



To All Headteachers

Children, Young People and Education

County Hall
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Dear Colleague

Once again, I have only a handful of items to update you on today.

Property compliance checks for school estates

We appreciate everyone is under significant pressure currently, but it is essential that school buildings continue to be safe and statutorily compliant. KCC's TFM contractors provide essential services to ensure that all maintained schools' buildings comply with statutory regulations and remain safe environments. Please continue to provide unhindered access to TFM staff and their approved sub-contractors throughout this lockdown period. To facilitate this, please can you also ensure any changes to contact details of key holders are communicated to the TFM Helpdesks.

Schools should continue to carry out all statutory compliance activities that would usually be conducted by the school. These include but are not limited to:

- a. Fire Risk Assessments and resultant works
- b. Weekly Fire Alarm Test
- c. Monthly Emergency light testing
- d. All water management tasks including the following.
 - i. Flushing low use outlets
 - ii. Monthly temperature monitoring.
 - iii. Clean and disinfection of shower heads quarterly.
 - iv. Cold Water Main Storage Tank Inspection and Temperature Monitoring.
 - v. Servicing of Thermostatic Mixer Valves (TMV's)

If you are struggling to complete mandatory compliance activities, we may be able to help. Please log it with your area's TFM Helpdesk who will consult with KCC to determine what assistance can be provided. The contact details for each area are as follows:

Skanska - covering schools in the following districts - Thanet, Dover, Canterbury and Swale. Helpdesk - 0800 901 2464 - Eastkenthelpdesk@skanska.co.uk

Skanska - covering schools in the following districts - Dartford and Gravesham, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks. Helpdesk - 0800 901 2464 – westkenthelpdesk@skanska.co.uk

Amey - covering schools in the following districts - Tonbridge and Malling, Maidstone, Ashford, Shepway. Helpdesk - 01622 624003 - midkentschools@amey.co.uk

Update on COVID-19 testing for school staff

The DfE have confirmed that primary and maintained nursery schools should expect to receive a delivery of home testing kits between the 18 and 22 January. These are for staff testing, which is expected to start during the week commencing 25 January. Primary schools with attached early years settings will receive sufficient test kits to test both their primary and early years staff. We anticipate further support and guidance on how to use the tests following shortly.

If your school has not received a delivery by close on 22 January, or you have missing or damaged items, you will need to complete the contact form, which can be accessed here [contact form](#).

Food parcels

Yesterday the DfE provided additional guidance on meeting the required standards for the provision of food parcels. The Department for Education (DfE) has worked with the Lead Association for Catering in Education and Public Health England to provide [helpful guidance on putting together food parcels](#).

The DfE will also support any school in discussions with contractors to ensure that all eligible children can receive a high-quality free school meal.

Digital support for home learning

DfE has announced they are providing a further 300,000 devices to schools, and that this will include provision for Years 12 and 13. However, we remain concerned that access to devices and the internet will hinder the learning opportunities of some pupils. In order to target any resources we can access, and lobby for more, we will need data from you to evidence our concerns. We aim to issue a short questionnaire to all schools to gain a clearer understanding of pupils' outstanding needs regarding access to hardware and the internet to facilitate home learning. We hope you will be able to help us by arranging for this to be completed.

Yours sincerely



David Adams
Interim Director of Education