



# STOCKPORT

## METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Our COVID-19 Response: Issue 69, Week beg: 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2021

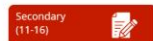
#### Stockport SEND Local Offer

Welcome to Stockport's Local Offer. This website has brought together a range of support services and information for children and young people aged 0-25, with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Some of the services are part of Stockport Family - such as the Autism Team, SEN, Aiming High and the Children With Disabilities Social Care team. You will also find information and advice from other specialist health/therapy services, all working together to support children and families with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

We have grouped services and information into a number of key buttons: Click the buttons below to find more information about each service.

**FEEDBACK:** If you can't find what you are looking for or would like to tell us what you think about our Local Offer, please click [here](#) to go to our feedback page.



All the latest information, advice and resources for parents/ carers and young people can be found by visiting the Stockport SEND Local Offer. [www.sensupportstockport.uk](http://www.sensupportstockport.uk)

**Please be aware that in the first instance this newsletter is written for leaders in early years settings, schools and colleges.**

**We understand that the information is useful for LA colleagues; families and young people so attempt to write in a way that is accessible by all.**

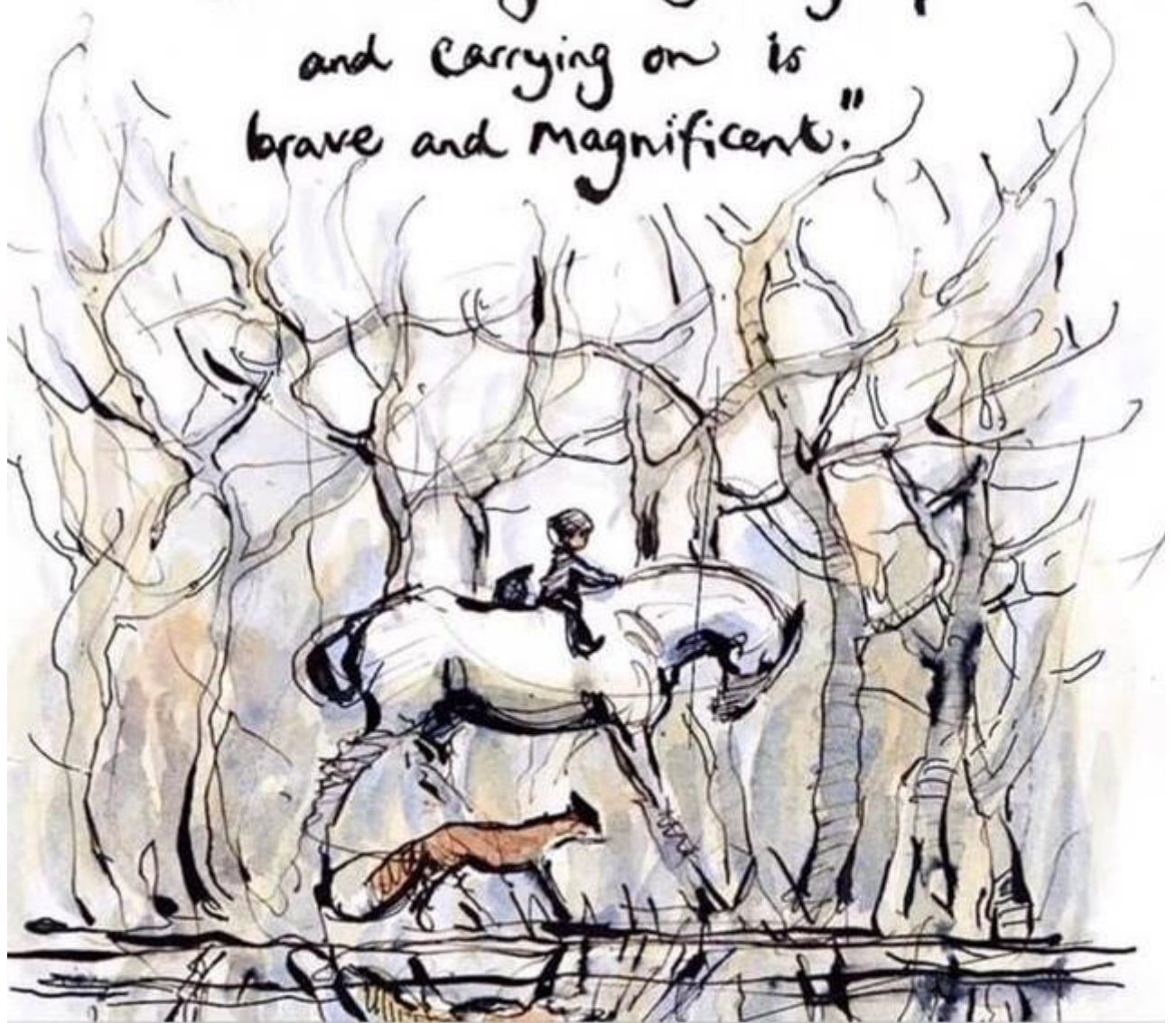
#### Information in today's newsletter includes:

- FSM and the use of the Covid Winter Grant
- Accessing digital devices
- SHAPES (for primary schools)
- Attendance
- What to do if you can't contact a family during lockdown
- Early Years
- Attendance of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Lateral Flow Testing
- DfE

#### Attachments:

- Lateral Flow Appendix for primary schools
- SHAPES
- Statement for parents – FSM during half term

"Sometimes", said the horse.  
"Sometimes what?" asked the boy.  
"Sometimes just getting up  
and carrying on is  
brave and magnificent."



@charliemackesy.

**Thank you.**

We continue to be extremely proud of the work completed across Stockport, since the start of term to enable so many early years settings, schools and colleges to be open for children and young people.

## Latest information – Free School Meals

### Families accessing food over February Half Term

Stockport Council will once again be issuing vouchers to families eligible for benefit related free school meals who attend Stockport schools.

These vouchers will be issued electronically to parents email address. The vouchers will be issued to coincide with February half term. The vouchers will be issued using the PayPoint system which can be redeemed at local stores and in major supermarkets supporting PayPoint and can be used for food, fuel and other winter essentials consistent with the remit of the DWP Covid Winter Package Grant from which these vouchers are being funded.

Any families without an email address will receive an Aldi voucher in the post.

The value of the vouchers will be £20 per eligible child. The additional £5 per eligible child reflects the closure of schools as part of the current national lockdown and the increased costs such as household fuel and heating as a result.

Families who have difficulty accessing their vouchers, including for reasons of clinical vulnerability, should be directed to the **Coronavirus helpline 0161 217 6046**. Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm, by calling **0161 217 6046**.

You may have families who need support due to having English as a second language. We will be directing non-English speakers in the first instance to their schools with queries about the voucher. We would be grateful, where you have existing relationships with the Ethnic Diversity Services that you access this service to support families.

If you have any queries or need additional support please contact **Tanya.cross@stockport.gov.uk**

The Coronavirus helpline can provide advice to families in need of additional financial support, which can also be access via the Council website: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/money-advice-and-support-coronavirus>

A statement has been provided for schools to include in their usual communication routes to support parents.

### The use of the Covid Winter Package Grant (after half-term)

The scope of the Covid Winter Package Grant also allows for the provision of support to families not in receipt of means-tested Free School Meals. Thank you to all schools who provided data last term to help establish the level of need outside of the means- tested FSM cohort. This data has allowed for a borough-wide budget to be identified and we will be working with schools in the coming weeks to agree a mechanism to allocate the funds.

If you have any questions or comments on the process please direct these to **Tanya.cross@stockport.gov.uk**



## Accessing more digital devices

- Firstly schools should use up their DfE allocation via the portal and challenge this if it's not enough. Please email [lee.emery@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:lee.emery@stockport.gov.uk) if you experience any problems so she can collate a collective picture of any challenges with this.
- GMCA has opened up their GM Technology Fund again. This offers new kit as well as pre-loved devices directly to schools. Schools need to complete a short online survey to be considered. For the survey schools will need to give an indication of how many pupils are still experiencing a barrier to learning due to lack of a suitable device or data in total and a breakdown of how this splits across year groups. Schools can just request new kit only, or also request refurbished kit too. Schools have the option to state the type of equipment you would like – ie: laptops, chrome books, dongles or other data package etc. There is no guarantee of what schools might get as it will be dependent on how much money they can raise.  
<https://www.gmconsult.org/digital/gm-tech-fund-school-requirements/>
- In addition, Stockport's Digital Inclusion Alliance, DigiKnow, is also launching a new device recycling scheme with donations from local businesses. If schools know of anyone who would like to purchase a low cost, pre-loved device they can contact the Stockport Charity Community Computers 0161 476 2777. Alternatively, the new Digital Lending Library is also due to receive refurbished devices through the scheme. Schools can contact the digital library via this helpline number - 07537 127095 to have a discussion about what their school needs, or they can signpost families to contact the library directly. The Digital Lending Library can also help if a family requires support with digital skills and online safety.

Please direct any questions to [lee.emery@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:lee.emery@stockport.gov.uk)

## Update from SHAPES for primary schools

To support families to be physically active, SHAPES have designed the next **home challenge** to align with next week's children's mental health week.

We would very much appreciate it if schools would notify your families about this using the attached materials. We would like to congratulate Broadstone Hall who currently have 16 families who have signed up.

Information about the **Shooting Stars** football programme, training opportunities and resources are available on [www.girlsfootballinschools.org](http://www.girlsfootballinschools.org). Please use these links to book onto these events by the 5<sup>th</sup> February.

9.2.21	10:30 -	<a href="https://youthsporttrust.force.com/YST_EventRedirectUpdate?id=a4O3z000000rt93">https://youthsporttrust.force.com/YST_EventRedirectUpdate?id=a4O3z000000rt93</a>
11.2.21	12:00pm	
16.2.21		

9.2.21	3:30 -	<a href="https://youthsporttrust.force.com/YST_EventRedirectUpdate?id=a4O3z000000rtJR">https://youthsporttrust.force.com/YST_EventRedirectUpdate?id=a4O3z000000rtJR</a>
11.2.21	5:00pm	
16.2.21		

If you have any questions please contact: [jude.riddings@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:jude.riddings@stockport.gov.uk)

Stockport MBC [www.stockport.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/coronavirus) <https://twitter.com/StockportMBC>

Safeguarding Children Board <https://twitter.com/StockportSCP>

Start Well <https://www.facebook.com/StartWellStockport/>

# Attendance

## **Recording attendance during the current lockdown**

- The offences related to school absence have been temporarily disapplied as they were in the first lockdown.
- All pupils who are not eligible to be in school should be marked as Code X.
- As vulnerable children are still expected to attend school full time, they should not be marked as Code X if they are not in school, except if they are shielding, self-isolating or quarantining in line with public health guidance.
- If the parent of a vulnerable child wishes their child to be absent from school, they should let the school know and the DfE expects schools to record the absence using Code C (leave of absence authorised by the school), unless another authorised absence code is more applicable.
- This applies to vulnerable children whose parents have chosen not to take up a place at all during this lockdown period – they should also be marked as Code C.

## **Engagement with remote learning**

Schools should keep a record of and monitor all pupils' engagement with remote education, but this does not need to be recorded in the attendance register as there is no legal obligation on parents to ensure their child engages with remote learning. DfE guidance states that schools should 'have systems for checking, daily, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and work with families to rapidly identify effective solutions where engagement is a concern.' Whilst this is the school's responsibility, it may be appropriate to seek support from other services if they are already involved with the child or family, i.e. School Age Plus Worker, Social Worker etc.

Please note that non-engagement with remote education would not in itself be a reason to report a child as 'missing from school'. The process that schools should follow if they are unable to make contact with a family during this lockdown period, either when following up non-engagement with remote learning or through regular welfare calls, is included as an attachment to this newsletter.

## **Reporting attendance to the DfE - educational setting status form**

The DfE has requested that schools complete the educational setting status form and return via the DfE portal by 2:00 pm each day. This data is intended to help the government monitor the impact of coronavirus on settings and focus support more effectively. The data is also accessed by the LA to monitor attendance of vulnerable groups, so we would be grateful if schools could complete and return the form daily to the DfE if not already doing so. More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-complete-the-educational-setting-status-form>

For any queries, please contact:

Emma Storer, Operational Lead – Education Access & Welfare Services

[emma.storer@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:emma.storer@stockport.gov.uk)

07891 949448

## WHAT TO DO IF SCHOOL IS UNABLE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH FAMILIES DURING LOCKDOWN

**This process should be used when a school is unable to make contact with parents, either when making welfare calls home or following up non-engagement with remote learning**

1. If parents do not answer the call, continue to try to make contact at different times of the day using all available contact details. If no response is received, use emergency contact information and request that they ask the parent to contact school.
2. If there is an allocated Social Worker, School Age Plus worker, or other lead professional involved, contact them and ask that they communicate with parents and update the school.
3. In all other cases, schools should consider the following to help assess any potential risk:
  - **Are you aware of any underlying health conditions that may put the parent and/or the child at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19? This may include asthma, COPD, heart condition, diabetes etc. A list of conditions can be found here:**  
[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/advice-for-people-at-high-risk](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/advice-for-people-at-high-risk)
  - **Does the child live with a lone parent or are there other adults in the household? If the child lives with one parent/adult, are you satisfied the child is old enough or has the capacity to seek help if necessary, for example if the parent/adult is seriously ill?**
  - **Has the child logged onto any school platforms or submitted work by email that may provide assurance they are well?**
  - **Does the child have siblings attending school elsewhere? If yes, make enquiries with that school and ascertain if they have had recent contact or have any concerns.**
  - **Have you heard information from other sources that has caused concern?**
    - If answers to the above give cause for concern and indicate that the child may be at risk, contact the Multi- Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH)- (0161) 217-6028 or 6024, out of hours (0161) 718-2118
4. If the answers do not raise your level of concern, write a letter to parents expressing concern and ask them to contact school. In the letter explain that if 'no contact' continues then the school will seek the advice from local safeguarding services, i.e., the MASSH.  
**You may wish to speak to the MASSH for advice if you are unsure.**
5. If the school have specific concerns suggesting a child may be at risk of harm or abuse, they should contact the MASSH immediately.  
**Keep risk assessing all the information as you usually would.**
6. If there are immediate safety or welfare concerns, contact the Police via 999. Non-urgent concerns which you feel warrant Police involvement should be raised via 101.

Further guidance on when to call the Police can be found here-[NPCC -When to call the police-guidance for schools and colleges.pdf](#)

## Latest information – Early Years

### PPE supplies

We are continuing to distribute supplies of PPE over the next couple of weeks and you should receive your delivery soon. Delivery to Stockport childminders will begin next week.

We are liaising with the main Stockport Council supplier regarding purchases of PPE at the council rates and will forward the details in the near future.

### Early Years Testing - Lateral Flow Testing for Childminders and staff in EY settings (PVI)

Following the information shared on 19.1.21 for the roll out of asymptomatic testing of local early years staff there has been good feedback from Childminders and EY settings.

In order to book a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Test at Fred Perry House, which is adjacent to Stockport Town Hall, please use the following link ...

Book a test - [Book a coronavirus test - Stockport Council](#)

Opening Times Monday to Friday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 10.00-2.00 p.m.

Childminders and Early Years settings are asked to report any positive cases to us as they have previously done. In the event of a positive LFD test result you are asked to follow the self-isolation requirements in the same way, but also to get a PCR test to confirm your LFD result.

The access to on-site regular testing for all staff on larger nursery sites is being progressed.

### DFE EY attendance data collection

This data collection takes place every Thursday. The DfE need you to provide this information every week so that the government can gain an accurate understanding of what is happening locally. Your information helps to support national decision making to provide relevant support and policy solutions during the pandemic. Completing the information is the best and most efficient way for you to let us know about the children attending and / or any issues that may be arising.

Day nurseries and preschools should complete the most up-to-date spreadsheet and return to [eypt@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eypt@stockport.gov.uk) Please can we receive it no later than 12 noon on the Thursday so that we can collate the responses. You can send it to us earlier in the week if that is easier for you.

Childminders should complete the online questionnaire before Thursday each week. The link to record attendance is below:-

<https://consultation.stockport.gov.uk/stockport-family/dd8fac5a/>

If you require any help in completing, please contact the Childminding Team;

[childminding@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:childminding@stockport.gov.uk), 0161 218 1200

## Latest information – Early Years

### Ofsted

There is now a direct link on the Ofsted website for notifying them of a positive case in your childcare setting.

[Tell Ofsted if you have a COVID-19 case in your setting](#)

### First Aid (Childminders)

The rules on obtaining a full paediatric First Aid certificate have not changed for childminders. It is a requirement of their registration that this is obtained. We recommend that this is done in a timely way owing to the reduced numbers that training companies delivering the qualification are offering. Where necessary, certificates may be extended currently until 31 March 2021 at the latest. Full details are contained in the Government [EYFS framework coronavirus disapplications guidance](#)

### Discretionary Grant

There is an opportunity to apply for a new discretionary grant that is available for open businesses if they have been negatively impacted by the local restrictions. The updated guidance is now live on the website and early years provision is now eligible to apply subject to meeting the criteria. Applications can be made through the webpage on the link below.

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/discretionary-grant-schemes>

We have sought a couple of points of clarification which I hope you find helpful.

*If they were able to remain open but had substantial loss of income we would ask them to declare that when they apply so we can see they have met the criteria for the grant.*

*As long as they meet the criteria for this grant it will not matter if they have had a previous grant.*

### Early Years business support from Hemsalls

Business Map, a National webinar for early years and childcare providers held recently by Hemsalls. The feedback from these sessions has been very positive. A recording of the session and the materials can be found on the [Foundation Years website](#).



## Attendance of children with Education, Health and Care Plans

Although many of our children with additional needs are currently attending school, there are some who are learning at home.

It is important that both schools and the LA are assured that the needs of children working at home, are being met. To this end, LA officers, from the School Improvement Service for primary schools and from the Learning Support Service for high schools, will be contacting schools. This is to find out who is learning from home and the extent to which schools may need further help to ensure that the support offered is in line with the Education, Care and Health Plan.

## Latest information – Lateral Flow Testing

### Information for Primary and Nursery Schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-for-staff-in-primary-schools-and-nurseries>

All primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools started to receive deliveries of home testing kits to offer to all their staff from 18 January.

Schools also received a booklet which outlined how to take the test. Many sections within this booklet were highlighted in yellow, to identify where schools need to customise the booklet to reflect their individual circumstances. Please do not amend any of the other non-highlighted sections.

The LA provided a Risk Assessment Tool earlier in the week to support the lateral flow testing in primary schools. Policy around the subsequent use of PCR tests following a lateral flow test changed during the week. An appendix has been written for primary headteachers to add to the existing Risk Assessment.

### Lateral Flow and PCR tests (for all schools):

On receipt of a positive Lateral Flow test the staff member must begin to self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test. Any necessary contact tracing should be undertaken and contacts should be asked to self-isolate.

In the event that the PCR test is negative they can return to work and cease self-isolating. Contacts can also cease self-isolating.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-attendance-restrictions-to-remain-in-place>

On 26.1.21 the DfE wrote:

### **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 February 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.

### **Testing over 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.