

# Covid-19 update from the Education and Skills Team

Professional Advocates for Children in Education, Governor Support, NQTs, Early Years, the Virtual School for Looked after Children and In Year Fair Access

## Welcome Back

We hope you were able to make the most of last week's sunshine and also recharge your batteries. For most schools, this is a long half term and as we all know, a lot can happen between now and the end of July. Let us hope that the universe is kind.

As you know, we have been trying to find out why Derby appears to be in the lowest 25% for attendance of children with a social worker. We think we have the answer – our wonderful data team have discovered a mismatch between the numbers of children with a social worker and the numbers of children school leaders are entering as vulnerable on the DfE attendance portal - thank you Debbie. Sampling a few friendly leaders, we think that a lot of Derby schools may be including children who they themselves categorise as vulnerable (such as those getting early help) but who do not have a social worker assigned and are therefore not included in the DfE's understanding. Pursuing this theory a little further, it may be that poor attendance automatically means that you are describing the child as vulnerable. And so this affects the attendance figures – quod erat demonstrandum.

So can we please test this theory in the attendance returns for the next week or so (at least) – please only enter children who are CP, CiN or LAC in this section and only children with an EHCP in the other section. We will let you know what happens to the data.

In other news, we send positive thoughts to all our secondary schools who are working on the Teacher Assessed Grades for examination cohorts. There may be no accountability to the DfE or Ofsted but we know that parents are waiting with interest.

Stay safe and shout if you need us

Pauline, Jo and the E&S team

8 Jun 2021

## In this issue

Extra Pupil premium funding - deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup> | Page 2

Funding for testing updated for the Summer term | Page 2

Summer Reading Challenge | Page 2

## Contacts:

### Pauline Anderson

Service Director Learning, Inclusion & Skills

Tel: 01332 640358

[pauline.anderson@derby.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.anderson@derby.gov.uk)

### Jo Ward

Head of Service Education & Skills

Tel: 07812 301644

[jo.ward2@derby.gov.uk](mailto:jo.ward2@derby.gov.uk)

### Jayne Hadfield

Governor Support Manager

Tel: 01332 640364

[jayne.hadfield@derby.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.hadfield@derby.gov.uk)

[schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk](http://schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk)

## Extra Pupil premium funding - deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>

Guidance

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) no recourse to public funds: free school meals guidance

Published 1 June 2021

This guidance will assist you to make a claim for additional pupil premium funding if both of the following criteria apply:

- if at any time between 1 April 2020 and 1 October 2020 you had any pupils eligible for free school meals under the temporary extension granted to some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF)
- these pupils were on the school roll on the date of the October census (1 October 2020)

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-no-recourse-to-public-funds-free-school-meals](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-no-recourse-to-public-funds-free-school-meals)

## Funding for testing updated for the Summer term

Guidance

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) National Testing Programme: conditions of grant

Updated 2 June 2021

For testing conducted in the period from 6 March to 1 April, the DfE will make payments to colleges, non-maintained special schools, local authorities, and to academies at the end of May 2021.

For testing conducted in the period 2 April to 23 July 2021, the DfE will make payments to colleges, non-maintained special schools, local authorities, and to academies at the end of August 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-in-schools-and-colleges-grant-funding>

## Summer Reading Challenge 2021

The annual, national Summer Reading Challenge may be a way to support those children that lost teaching time last year due to the pandemic and who are now in their first year at secondary school and may not be up to speed. The idea behind the Challenge is for children to read up to 6 library books (of their choice, and it can be anything even graphic novel) over the summer holiday from school to prevent the reading skills 'dip'



All [libraries in Derby](#), including those which are community managed, will be running the Summer Reading Challenge throughout the summer holidays in 2021. Further information will be available on their website very soon.

The theme is Wild World Heroes. This year's Challenge is a celebration of reading, nature and action for the environment. Developed in partnership with World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the world's leading independent conservation organisation, Wild World Heroes will inspire children to stand up for the future of our planet.

- The Challenge is to read 6 books
- It starts on Saturday 10 July and finishes on Saturday 4 September
- It's free
- Every child who joins will get a free Wild World Heroes poster which they use to keep track of their progress and rate the books they've read
- There are stickers to collect and, depending on progress two other incentives - a paper game and a completer's certificate
- There's an extra challenge if children want it - they can read a further four books. If they succeed, they'll get a Summer Reading Challenge fridge magnet
- There are more reading ideas and fun themed activities will be available on the Summer Reading Challenge website at <https://readingagency.org.uk/>

If any teachers would be interested in knowing more, you can contact Collette Lever (Childrens Lead for Derby Libraries) on the details below. Collette is happy to talk to staff about this and see if there's anything they can do to help.

Collette Levers - Manager: Children, Families and Literacy - Libraries  
Tel 01332 641722 [Collette.Levers@derby.gov.uk](mailto:Collette.Levers@derby.gov.uk)