



To All Headteachers

Children, Young People and Education

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Dear Colleague

After yesterday's long letter, you will be relieved that we have a short offering for you today.

National Voucher Scheme Guidance

The national voucher scheme guidance has been added to the FSM gov page:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools#national-voucher-scheme>

Following recent news events, there has also been some slight changes to the FSM guidance which gives schools greater freedoms over the method they choose:

Schools have the freedom to decide on the best approach for their pupils and have a range of options which include lunch parcels, local vouchers or the Department for Education's national voucher scheme.

During the period from 4 January to 16 January, if parents have received an inadequate lunch parcel that does not meet the standard expected, the school will be able to claim retrospectively for a locally arranged voucher. They cannot also claim the lunch parcel top up funding for this period.

Clinical waste

The Standard Operating Procedure issued to schools by PHE/DHSC regarding undertaking lateral flow testing in schools states that used testing kits and PPE need to be disposed of as clinical waste. KCC's Client Services have negotiated a clinical waste disposal service which is available for all schools to buy in to. They have today contacted the business managers in schools with secondary aged pupils who are their existing

customers to inform them of the offer. Any school that has not been contacted that wants to know more can contact the service by emailing Clientservices@kent.gov.uk

We understand that further information on in-school testing in primary schools will be issued by the DfE this week.

Vaccination priority for early years and school staff

We are currently lobbying government to prioritise access to the COVID-19 vaccine by staff in early years provision and schools. Government's current policy is these services will be the last to close and the first to open. Therefore, KCC's Cabinet Member for Education and Skills has written to Gavin Williamson urging that the staff in these settings are prioritised for vaccination.

I appreciate there is still a lot going on, but I hope that school life feels a little more manageable for you all this week. Take care.

Yours sincerely



David Adams
Interim Director of Education