Early Years and Prevention Service

Weekly News Bulletin: 26th August 2020

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**Parental survey: early years and childcare**

**Calling all parents!**

Slough Borough Council is running a short survey about parents’ plans to use early years and childcare provision in September, following the effects of COVID-19. Please complete the survey if you have children who will be in childcare this September. Please also complete the survey if you have children but do not intend to access provision in September.

To access the survey visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KQTGGQ5>. The survey closes on Friday 11th September 2020

For further information about early years and childcare please visit <https://www.slough.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/early-years-and-childcare.aspx> or call the Family Information Service on 01753 476589.

# VCSE health and wellbeing fund applications 2020 to 2021

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England and Improvement, and Public Health England (PHE) are inviting applications from voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to join the VCSE health and wellbeing fund Starting Well.

Projects must:

* have run for at least 3 years
* develop or expand services for children from preconception to 2-and-a-half years old, so they receive the best possible start in life
* be focused on improving health outcomes in black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities or areas of high deprivation (including urban, rural and coastal areas)

The deadline for applications is midday on Friday 30 October 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vcse-health-and-wellbeing-fund-applications-2020-to-2021>

# Update on face coverings in schools

The Department for Education is updating its advice on face coverings in schools.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) published [a new statement](https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-children-and-masks-related-to-covid-19) on the 21 August on when children should wear face coverings. They now advise that “children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area.”

As a result, the government is revising its guidance on face coverings for staff and children in Year 7 or above in England. Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-face-coverings-in-schools?utm_source=7e1c306e-4292-4b69-8a12-16d4458e30de&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily>

**Guidance on the use of face coverings for schools and other education institutions that teach people in Years 7 and above in England.** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education?utm_source=53671f11-6c05-454a-845e-8e2a4463752b&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily>

# Guidance for schools: coronavirus (COVID-19)

What school leaders, teachers and school staff need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Added 'Face coverings in education' guidance in 'Safe working and protective measures' section. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=1d82c57e-3c93-4518-b8f3-49dfb7142afa&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily>

**For parents and carers using out of school**

Information for parents and carers about going back to schools, nurseries and colleges in the autumn term.

We have added new information on school admissions. We have updated the information on travelling to and from nursery, childminders, school and college, education, health and care (EHC) plans, wellbeing, online safety and assessment and exams.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

**For parents and carers using early years provision and school in autumn term**

This guidance is for parents and carers of children at:

•registered nurseries and childminders1

•primary and secondary schools2

•further education colleges3

We have updated this guidance to include:

•new information on school admissions

•updated information on travelling to and from nursery, childminders, school and college

•updated information on education, health and care (EHC) plans, wellbeing and online safety

•updated information about assessment 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/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

**Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**
Protective measures for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made
Protective measures update for autumn term, making clear the position on group sizes and how providers can minimise the risk of children mixing outside their school bubbles, as well as additional content on music and performing arts, educational visits and shared resources.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

**Maintained nursery schools to benefit from £23m in funding**

The Department has confirmed that supplementary funding worth up to £23 million for Maintained Nursery Schools will be continued through the summer term of 2021.

Longer-term arrangements will be set out in the Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review.<https://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/article/maintained-nursery-schools-to-benefit-from-23m-in-funding>

# Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update

Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers.

24 August 2020

Updated the information for early years and childcare providers on letting us know if you are open or closed at this time.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update?utm_source=39222e01-ecdc-4e7f-ba40-0a8e341a2b3a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily#history>

**Funding to help schools boost early language skills**

The Children’s Minister, Vicky Ford, has announced up to £9 million is available for the reception year early language programme, **Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI)** as part of the [National Tutoring Programme](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-catch-up-premium#national-tutoring-programme) in academic year 2020 to 2021. This is to enable schools to support five-year-olds whose spoken language skills may have suffered as a result of the pandemic.

**NELI** is a high-quality, evidence-based, 20-week intervention designed to improve the language skills of nursery and reception age pupils.  A recent trial of the programme found that children made on average three months of additional progress compared to children in the comparison group.

The oral language intervention programme focuses on developing vocabulary knowledge, narrative and active listening through the delivery of one-to-one and small group sessions by a trained staff member. The resources and training for a TA and teacher are included as part of the programme.

All state funded schools with a reception class can apply but places are limited. If places are over-subscribed, schools will be prioritised based on their percentage of free school meals (FSM) eligibility. Schools can register their interest using this [application form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yXfS-grGoU2187O4s0qC-bVBuxp4sexMnn1VDEcTScFUOTRIQllSUzAwTFM4R0dWSjdXSzZHVkRTWC4u).

Please note to register you interest you must **complete your application by 30th October 2020**. Participating schools will receive resources and will be able to access online training from the start of the spring term 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/early-years-support-package-to-help-close-covid-language-gap?utm_source=Foundation+Years&utm_campaign=5d3d969923-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_21_05_01_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8f9a6de061-5d3d969923-321594009&mc_cid=5d3d969923&mc_eid=548d5cf8cf>

**Further information**

Read more about the [NELI programme on the EEF’s website](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/neli/).

For further information, email contact.neli@education.gov.uk.

**EYFS Early Adopter schools**

We are pleased to share with you that six schools in Slough have signed up to participate in the voluntary Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) early adopter year for the academic year 2020/21.

From September 2020, these six early adopter schools will be using the EYFS reforms early adopter framework which includes new learning and development requirements, new early learning goals, educational programmes and assessment and moderation arrangements:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-adopter-schools-eyfs-framework>

Sharon Rose, EYFS Moderation Manager for Slough LA will be in contact with the six schools, early in the autumn term to discuss support and training needs for this forthcoming year.

All other schools, who did not sign up as early adopters, must continue to follow the current EYFS and assess children against the existing early learning goals. For the academic year 20/21, the LA still has a duty to moderate 25% of schools and settings completing the profile (excluding early adopters).

All EYFS providers will be using the new EYFS from September 2021. We will keep you updated on this over the coming year.

## **Back to school: School leaders communication pack**

We have created a communications pack with materials to help you inform and reassure parents who are preparing for their children’s return to school. The pack includes leaflets, images and videos to share with parents on the importance of regular handwashing, advice on travelling to and from school and templates for you to tailor for your school.

These resources are available to download through our [Dropbox](https://showcase.dropbox.com/s/COVID-19-Autumn-term-back-to-school-content-8yzReowxp5v0L47hfhYUN) and the [Public Health England communications resources hub](https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/schools-/resources/).

We will update this pack as and when more content becomes available.

Parents are encouraged to visit [gov.uk/backtoschool](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?utm_source=25%20August%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) for information and practical guidance to help them plan for their children’s return to school. This includes our latest update to the [guidance for parents and carers on what they need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](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/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term?utm_source=25%20August%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19).

## **Schools and further education institutions to receive delivery of personal protective equipment (PPE)**

Schools and further education institutions will shortly receive a delivery of a small amount of personal protective equipment (PPE). This one-off distribution of PPE will contain clinical face masks, aprons, gloves and visors, as well as the hand sanitiser needed to put on and take off PPE. The PPE is being provided free of charge by the Department of Health and Social Care to help build resilience across the education sector to respond to any suspected cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) arising in schools and colleges. Deliveries via Royal Mail will begin on 26 August. Visors will be sent as a separate delivery from the rest of the PPE.

As set out in our [guidance on safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe?utm_source=25%20August%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19), PPE is only needed if a child, young person or other learner becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms in school or college, and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. The symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) home testing kits**

Schools and further education institutions will shortly receive an initial supply of ten home test kits in line with the commitment we made in July. Deliveries via Royal Mail will begin on 26 August. Email notifications will be sent two days before delivery.

You should only offer a home test kit to individuals who have developed symptoms while at school or college (or to their parent or carer if the child is under 18) in the exceptional circumstance that you believe they may have barriers to accessing a test elsewhere, and that giving them a home test kit directly will therefore significantly increase the likelihood of them getting tested. This will help you to take swift action to protect students and staff in the event of a positive test result. The symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

From 1 September, if schools or further education institutions have not received their test kits by the start of their term, they should contact the Test and Trace helpdesk on 119.

## **Educational settings status form to resume on 1 September**

From Tuesday 1 September, schools and colleges will be asked to resume completing a revised daily educational setting status form. We have reviewed your feedback from the previous form and have minimised the amount of information we will be collecting. We will be asking you to provide information on:

|  |
| --- |
| * number of pupils or students in attendance
* number of pupils or students with a social worker or with an education, health and care plan
* number of teacher absences
 |

The information you provide through the form continues to support the Government’s response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

We will provide further instruction and a link to the educational setting status form shortly.

**2 year old & 30 hours Funding**

On the 20th July 2020 the Department for Education announced its position on funding local authorities and childcare providers for the early years free entitlements for the 2020 autumn term. They have confirmed that they will fund childcare at the level they would have done before coronavirus, until the end of the year.

Parents who want to take up a 30 Hours place in the Autumn term must apply before 31st August if they want to be sure they will get a place and theDfE has made some temporary changes to 30 hours policy, so that parents are not disadvantaged during the coronavirus outbreak. Specifically:

* Parents who lose income and fail to meet the minimum income threshold due to the outbreak will be treated as meeting that test.
* Critical workers who exceed the maximum income threshold due to working additional hours in response to the outbreak will also remain eligible.
* We would also ask you to exercise your discretion in accepting the codes of all children who missed the 31 March deadline, provided they meet the eligibility criteria and where there is capacity for providers to take them on. Parents with valid codes should have priority over those without valid codes.

The government has decided that from 1st September 2020 the extensionof the eligibility criteria for a free early education place for disadvantaged two-year olds, will be made permanent.The children of these families will be entitled to a free place if their parents are working and meet similar low-level income requirements to others eligible for the scheme (e.g. a household income of £15,400 a year or less after tax**).**

1. a. That they are excluded from claiming public funds as a consequence of their immigration status, or their lack of immigration status; and
2. b. They are in receipt of support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

**Stock of PPE**

RE PPE provisions Roantree are a register supplier of PPE to local Gov and Care Homes.

If you require PPE items such as Type IIR Face Masks, Nitrile Gloves or Alcohol Hand Sanitiser as they have stock of all mentioned at their site in High Wycombe, available on a next day delivery service.

Please contact Andrew on:

m: 07527 835421

t: 0844 225 0470

e: andrew@roantree.co.uk

w: [www.roantree-promo.co.uk](http://www.roantree-promo.co.uk/)