Children and Families, Early Years Division

Weekly News Bulletin: **31 March 2021**

**Slough Early Years Service**

**Provider Agreement for the Provision of Funded Early Education for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds, April 2021.**

**Changes to this years document include:**

- Increase in funding rates for **2, 3 & 4 year olds**

- Update to the eligibility criteria for 2 year old funding

- Inclusion Grant application form and process (word versions attached)

In order to deliver funded early education places in Slough you are required to sign a copy of the Provider Declaration Form which can be found on the last page of the document or alternatively please use the word version attached. Please sign and return the Provider Declaration Form to [Humza.Khalique@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Humza.Khalique@slough.gov.uk) no later than **Thursday 22nd April 2021.**

If you have any questions about this please contact: **01753 476554.**

## 

**Quality Care and Learning**

**Request for I Talk data**

Please may we remind you all that your spring **I Talk data** needs to be submitted to [earlyyears@slough.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears@slough.gov.uk)

Your data will provide us with essential information for children’s SLCN at a time when there is no national data and when the ongoing pandemic has presented many challenges as well as opportunities.

We do value the time it takes you and your teams to collect and send this over to us, and the SALT team also find this information useful so that they can meet the needs of the Slough children and families within their service delivery.

**Sharon Rose - Interim Senior Advisory Teacher EYFS & EYFS Moderation Manager**

Direct line: 01753 476577   Mobile: 0792 028 7687

@ [sharon.rose@slough.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.rose@slough.gov.uk)

**Karen Loft – Interim Senior EYFS Advisory Teacher**

Direct line 01753 476557 Mobile 07511048377

@       [karen.loft@slough.gov.uk](mailto:karen.loft@slough.gov.uk)



**The COVID Winter Grant Scheme Easter 2021**

The COVID Winter Grant Scheme was made available to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking and lighting), water bills (including sewerage) and other essentials. The aim was to give vulnerable households peace of mind over the Winter months during the pandemic by helping those who need it to have food on the table and other essentials, so every child could be warm and well-fed this winter.

**The DfE has topped up this grant to cover Easter and must be spent by April 16th, hence we are approaching you now.**

With regards to the above scheme, we want to ensure all eligible early years children (funded 2 year olds and those in receipt of EYPP) in the LA receive food vouchers **over the Easter Break.**

Every qualifying child will be eligible for **a £30** payment, and we need your help to ensure that the children and their families in **PVI and childminder settings** are able to receive this.

Children qualifying for this grant in **PVI and childminder settings** are

- those in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium

- those in receipt of 2 year old funding

If you need a list of qualifying children in your setting, please email [Eyfunding@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Eyfunding@slough.gov.uk) where our staff will be happy to help. Alternatively. Please contact Sandra Andrews on 07749 709909 or Balli Grewal on 07523 933028.

We need you to provide vouchers (we suggest supermarket vouchers) in the sum of £30 to each of these children, and we propose to cover the costs of these in advance through a BACS transfer directly into your bank account

**Audit requirements**: we will need

- evidence of spend purchasing the vouchers

- evidence that the child’s family has received the voucher

## 

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) roadmap**

From today, the rules on social contact, business and activities, and travel are changing as part of the coronavirus (COVID-19) roadmap.

Outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the rule of 6) or 2 households will be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside.

Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis and basketball courts, and open-air swimming pools, will be allowed to reopen, and people will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports. All children will be able to access any outdoor childcare and supervised activities. Parent and child groups, for the benefit of children aged under five years, can also take place outdoors with a limit of 15 attendees (children under five years of age and group facilitators do not count towards the attendee limit). Parent and child groups must be organised by a business, a charitable organisation or a public body.

The ‘stay at home’ rule will end, but many restrictions will remain in place.

Please see the [guidance on the COVID-19 response – Spring 2021 (Roadmap)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021?utm_source=29%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) for further information.



## **Primary school pupils and rapid asymptomatic testing**

On advice from Public Health England (PHE), pupils in primary schools and **children in nursery settings are not included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme.**

PHE has advised that there are currently limited public health benefits to testing primary-aged pupils with lateral flow devices (LFD). In addition, primary-aged pupils, particularly younger children, may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

We are advising that primary-aged pupils should only be tested if they are symptomatic, in which case their families should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection?utm_source=25%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) and [book a PCR test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test?utm_source=25%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) for the child.

You may also offer a PCR test kit to the parent or guardian of any primary school child who becomes symptomatic onsite, if they believe that the child faces significant barriers to testing through the usual routes. All schools were sent an initial supply of 10 PCR test kits before the start of the autumn term in 2020. You can replenish these kits when they run out by making an order through the [online portal](https://request-testing.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/?utm_source=25%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19). Rapid LFD tests should not be offered to individuals who develop coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, regardless of their age.

**Updated guidance for after-school clubs and out-of-school settings**

We have updated our [guidance for providers of after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings](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?utm_source=26%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) and our [guidance for parents of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=26%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19).

These updates provide advice on group sizes for outdoor activities from **Monday 29 March** and an update on when educational visits can resume.

We have also updated the section on asymptomatic testing to reflect that all wraparound care providers can now access asymptomatic testing. As critical workers, staff working in wraparound childcare, including those not operating on school sites, are being prioritised for asymptomatic testing through local community testing programmes.

## **Testing and contact tracing in schools and colleges over the Easter holidays**

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school and college, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. Staff and students should:

·       continue to test twice a week at home (all those who are able to)

·       report positive, negative or void results using the [report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result?utm_source=26%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)   
 portal

·       test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning   
 of, the first day back to find and isolate any positive cases

We need to ask schools and further education providers to continue with contact tracing over the Easter holidays.

For the purposes of contact tracing staff, students, parents and carers need only inform the education setting of a positive case if the symptoms develop within 2 days of being in their education setting or they have tested positive with a lateral flow device (LFD) test (and will subsequently need to book a confirmatory PCR test). You are asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in their education setting. If symptoms develop after 2 days, they do not need to inform the setting.

Where pupils, students or staff test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays using an LFD test more than 2 days since being in an education setting, they will only need to inform their education setting if they will still be self-isolating when settings return. Staff, students, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Staff do not need to be available for contact tracing duties beyond the first 6 days of the Easter holidays, at which point all positive cases should be dealt with through NHS Test and Trace. This means that where a school or further education provider ends face-to-face education on Friday 26 March, there will be no need to remain on-call after Thursday 1 April.

Staff responsible for contact tracing are not asked to be on-call at all times and may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email).

Where pupils or students need to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case during the holidays, settings do not need to be informed about this until the first day of the summer term.

## **Free school meals during the Easter holidays**

The government provides support with food and other essentials through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme. This scheme, run by local authorities, has operated successfully since November including over the Christmas and February half term holidays. The scheme ensures that individuals, families and children who require it, including those eligible for free school meals, can receive the support they need.

Further information on the provision of free school meals and the COVID Winter Grant Scheme can be found in our guidance on [providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools?utm_source=26%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

**Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline**

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings and children’s social care.

**Phone:** **0800 046 8687**

**Opening hours:**  
Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm   
Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm

**Easter opening hours:  
Friday 2 April to Monday 5 April from 10am to 4pm**

Please listen carefully to all of the available options before selecting the most appropriate option for your nursery, school, college or university.

## [**Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=5d03cfbc-25d0-4b57-b93f-edfb0c0f3113&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary**:  
What childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

**Change made:**  
Updated guidance on shielding for staff and children, asymptomatic testing, Test and Trace payments for parents, parent and child groups: singing, educational visits and resuming Ofsted visits.

**Time updated**:  
5:15pm, 29 March 2021

## [**Asymptomatic testing: primary and maintained nursery school staff**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-for-staff-in-primary-schools-and-nurseries?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=6d1f9ed2-f355-409b-b18e-ba7bcd70b35b&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary**:  
Information on rapid asymptomatic coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for staff in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools.

**Change made**:  
Updated the guidance to include information on who should be offered testing, how the testing works, testing pupils and what staff with symptoms or a positive test result need to do.

**Time updated:**5:59pm, 24 March 2021

## [**Asymptomatic testing: early years staff in different settings**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asymptomatic-testing-early-years-staff-in-different-settings?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=3d35ce73-b20e-428b-89e6-bfa50a65d14f&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary:**How staff in early years settings can access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

**Change made:**First published.

**Time updated:**  
6:00pm, 24 March 2021

[**Early years and childcare: coronavirus (COVID-19)**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=64908f23-c1a3-49df-b72d-50b928f46d45&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary:**What early years providers need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

**Change made:**Added guidance on ‘Asymptomatic testing: early years staff in different settings’ to the collection.

**Time updated:**6:06pm, 24 March 2021

## [**Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=eab148f0-cfa4-4b64-847a-a46b8278e3a3&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary**:  
What all schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

**Change made:**We have updated the information in the operational guidance on Test and Trace support payments, the expectations for clinically extremely vulnerable pupils and staff, educational visits, wraparound provision and extra-curricular activity, physical activity in schools and inspections. We have also added guidance on year 11 to 13 exam cohort attendance and provision for the 2021 summer term.

**Time updated:**  
11:58am, 26 March 2021

## [**Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**](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?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=6b86597a-1771-43ff-b50b-a51d5b8d451c&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary**:  
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**:  
Changes made to the sections ‘Considering group sizes’, ‘Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing’, ‘Educational visits and trips’, and ‘Staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable’.

**Time updated**:  
11:58am, 26 March 2021



## **Ofsted inspection arrangements for the summer term**

Ofsted has today set out plans for its inspections for the summer term, in advance of an intended full resumption of its programme of routine, graded inspections in September. For the rest of the summer term, inspection activity will mainly be on site.

The plans cover inspections of maintained schools, academies and independent schools, further education and skills providers, early years and initial teacher training.

Further information is available in the [guidance on Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update?utm_source=29%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) and the [announcement on full Ofsted inspections expected from September](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/full-ofsted-inspections-expected-from-september?utm_source=29%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19).

[**Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=243883db-2668-475b-98c4-5b3a35b809f4&utm_content=daily)

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

**Change made:**  
Reworked ‘Current activity’ section throughout to reflect our current plans to return to on-site inspection. Removed out of date content.

**Time updated:**  
9:30am, 29 March 2021

**Updates for Parents**



As many as one in three people with Covid are asymptomatic – meaning they have no symptoms of the virus and could spread it without knowing, but that’s where asymptomatic testing comes in.

**Here are five things you need to know about home testing:**

**1. Home Testing Kits are Easy to Use**

Home testing kits are simple and easy to use – and they give a clear result in just 30 minutes.

A swab is used to take a sample from the nose or throat, that swab is then dipped in a liquid provided with the test which is then applied to a piece of paper embedded in a stick that then gives a reading in 30 minutes. It’s very similar to taking a pregnancy test.

To help the process, we’ve pulled together a [guide](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/testing-for-coronavirus-at-home/covid-19-home-test-step-by-step-guide-adults-and-children#test-a-child) providing clear information on how to use the home testing kits successfully.

For parents who need to help a child take their test, you can read the instructions [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/testing-for-coronavirus-at-home/covid-19-home-test-step-by-step-guide-adults-and-children#test-a-child).

**2. The tests are helping identify individuals with Covid who do not have symptoms**

It is extremely unlikely that people will test positive when they don’t have the virus.

Home testing kits come with Lateral Flow (LFD) tests, which are the same tests taken in schools; the only difference is these tests are being taken without teacher/staff supervision.

Staff or pupils with a positive LFD test result from a home test will need to self-isolate in line with the guidance and arrange a follow up test to confirm the result. This is done by clicking [here](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test).

**3. If you have a Negative PCR Covid-19 follow up test, you do not need to self-isolate**

If a lateral flow test is negative, users do not need to get a second test to confirm this result.

While a negative Covid test means you do not need to self-isolate, you should continue to follow coronavirus rules, including regular hand washing, social distancing and wearing face coverings where required. You can read more about the other measures that have been put in place to drive down cases and break chains of transmission [here](https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/08/lateral-flow-testing-new-rapid-tests-to-detect-covid-19/).

**4. Whole households should take tests, not just pupils**

It’s not just children and young people who should be taking tests – if you are in the same family as a child attending secondary school or college you should test yourself twice a week too. This includes the families and households of school staff.

**5. The tests are easy to get hold of**

You can also order kits to test your household, childcare bubble or support bubble [here](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) if at least one member:

* is a school, nursery or college pupil
* works in a school, nursery, early years provider such as childminders, or college (this includes temporary workers or volunteers)
* works in an [occupation related to a school, nursery, early years provider or college](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff).

A test kit contains seven tests, and you can order one test kit per household each day. A flat share or house share counts as a household.



## [**Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=9b23a478-a6fb-44fd-8f38-e53ad961e300&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary**:  
Guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.

**Change made**:  
Changes made to the sections ‘Bubbles and group sizes’ and ‘Children with health concerns’.

**Time updated**:  
11:58am, 26 March 2021

**A letter to young people from Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education**



I wanted to let you all know how grateful I am for the way you have responded to the huge challenges you have all faced throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Whether this is your first year at school or your final year of college, I know the disruption you have all faced to your education since the pandemic began has been incredibly challenging and has meant completely changing the way you learn - either learning remotely at home or continuing at school or college with fewer of your friends around you and lots of safety measures in place.

Whether you were at home or at school, the disruption last term and throughout last year asked a lot of you and your families. I am filled with admiration for the incredible way you all responded and the resilience you have shown. Not being in school or college with your teachers and friends was a huge sacrifice. Everything you did, with the help of your families and your schools and colleges, and everything you missed out on – time in school, taking exams, seeing friends, playing sport and much more - made such a huge difference to helping us stop the spread of the virus. I want to say a huge thank you to all of you.

Getting all young people back into school and college safely has been my priority throughout the pandemic. I know how vital it is not just for your education but also to spend time with your friends and to feel happy and secure. All our lives have changed a lot in the past year but the challenges that young people have faced have been some of the hardest. I will continue doing everything in my power to make sure that all of you are supported to boost any areas of work you’ve had less time at school to study, get the qualifications you deserve and have the opportunities you need to succeed.

Continuing to follow all the safety measures your schools and colleges have worked hard to put in place, as well as taking a test twice a week, is so important and helps us to stop the virus spreading. The testing that thousands of you have been taking part in at school and college is a vital part of this. I am so grateful to you and all the staff who have supported you to do this. I know your schools and colleges have worked incredibly hard to prepare you to test yourself at home.

As most of you at secondary school and college move to testing yourself regularly at home, it’s vital that you continue to test and report online twice a week through the Easter holidays and after you return to school. Home testing twice a week for you and everyone you live with makes a huge difference and means you are playing a really important role in helping us move back to a more normal way of life. Your school or college will continue to support you and make sure you have tests. You and your family can also find out more about home testing [here.](https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/03/24/five-things-you-need-to-know-about-home-testing/)

I was delighted to see the enthusiasm with which so many of you returned to school at the beginning of March and I am sure you have had a wonderful few weeks catching up with your friends and teachers. It was fantastic to meet pupils delighted to return to school on my visits to schools like Arden Academy and Bedford Free School and to see so many more of your reunions on social media. I hope that the new term will be just as enjoyable and successful for all of you.

**Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education**