



All Headteachers
By Email

**Children, Young People and
Education**

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Ask for: Matt Dunkley
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Date: 10 June 2020

Dear Headteacher,

Since schools began to open more widely from Monday 1st June, we have seen a steady increase in the numbers of Primary pupils attending, with the latest peak being in excess of 20,000 primary pupils attending their school. We expect this to continue to increase as more schools' plans come into operation. Clearly, at a National level the plans for admitting further pupils has changed, with the Secretary of State announcing yesterday that the Government were no longer expecting all primary pupils to be in school for the final month of term, and the beginning of September being the date now suggested. We are looking at a variety of scenarios as to how all pupils might receive direct education in school. We will continue to engage with school leaders as this planning progresses. Thank you as always for your efforts responding to this challenge.

I have some more of information and updates to share with you.

In Friday's letter, there was an update regarding PPE and I want to elaborate on some of the points raised. It still stands that the majority of items required by schools are either in stock or are expected to be delivered imminently, so schools should continue to order through KCS or other existing supply chains. However, the reason KCS are experiencing times when stock is not immediately available is, at least in part, due to some Schools, Early Years providers and Trusts ordering what would appear to be excessive volumes. As an example, one early years provider has ordered 10 rolls of aprons. These rolls each contain at least 100 aprons and we cannot see why one provider alone would require 1000 aprons. Therefore, I have two requests; firstly can you please consider carefully the supplies you need and order only when required rather than place bulk orders? Secondly, if following a bulk purchase, you realise you may have too much of a specific item of PPE, please can you let your AEO know if you would be willing to share some of that stock with other local schools? By working together, we can ensure undue pressure is not placed on the supply chain in the future.

A separate note will be sent to all PSCN and PD Special schools regarding their ability to access appropriate PPE.

In respect of transition, as Year 6 pupils return to school for their last term in Primary, schools will need to consider what information is shared with the secondary school and ensure it is done in a timely manner. The same applies for any children who are leaving your school for any other reason.

Your usual processes should be followed in relation to the sharing of key information, including safeguarding records, which should be up to date and accurate and include all relevant information from recent months. In addition, it is important that parents and carers are asked to advise on any changes regarding their child's welfare, health and wellbeing that the receiving school should be aware of.

Many children, including those with EHCPs, will have already been risk assessed as to the suitability of them attending school during Covid-19 restrictions. Any risk assessment you have completed should also be shared with the receiving school as soon as is practicable to help them prepare for the child's attendance as fully as possible.

For more guidance, please see the Section 6, Safeguarding, of the Return to School guidance and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers> or speak to the Education Safeguarding Service <https://www.kelsi.org.uk/child-protection-and-safeguarding/safeguarding-contacts>.

Finally, I am aware that schools across the County are implementing in different ways the Government's plans for readmitting pupils. A small number are still to admit pupils, others are progressively reintroducing relevant year groups. During the last couple of weeks we have seen a number of information packs that schools have shared with parents in preparation for pupils' return and I feel it would be useful, where appropriate, for us to share examples more widely. The following link will take you to an information pack that was issued to parents by Istead Rise PS in North Kent. As I have said, we are aware that all schools will have made their own decisions about how they are reopening, therefore my reason for sharing this document is only to highlight the format and presentation of the information contained within it.

https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/109732/Istead-Rise-Returning-to-School-Parent-Handbook.pdf

I hope you will find this useful and if you feel you have documents that may be of interest to the wider schools community do let your AEO or SIA know and we can build a library of useful information, that can be accessed via KELSIS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Dunkley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matt Dunkley CBE
Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education