closure period.

A publishing company is now looking to work with Sophie and her family to develop and, eventually, publish her diary.

The publishing company would like to widen the project and include contributions from many other children across Northumberland of all ages. They would like to create an oral history of the period as seen through the eyes of the children living it. They have also nominated a potential author to work with Northumberland schools to produce the book. Their letter to me included points such as:

- our children are living in an unprecedented time in human history where something has quite literally stopped the world
- this period should be recorded for future generations to understand what happened and how it changed the way we live

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- we need to give children the opportunity to capture their place in history
 - it would be a 'not for profit' project where the profit from sales will be ring-fenced for key worker charities and managed by children and young people
 - The approach would be non-academic and non-threatening allowing individuals and groups of children to express their coronavirus journey through any creative means.

I think that it is an interesting idea and I talked about it at the Headteacher meeting last week. I have also now spoken to both the potential author and the publishers before writing this.

If you are interested in your school being involved, the last opportunity to let me know is next Monday, 22nd June. It will not commit you to anything and, at this stage, I will not pass any school details to the publishing company.