

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

A delay to the unlocking

We are sure that school leaders feel a mixture of relief and disappointment today – relief that we are not expected to remove all safety controls and disappointment about the implications for some of our plans. One such example could be the Year 6 to Year 7 transition days – leaders haven't had chance to think it all through yet but bubble mixing in early July may be a step too far? We know you are an inventive set of leaders but safety comes first as you know.

We are continuing to plan for the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme but we will also need to give the bubbles some thought. We will be providing more detail on this shortly.

We have been asked to clarify that there will be no food vouchers this coming holiday – the HAF Programme includes food but only for those children who turn up.

Stay safe everyone – numbers of cases are low in Derby but they are rising.

Pauline, Jo and the E&S team

Test Kits – a change in the ordering system

The process is changing on Thursday this week. There will be a new ordering system which replaces the current system. We are expecting updated guidance tomorrow. A delivery schedule for week commencing Monday 14 June will be published shortly. If schools feel that they may run out of test kits before they receive their next scheduled delivery please contact the Department for Education COVID-19 helpline for further support.

A summary of resources and programmes available for different age groups

We think that you will know about all of the information in this collection, but it is useful to have it all brought together in one place. On Wellbeing for Education Recovery (the R used to stand for Return), we have had some additional funding to add to the amount we were allowed to carry forward. We have an upcoming meeting of the WfER working group so we can have a think about how we want to use it. In the meantime, there is some additional guidance which we will have a good look at. In the meantime, the Mental Health Leaders have a remote session tomorrow (March 16th) afternoon – they have been invited but if any school has had a change of personnel and missed the link, please email Jayne or Jo.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-recovery-support>

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