

School Improvement Service

Daily Covid Support briefing
Tuesday 26 January 2021

Good evening everyone

Please find below all relevant updates to date.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.

Schools do not need to provide lunch parcels or vouchers during the February half-term. There is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#). The £170 million scheme is being run by local authorities in England, with at least 80% of the funding earmarked to support with food and essential utility costs and will cover the period to the end of March 2021. It will allow local authorities to directly help the hardest-hit families and individuals over the winter period. Local authorities have local ties and knowledge, making them best placed to identify and help those children and families most in need.

CONTACT TRACING OVER THE HALF TERM

Schools continue to play an important role in contact tracing for those pupils and staff who continue to attend their school. We recognise the challenges of this responsibility during holidays. Given limited numbers on-site, we expect contact tracing activity to be reduced but this remains vitally important in the continued national effort to limit the spread of the virus.

Where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, schools are not required to take any action. Staff, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. However, where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the

school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

Staff responsible for contact tracing are not asked to be on-call at all times and may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email).

Where schools can do so, staff assuming responsibility for contact tracing during half-term can be offered equivalent time off at an agreed point during term time.

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and the PHE Advice Service will remain open over the February half-term to answer any questions you have about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings and children's social care.

TESTING OVER THE HALF TERM

Where schools are regularly testing staff, this does not need to take place during the holidays and can resume after the half-term.

ONLINE EVENT: GET HELP WITH REMOTE EDUCATION AND CATCH-UP PROVISION

Join the DfE sector-led, online event from **4pm on Wednesday 27 January**. The event will provide:

- examples of the best approaches to remote education
- advice on delivering the curriculum virtually, featuring Oak National Academy
- top tips on maintaining wellbeing, motivation and keeping pupils safe

Recordings of all sessions will be available on the day, so you can watch at a time that suits you. You can [find the full agenda on the Get help with remote education website](#). A link to access the event will be available on the same page on 26 January.

A further panel event will take place on Wednesday 3 February, with registrations opening on 27 January.

OFSTED'S SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ON REMOTE LEARNING

OFSTED REMOTE EDUCATION RESEARCH

SAFER INTERNET DAY- 9 FEBRUARY

Click on the link to view further resources to use this as an opportunity to raise awareness [Safer Internet Day Resources](#)

Safer internet day is on 9 February. Please find links below to utilise this time to promote safe internet use.

MODEL REMOTE LEARNING POLICY IS AVAILABLE

Please click on the link to view our NYCC model school policy for remote learning which your school has the option to adopt. <https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/covid-19-school-improvement> Please remember that information about your school's remote learning offer **needs to be displayed on your website by today.**

REMOTE EDUCATION FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOLS AND FURTHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS

The DfE have produced a framework for internally monitoring remote support. Please find the link here [Remote Monitoring Framework](#)

North Yorkshire School Improvement have produced monitoring tools for both leaders and governors, which will be circulated to your schools via your SEAs through their school improvement work with you over this term.

FURTHER GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY THE DfE:

[CLICK HERE FOR AN UPDATE ON THE CONSULTATION ON HOW GCSES & A LEVEL GRADES SHOULD BE AWARDED](#)

REMINDER TO COMPLETE YOUR DAILY STATUS FORM

Please ensure that the DfE daily status form is completed. Please provide your data by 2pm each working day.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT REMOTE LEARNING

[7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home.pdf \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

[7 top tips to support reading at home – for Key Stage 2.pdf \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

[Supporting home learning routines - Planning the day.pdf \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

EDITABLE HOME LOAN AGREEMENT

<https://schoolsict.co.uk/support/news-support/digital-device-and-router-loan-agreement>