



**Dear Colleagues,**

To keep you all up-to-date with the latest information on Coronavirus (COVID-19), and help protect yourself and others, we will be issuing regular updates.

The dedicated COVID-19 information area on the HES portal contains all communications and updates from the Local Authority and central government relating to COVID-19. All early years providers and schools can access this area by using the following link: <http://hes.org.uk/covid19>.

**The items in this update are intended for all education providers - where the guidance is only relevant to a particular phase of education or type of provider, this is indicated.**

### **Opening over the Summer Holidays**

We are still awaiting guidance from the DfE regarding whether schools will be asked to remain open over the summer holidays for vulnerable children and children of critical workers, but the DfE have confirmed that the Government's ambition is that providers running clubs and activities for children over the summer holiday will be able to open, if the science allows, and on this basis, they **do not** intend to ask schools to open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over this period.

A number of schools have contacted the Local Authority seeking advice whether summer holiday programmes run by external providers can operate. The latest guidance from the DfE states;

*The Government's ambition is that all providers running holiday clubs and activities for children over the summer holiday will be able to open, if the science allows. The time anticipated for holiday clubs to open is no earlier than 4<sup>th</sup> July, as part of Step 3 of the Government's recovery strategy. Guidance will be provided to the sector soon on how to implement the protective measures necessary to open safely, and to parents on how to minimise the spread of the virus if they choose to attend.*

Therefore, if schools are engaging with providers in order to plan for any summer activities on their school sites, they must ensure any relevant risk assessments are completed, and conform with any Covid-19 Secure guidance.

## **Catch up Programmes (Schools)**

The DfE have [announced](#) new measures to help primary and secondary pupils catch up and tackle the impact of lost teaching time. The measures include £650 million which will be shared across state primary and secondary schools over the 2020/21 academic year - head teachers will decide how the money is spent, but the government expects this to be spent on small group tuition for whoever needs it.

The Education Endowment Foundation has also published a [guide](#) to help school leaders and staff decide how to use this funding to best support their pupils and their outcomes. It provides advice on support strategies schools can use in deciding how to support pupils, including intervention programmes, extra teaching capacity, access to technology or summer schools.

Separately, a National Tutoring Programme, worth £350 million, will increase access to high-quality tuition for the most disadvantaged young people over the 2020/21 academic year. Further information from the DfE on both of these measures is expected shortly.

## **Critical Workers**

The DfE have updated their [guidance](#) on who can access schools or educational settings following the wider opening this month, and how primary schools can use flexibility to welcome back additional pupils this term, where they have capacity.

### **The definition of critical workers remains unchanged.**

Any setting that cannot achieve these increases at any point because:

- there are not enough classrooms or spaces available in the setting
- they do not have enough available teachers or staff to supervise the groups

have flexibility, but must first focus on continuing to provide places for priority groups (vulnerable children and the children of critical workers).

## **Free School Meals – Summer Holiday (Schools)**

As I am sure you are aware, the DfE have announced that they will be extending the national FSM Voucher Scheme to cover the summer holiday period. The DfE have said families of children eligible for free school meals would be provided with a voucher to cover the full six week summer holiday, which schools will be able to order before the end of term.



Vouchers will be provided via the existing system run by Edenred, which will run until the end of the summer term. Schools will be asked to put in orders for support over the summer holiday before the start of the holidays, and guidance for schools will follow shortly.

The HES Catering Service have taken the decision to close their service during the summer holidays, so schools are advised to utilise the national FSM Voucher Scheme to support eligible families with meals over the summer holidays.

Updated guidance from the DfE is expected shortly, but schools should refer to the existing guidance for how to access the National FSM Voucher Scheme. The exact details of the eligibility is not yet known, and whether children currently in years 6 and 11 will be eligible, but the Local Authority is working closely with the Voluntary and Community Sector to identify what further support may be available to families.

### **Early Years Transition (Schools)**

This week, the Early Years Admissions team will be sending head teachers the details (children names, pre-school name and contact number) of children due to start in their Reception classes in September 2020.

Schools are asked to contact the child's Early Years setting directly to request the completed 'All About Me' transition forms (template attached to this Update). The child's key person (or alternative appropriate member of staff) at the Early Years setting is asked to complete and return the documents to the school, and schools and settings are asked to agree between themselves which methods are most suitable to transfer the forms, for example; electronically password protected, recorded delivery by post, hand delivered/posted, phone call with notes etc.

Please note that the 'All About Me' document has previously been sent to all Havering Early Years providers, and Managers are aware that schools will be contacting them to ask for the information. Deadlines for schools to receive the information should be agreed with each individual setting, but should ideally be no later than July 5<sup>th</sup> 2020. This will give the key person time to gather the information and complete the forms, as well as giving school staff time to consider any additional arrangements that may be required, prior to the end of the term.

It should be acknowledged that that some schools and settings will have already worked closely together, and that all pertinent information about each new child (due to start in September 2020), has already been transferred. If this is the case, and you do not require any further information from the setting, there is no need to request the form to be completed and returned. Where suitable transition information has not been passed on, please follow the Local Authority guidance on transitioning from pre-school to Reception class.



## **Lap-top, iPads (coming soon) and Internet Connectivity Procurement Options from LGfL(Schools)**

There have been recent requests from Havering schools to ensure that children have access to devices and connectivity, particularly those that are disadvantaged. In response to this, the HES School Improvement Service and Educational Computing Centre explored available procurement routes for schools. This coincided with an announcement from LGfL, and as a result, we would like to signpost schools to the [‘LGfL Bridge The Divide’](#) offer.

LGfL has tendered for up to 2 million devices including Chromebooks, Winbooks and iPads. More information about the initiative (#BridgeTheDivide) can be found at <https://national.lgfl.net/smartbuy/devices> along with a short introductory [video](#). Prices of Chromebooks and Winbooks start at around £125 for an entry level device and around £165 for an intermediate device (although prices may fluctuate due to factors such as the exchange rate). These prices represent a significant saving over current market prices. By the end of June 2020, LGfL hope to have bulk procured 4G and Wi-Fi dongles and expect advantageous pricing to be made available to schools.

These low cost devices are designed to ‘Bridge the Divide’ for LAC or disadvantaged children to use at home as personal online devices. Please be aware of the cost implications of buying any ‘Apps’ from the relevant app stores.

### Google Chromebooks

If interested in procuring ‘Chromebooks’ and having signed up for the ‘G Suite’ online learning platform, it is recommended that a Google device licence is purchased at the same time as the device. The ECC (or third party support company) can then enrol them into a school’s Google G Suite as a managed device (the ECC will provide any Google domain information if requested). They can be used in school and at home – please note the screen size on offer is 11.6”.

### Microsoft Winbook

If a school supported by the ECC is interested in procuring the ‘Winbook’ option and wishes to make use of Microsoft Apps like Office contact Gary Bedding on 01708 432515 option 2 or [Gary.Bedding@onesource.co.uk](mailto:Gary.Bedding@onesource.co.uk) for more details on the Microsoft subscriptions that may already be available. These devices may not be suitable for building or imaging to a school’s network or as replacements for laptops that a school is currently considering. However, LGfL have suggested that a higher specification laptop will soon be added – these would need to be tested before procuring large quantities to ensure that they are suitable for a school’s network.



### Apple iPads (coming soon)

If procuring the iPad option please ensure that an MDM (Mobile Device Management) tool like 'Meraki' is in place to enable management of the devices and deployment apps. The other option may include asking a parent or carer to setup an 'Apple ID' for use by their child (costs may apply in Apple app store).

### **Further Guidance**

All of the Department for Education's [Coronavirus guidance for educational settings can be found on GOV.UK](#). This includes specific guidance on implementing protective measures, answers to frequently asked questions for schools and guidance on issues such as remote education, providing free school meals and attendance, among other things.

### *DfE coronavirus helpline*

Telephone 0800 046 8687

If you have a query about Coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to schools and other educational establishments, and children's social care, in England contact the DfE helpline.

Lines are open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm at weekends.

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the helpline.