

Children and Families, Early Years Division Weekly News Bulletin: 14 July 2021



Department
for Education

[Evidence summary: COVID-19 – children, young people and education settings](#)

DfE paper summarising evidence in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly around children, young people and education settings, from Step 4 of the government's roadmap.

Updated: 07 July 2021

[‘Evidence summary: COVID-19 for July 2021’ publication.](#)

[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.](#)

We have added COVID-19: Action for Out-of-school Settings guidance which applies from Step 4. This guidance removes restrictions such as keeping children in consistent groups (bubbles), wearing face coverings in classrooms, communal areas and in community settings, limits on parental attendance, and restrictions on group sizes for residential visits. It also includes information about updating your outbreak management plan and what to do when an individual in your setting tests positive for COVID-19. From 16 August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact.

Updated: 07 July 2021

[Protective measures for holiday and after-school clubs, and other out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(applies until Step 4\)](#)
[COVID-19 Actions for out of school settings](#)

[Reported coronavirus \(COVID-19\) notifications by registered early years and childcare settings](#)

This data is published fortnightly. It gives the number of registered early years and childcare providers reporting one or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) by week.

Added data for weeks beginning 14 and 21 June; showing a further increase in reported cases since May 2021.

Updated: 12 July 2021

[Reported coronavirus notifications](#)



Department
for Education

Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Attendance in education settings since Monday 23 March 2020 and early years settings since Thursday 16 April 2020.

Added 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 8 July 2021'.

Updated: 13 July 2021

Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 8 July 2021

A summary of attendance in education settings up to 1 July 2021 and early years settings up to 8 July 2021.

Updated: 13 July 2021

Early years settings

The early years local authority survey has moved to fortnightly. We estimate 875,000 children are currently attending early years childcare settings on Thursday 8 July 2021 – about 54% of the number of children who usually attend childcare in term time. Due to many children attending EY settings on a part-time basis, we would not expect all children to be in attendance on the day of the data collection. On a typical day in the Summer term we expect attendance to be 1,154,000, due to different and part-time patterns of childcare during the week. We estimate that the 875,000 children currently attending early years settings is approximately 76% of the usual daily level.

DfE attendance data collection

Thank you for sending your attendance data to the Early Years Team in Slough throughout the pandemic.

The last date for submitting your data this term will be **Thursday 22nd July 2021**.

Data collection **will not resume** it in the autumn unless there are significant changes to guidance around attendance at early years settings in relation to COVID-19.



Department for Education

Department for Education Guidance

Our guidance to support education providers, local authorities and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed using the links below:

- [Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Guidance for schools](#)
- [Guidance for further and higher education providers](#)
- [Guidance for local authority children's services](#)
- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)

Department for Education COVID-19 helpline

The Department for Education COVID-19 helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about 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

[The reading framework: teaching the foundations of literacy](#)

Guidance for schools to meet existing expectations for teaching early reading

Published: 10 July 2021

This guidance:

- focuses on the early stages of teaching reading and the contribution of talk, stories and systematic synthetic phonics (SSP)
- supports primary school leaders to evaluate their teaching of early reading and best practice for improving early reading, especially in Reception and Year 1, and older pupils who have not yet mastered the foundations of reading
- helps schools to meet existing expectations for teaching early reading, as set out in:
 - the [national curriculum programmes of study](#)
 - the [statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](#)
 - Ofsted's [education inspection framework](#)

This document has been developed through the contributions of experts from across the literacy sector and school leaders. It is based on the valued experience and knowledge of teachers, reading and language experts, educational organisations, English Hubs council members, and our 34 English Hubs. Schools considering purchasing a new SSP programme can find more information at [choosing a phonics programme](#).

Further support for schools is available through our [English Hubs Programme](#), including information on £5 million additional funding for the purchase of SSP programmes.

South: [New Wave English Hub](#)
[The Reading Framework](#)



Department for Education

Schools Admission Code

Statutory guidance that schools must follow when carrying out duties relating to school admissions. Added 'Schools admission code 2021', 'Fair access protocols' and 'Admissions priority for children adopted from state care outside of England'.

Updated: 13 July 2021

[School admissions code September 2021](#)

Childminder agencies: registration and suitability

Guidance for childminder agencies on registering with Ofsted, including the process, fees and requirements. It sets out the legal background and the extent of our regulatory powers.

Added 'Known to Ofsted' form for agencies to use to contact Ofsted for information when considering an application for registration from a childminder.

Updated: 12 July 2021

['Known to Ofsted' form for childminder agencies
Guidance](#)

Early Years Team

Important information in relation to Funded Early Education

Entering start dates for children on Funded Early Education tasks in the Early Years Portal: It is important to enter the correct start date for the child receiving funding- remember that settling in sessions do not apply.

You cannot enter a default date of the first day of term unless the child actually starts to receive funding on this date.

If you stagger your intake then you must also stagger the start dates for the children. Please be aware that a child could receive some weeks of funding with another provider while waiting for a start date with you. This will affect the number of weeks funding you get for the term. This often happens when children receive FEE from childminders while waiting to start with their new provider.

There must be transparency between providers and parents to limit double funding. If this were to happen, the recipient of the funding will be the provider that has all relevant paperwork completed, signed and dated e.g. parent declaration.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss further

Balli Grewal

01753-476575 Mobile: 07523933028

Sandra Andrews

01753-875719 Mobile: 07749709909

Safeguarding

Keeping children safe in education: statutory guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) has published updated Keeping children safe in education 2021 statutory guidance for schools and colleges in England. This guidance comes into force on 1 September 2021 and replaces Keeping children safe in education 2020 (updated January 2021). Substantive changes, outlined in Annexe G, cover areas including: child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment; safeguarding information for all staff; the management of safeguarding; safer recruitment; and allegations made against or concerns raised in relation to teachers. Separately, the DfE has published a summary of the responses to its consultation on proposed changes to the statutory guidance for schools and colleges in England. NSPCC Learning has published a CASPAR briefing summarising key points in the updated guidance

Read the guidance: [Keeping children safe in education](#)

Read the consultation responses: [Keeping children safe in education: proposed revisions 2021](#)

Read the CASPAR briefing: [CASPAR briefing: Keeping children safe in education 2021](#)

FGM awareness

We are all aware that FGM practice intensifies during the summer months and as schools we also have the mandatory duty to report any incidents of FGM.

With summer is fast approaching, we are keen to get messages out to young girls around FGM and honour based/force marriage. Though we are in the midst of a pandemic and international travel is restricted, it is still important that we raise the profile of these unsafe and harmful practices as many incidents also occur in the UK.

I have attached awareness posters which you can display across the school to raise awareness and there are lots of resources you can access to start the conversation in your school about FGM ahead of the summer break.



Lockdown Poster.SLOUGH.pdf



Slough Poster FGM.pdf

- Oxford Against Cutting (OAC) is committed to working to help prevent female genital mutilation (FGM) and honour-based abuse (HBA) of girls and women living in the Thames Valley. There are some fantastic resources, including short video clips, teaching resources including lesson plans. Click here for more resources. [OAC \(oxfordagainstcutting.org\)](https://www.oxfordagainstcutting.org)
- The Slough Safeguarding Partnership have a range of leaflets in different languages you can access here: [Slough Safeguarding Children Partnership - Female Genital Mutilation \(sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk\)](https://www.sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk)
- The PHSE association has accredited FGM lesson plans which you can access here: [Education — Freedom Charity | 0845 607 0133](#)

continued

- Promote the NSPCC's FGM helpline on **0800 028 3550** or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk | Further information can be found here: [Protecting children from female genital mutilation \(FGM\) | NSPCC Learning](#)
- FORWARD has played a key role in placing FGM on the national and global agenda as a violation of human rights and women's issues highlighting the links between FGM and other harmful practices [Female genital mutilation | FORWARD \(forwarduk.org.uk\)](#)
- Barnardo's are working with the National FGM Centre in partnership with the Local Government Association (LGA). The centre provides specialist social work intervention to local authorities, alongside training for professionals across the UK [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\) | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)
- The multi-agency statutory guidance was updated July 2020 and can be found here: [HM Government - Multi-agency statutory guidance on Female Genital Mutilation \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- Free e-learning course from virtual College can be accessed here to raise the profile among the workforce [Free FGM Training Online | Recognising & Preventing FGM Free Course | Virtual College \(virtual-college.co.uk\)](#)

Honour based abuse

Ahead of the summer break, we are keen to get messages out to young people around honour based/force marriage. Though we are in the midst of a pandemic and international travel is restricted, it is still important that we raise the profile as many forced marriages and honour based abuse take place in this country.

I have attached an awareness leaflet which you can display across the school to raise awareness and there are lots of resources you can access to start the conversation in your school about HBA and forced marriage ahead of the summer break.



Karma_Nirvana_Leaflet-V10-PRINT.pdf

- Childline offer support and child friendly advice for young people here: [Forced marriage | Childline](#) | 0800 1111
- Karma Nirvana offer confidential support to both victims and professionals | 0800 5999 247 | info@karmanirvana.org.uk | [Karma Nirvana – Supporting victims of honour-based abuse and forced marriage](#)
- The PHSE association has accredited lesson plans on forced marriage which you can access here: [Education — Freedom Charity | 0845 607 0133](#)
- Contact the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) if you're trying to stop a forced marriage or you need help leaving a marriage you've been forced into. [Forced marriage - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) | email fmu@fcdo.gov.uk | call 020 7008 0151 or from overseas: +44 (0)20 7008 0151 | out of hours: 020 7008 1500 (ask for the Global Response Centre)
- Free e-learning course from virtual College can be accessed here to raise the profile among your workforce: [Forced Marriage Awareness - Free Course | Virtual College \(virtual-college.co.uk\)](#)

Health and wellbeing



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Jo Churchill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
Prevention, Public Health and Primary



Vicky Ford MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State for Children Families

New food safety resource

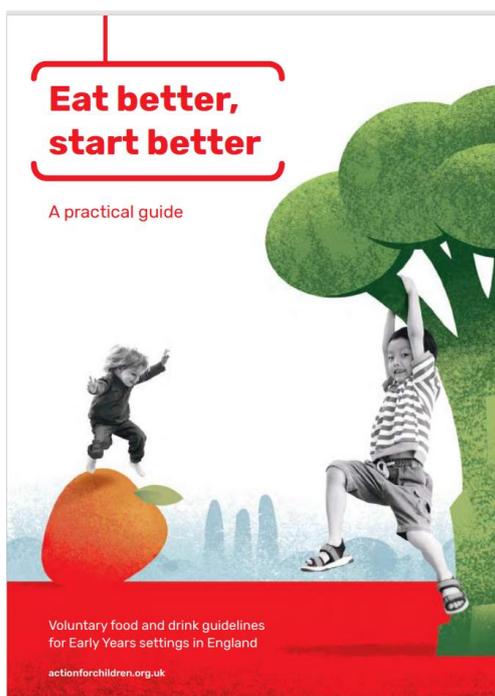
Tragically, a child dies in the UK every month from choking and hundreds more require hospital treatment. The EYFS framework requires providers to take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. Early years practitioners must be confident that those responsible for preparing and handling food in their setting are competent to do so.

To support this, DfE have developed a new [food safety resource](#) on the '[Help for Early Years Providers](#)' service with advice on safe weaning, foods to avoid, how to prepare food safely to avoid choking and preparing food hygienically.

Vicky Ford, Minister for Children and Families and Jo Churchill, Minister for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care, have released a letter that pulls together some important advice and guidance on support for children's health and wellbeing which we urge all early years providers to be aware of.



2021_07_08_DfE_DHSC_EY_Health_Wellbeing_Letter.pdf



Finger food without the FEAR 
 Breath, chew, swallow – seems simple enough, but babies and toddlers are still learning which comes first! That's why it's so easy for food to get stuck.
 Things to remember:

Round food is not our friend

- Avoid round food - cut grapes, cherry tomatoes, cherries etc in half lengthways and ideally in quarters
- If you get the fruit bags with grapes when out – ask for a knife to go with it

Think long and thin
 Anything smaller than a two pence piece can get stuck

- Narrow batons are best for vegetables like cucumber, carrots or celery
- Hot dogs are big culprits so cut them in half and lengthways (really narrow)
- Lumps of meat or cheese need to be cut as narrow as you can

Save the hard stuff for later

- Things like boiled sweets, ice cubes or cough sweets are too big and slippery for young children so avoid them
- Nuts, popcorn and other similar snacks are best kept until children are a bit older and more competent eaters

Take it easy, tiger

- It's never too soon to start teaching children to sit still when they eat. You're likely to sound like a stuck record, but it's worth the effort as really reduces the risk
- Remind children to chew what they have in their mouths before putting more in ... little, by little

Child Accident Prevention Trust - Registered charity no. 1053549 - www.capt.org.uk

Thousands more children to benefit from free breakfast clubs

National School Breakfast Programme to support children in disadvantaged areas over next two years
Published: 09 July 2021

[Read the press release](#)



[Breakfast clubs programme 2021-2023](#)

We know that it is important for pupils to start the day with a nutritious breakfast.

The evidence shows that providing a healthy school breakfast at the start of the school day can contribute to improved readiness to learn, increased concentration, and improved wellbeing and behaviour.

Between March 2018 and July 2021, the National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP) for schools in disadvantaged areas has supported up to 2,450 schools to establish and develop breakfast clubs, and to sustain them in the longer term.

We are now investing up to £24 million in a new two year contract to continue our support for school breakfast provision until July 2023.

All participating schools will receive a 100% subsidy for Breakfast Club Provision until 31st March 2022. The subsidy will then be reduced to 75%, allowing schools to contribute 25% from other funding streams. All pupils in participating schools are to be offered breakfast supplies at no cost to them or their parents.

School eligibility

As per the arrangements in the previous NSBP, schools will be eligible for the new programme if they have 50% or more pupils in bands A-F of the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI). This will include state-funded primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units. We will also be prioritising the Department of Education's [12 opportunity areas](#).

Joining the scheme

The supplier for this contract, Family Action, will be sourcing and delivering breakfast food products to participating schools. Family Action have extensive experience in supporting schools and families and were partners in the delivery of the previous NSBP. They have begun recruiting schools, and taking orders, in preparation for the autumn term. Schools may express an interest in joining the scheme by [contacting Family Action directly](#).

Types of food

All breakfast products will meet the [school food standards](#) and schools will be able to choose and order the food products and quantities they need for their pupils.

Making the news and events:

NSPCC CASPAR: Coronavirus: guidance for Step 4

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated the guidance for schools in England following the Prime Minister's announcement that the country is expected to move on to Step 4 of the Government's roadmap from 19 July 2021. The update includes operational guidance including: removing restrictions such as keeping children in consistent groups (bubbles); wearing face coverings in classrooms and communal areas and on dedicated school transport; and what to do when an individual tests positive for COVID-19. The guidance states that from 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact. Updated guidance for early years settings, special schools and other specialist settings has also been published. Separately, the DfE has published a blog outlining the key changes for parents, pupils, teachers and students.

Read the press release: [Covid restrictions in education settings to end at Step 4](#)

Read the guidance: [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

[Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Read the blog: [Parents, pupils, teachers and students. Find out what step 4 of the covid roadmap means for you](#)

NSPCC CASPAR: Education recovery

The Department for Education (DfE) has published non-statutory guidance for schools in England on how to prioritise elements within the curriculum to help education recovery. The guidance includes information on relationships, sex and health education and suggests that schools should consider prioritising topics such as mental health, respectful relationships and being safe. It also states that content about safety should focus on risks that may have increased during the pandemic, such as online exploitation, abuse and grooming.

Read the news story: [Teaching a broad and balanced curriculum for education recovery](#)

Read the guidance: [Teaching a broad and balanced curriculum for education recovery \(PDF\)](#)

The DfE's reading framework: All teachers need to know

All the main points from the DfE's new reading framework, including advice on reading corners, book displays and sandpits

Catherine Lough
Yesterday at 12:44pm

Share this    



Read the full article here

[The DfE's new reading framework: What teachers need to know | Tes](#)

Local information:

Slough Vaccination Schedule

High vaccine uptake is vital to the success of the vaccine programme in helping us defeat COVID-19. Without high uptake across our communities, our lives, and those of our loved ones, will remain at high risk from this devastating virus... Please help by sharing the attached with your families, teams and communities. Thank you



Slough vaccination schedule week 12th july.pdf

Lateral Flow Testing in Slough

The summer timetable is now out for the community asymptomatic testing sites and collection of rapid Lateral Flow testing kits. It would be good if this could be promoted to extended Early Years communities as asymptomatic testing every 3-4 days is still being encouraged throughout the summer:



Lateral flow testing.pdf



mobile sites for lateral flow testing.pdf



testing sites addresses and opening times.pdf

Slough Council for Voluntary Service (Slough CVS)

Slough Council for Voluntary Service (Slough CVS) has been granted an award from the Thriving Communities Fund to deliver a project designed to help the people of Slough to recover from COVID-19, through social prescribing. Social prescribing enables health care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services to support their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Slough CVS will organise initiatives to help connect clients/carers with low to moderate levels of depression, anxiety, stress, isolation, and loneliness, to focus their energy on a positive activity. Activities will include Arts & Crafts and Cultural & Social Community activities. This will help overcome barriers to mental wellbeing, and help clients build their confidence to access more face-to-face activities, providing opportunities to meet others and move them from the fear of 'isolation' to 'integration', feeling less lonely and being a part of the community.

Social prescribers based at GP practices across Slough will be able to refer patients/carers to activities and residents can also self-refer by e-mailing wellbeingteam@sloughcvs.org.uk. If you are working with a client/parent that would benefit from this support, please do encourage them to self-refer or contact Kinder Bassi at SCVS on 01753 303428 (Mon-Fri 8am-4pm)



Art Classes Group.png



Thriving Communities Project Main Poster.png



Connect Programme .png

Parents and carers

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#)

Information for parents and carers about attending schools, nurseries and colleges in 2021. Published new guidance including updates on testing, face coverings, contact tracing, isolating and bubbles, which come into force from Step 4 of the Roadmap. The current guidance (dated May 2021) remains in place until Step 4.
Updated: 8 July 2021

[Read full guidance here](#)

The key messages from this guidance are:

- nationally, education and childcare settings are open, and attendance is mandatory (for schools) and strongly encouraged (at childminders, nurseries and colleges)
- the [Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health](#) has made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only
- over the summer, staff, secondary pupils and college students should continue to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open
- there is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to test over the summer period
- secondary schools and colleges have been asked to prepare for on-site testing at the beginning of the autumn term
- from Step 4 your nursery, school or college will no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will still be identified via NHS Test and Trace
- from Step 4, your child does not need to remain in a consistent group ('bubble')
- from Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas

[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 community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.

We have added Out-of-school settings: COVID-19 guidance for parents and carers which applies from Step 4. This guidance outlines the removal of restrictions in these settings, such as keeping children in consistent groups (bubbles), wearing face coverings in classrooms and communal areas and in community settings, limits on parental attendance, and restrictions on group sizes for residential visits.
Updated: 8 July 2021

[Read full guidance here](#)

£10 million scheme to help pupils boost core skills

Programmes targeted at pupils starting primary and secondary school, who will take part in focused English and maths catch-up sessions
Published: 09 July 2021

[Read the press release Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Education catch up for your child](#)



DfE 10 July 2021

Use our guide to plan ways you can safely **rediscover summer** with your family; including reading, creativity, nature and heritage. [Read more here](#)

- The campaign highlights a range of activities and opportunities for families, children and young people such as exploring a local museum or discovering a National Cycling Network Trail
- Families encouraged to get back out and Rediscover Summer after a year of missed opportunities

[The government's Rediscover Summer campaign](#) has launched to help inspire families to get out and about safely and make the most out of summer.

Whether it's visiting the places that inspired your favourite books, trying out a new sport or even learning how to code, the campaign will show families that there are plenty of new activities to try wherever they live. Throughout the duration of the campaign, each week of the summer holidays will promote a separate theme from sport and creativity to nature and heritage.

A Save The Children survey has shown how the pandemic has negatively impacted the social lives of our children and young people, with a third of children playing alone more, and a quarter having played less sport since the pandemic, raising concerns about the impact on their well-being.

To help combat this, the government is encouraging families to Rediscover Summer and enjoy the range of leisure activities on offer after a year of missed opportunities.

Tourism Minister Nigel Huddleston said:

Our young people deserve a summer filled with exciting and enriching activities after everything they've missed out on as we've fought to control the virus. We want families to get out there and enjoy what's on offer, and our Rediscover Summer campaign will help them do that. The summer has been given the best possible start with a terrific England run in the Euros.

Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford said:

Rediscover Summer will provide families with some fantastic opportunities to get back to the activities they may have missed out on over the last year. Our Summer Home Activities list will offer up more free ideas and options for children to stay active and have fun, and our expanded Holiday Activities and Food programme will also help families access opportunities both indoors and outdoors. Parents have worked so hard to keep their children entertained so I hope they can take advantage of these to use the holidays creatively, helping to boost children's wellbeing after what has been a really difficult time.

Launching today, a [gov.uk page features](#) a taste of the activities available over the summer to inspire parents and families and help young people get involved in their local communities. The activities suggested range from the Summer Reading Challenge to Chance to Shine cricket sessions and from trips to the Imperial War Museum to Mercury Theatre's Family sing-a-long. No matter where you live, the campaign will show there is something for everyone.

[Visit the Rediscover Summer guide](#)

Working closely with our partners, including Arts Council England, Sport England and National Museums Greenwich to help promote the breadth of summer activities on offer, this campaign will help get young people out and about this summer and make a difference in their communities.

This campaign will also be supported by the Summer Home Activities List due to be published online in the coming weeks which will inspire activities for families to do in and around their home this summer.

The themes for each week of the campaign are as follows. Visit [our guide](#) to find out more.

- Week 1: Reading [26 July - 1 Aug] From reading your favourite books to visiting the places that inspired them, where will reading take you this summer?
- Week 2: Creativity [2 - 8 Aug] From coding to music lessons, there are lots of ways you can get creative over the summer holidays, both at home and outside.
- Week 3: Sport [9 - 15 Aug] Which sports and activities will you enjoy this summer? Why not try something new together?
- Week 4: Nature [16 - 22 Aug] This summer is a perfect time to get back to nature. Plan your perfect walking route to explore the outdoors or use your imagination to create a lifeform that could survive in four environments outside this world
- Week 5: Heritage [23 - 29 Aug] Explore fun and engaging activities and ways to explore your local heritage, this summer.
- Week 6: Community [30 Aug - 5 Sept] Use the summer holidays to find out about your local community through volunteering or taking part in fun local activities.

The Department for Education's upcoming Summer Home Activities List will help parents identify enriching activities for their children to undertake over the school holidays and will be published on gov.uk for free use and download soon.

The expanded Holiday Activities and Food Programme, backed by up to £220 million, will continue to provide thousands of children enriching activities and nutritious food in every local authority in England this summer. Find out more about HAF [here](#).

The [Active Recovery Hub](#) includes hundreds of activities for children and young people of all ages, and can be accessed by parents over summer to find activities in their local area. *The Department for Education has also published COVID-19 guidance for parents and carers using out-of-school settings for their children over the summer [here](#), to help support them enjoy these activities safely.

