

**COVID-19 End of Term Transition Guidance Information for all phases**

**16th May 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you all for your continued hard work and endeavours keeping up to date with the ever-changing landscape with COVID-19. As you will be aware the Delta variant is having a considerable impact on how quickly the remaining restrictions can be lifted. The Prime Minister announced the final stage on June 21st would be delayed until July 19th.

This decision has prompted **all** Local Authorities to re-evaluate end of term arrangements in order to minimise the risk of infection whilst the vaccination programme continues to be rolled out at pace.

This guidance has been produced to support schools and educational settings through this next challenging period. Decisions have been made to ensure consistency of approach across the Authority, to take into account the national guidance and bring us in line with our neighbouring authorities.

**Principles**

* To have a consistent approach across the authority.
* Not to mix bubbles, as specified by P.H.E and national guidance.
* To further facilitate joint working between Early Years settings, Primary and Secondary schools.

In adhering to these principles, we are recommending that all schools and settings should implement the following, in line with national guidance.

**Transition days and sessions: all phases.**

* **All schools and settings should now hold these events virtually**. There will be no set common induction day. These events can take point at any point now, until the end of term.
* Virtual question and answer sessions can still take place between schools in the form of Teams or equivalent.
* All websites should be updated with any relevant information to aid transition, this could include virtual tours, curriculum, timetables and homework expectations. Schools in localities can meet and decide on what information is relevant and needed for their communities.
* If live transition events are held remotely, then feeder schools and settings will need to liaise with each other to ensure logistics and feasibility. This will cover all phases:

**Early Years Settings Liaise with Schools**

**Infant Schools Junior Schools**

**Year 6 Primary Year 7 Secondary**

**Secondary Post 16**

* Schools and settings may need to adapt their arrangements for the start of term in September to ensure that all children and young people to have the opportunity to settle into their new school or setting.
* Summer camps could be a good opportunity to bridge the transition gap.
* All schools and settings may wish to consider a transition project that children and young people can participate in.
* End of year assessment data should still be shared between receiving schools and settings.

**Bubbles**

* **You should keep bubbles for the remainder of this half term. The children are used to the routine and organisation.**

**Sports Day**

* This is a long-standing tradition in many schools. You may wish to consider having bubble sports days. This will enable you to safely manage the number of adults and social distancing.

**Hands, face, space**

* It is recommended to keep to the hand washing and hygiene routines already established.

**Residential Visits**

* These can go ahead, as long as thorough risk assessments from the school and venue are in place. You will need to consider travel arrangements, particularly as you should not be mixing bubbles.

**LFT and PCR tests**

* It is good practice to continue these twice weekly and encourage everyone to keep this up. Please use your communication methods to promote to parents and carers how to obtain these.

**End of Term Performances**

* These are commonplace in most secondary and primary schools. These can still go ahead but you may choose to record them and send to parents and carers. Outside productions may also be considered. Again, it is about safely managing the adults on site and preventing the spread of infection.

**End of term visits**

* These may take place as long as risk assessment, travel arrangements and all necessary precautions, including keeping to bubbles, are taken.

**Please note further guidance will be circulated regarding other events such as Fetes, Proms and End of Year Leavers events.**

**Good hygiene will remain key to preventing further outbreaks. Here are the cleaning reminders from Public Health England**

**Areas to Prioritise for Disinfection**

High-touch Surfaces

• Door and window handles • Touch screen devices

• Desks • Shared Telephones

• Sports equipment • Remote controls

• Toys • Light switches

• Playgrounds • Stair banisters

• Intercom buttons • Countertops

• Computer keyboards • Bathroom surfaces

• Printers, photocopiers, scanners etc • Toilets and taps

While there is a significant reduction in virus survival on surfaces after 48 hours, viruses may survive on some surfaces up to 72 hours. We recommend a two-stage physical clean - i.e. use of detergent followed by disinfectant, or a good clean using a combined product. Fogging can be used for cleaning but must be in addition to physical clean.

**Cleaning Products**

Utilise one of the following methods:

* A combined detergent/disinfectant solution giving 1000 ppm (0.1%) of available chlorine.
* A separate detergent followed by a disinfectant solution giving 1000 ppm (0.1%) available chlorine e.g: Milton disinfectant/tablets.
* An alternative sanitiser effective against enveloped viruses and tested to BS EN 14476.

See Picture:



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**Ventilation**

Ensure adequate ventilation and increase airflow where possible to all occupied spaces on visits. To help with this, consider opening windows and doors – where it is safe to do so.

Please remember you know your school and you know your community. The advice given is to enable you to make informed choices. There have been further variant outbreaks, in order to keep these under control, you may feel a more cautious and measured approach is appropriate. Please ensure you communicate to parents and carers and encourage them to follow whatever measures your school puts in place.

Below is some suggested correspondence from PHE regarding holidays and travel.

**This guidance will be reviewed in line with updates to national guidance.**