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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you enjoyed the Easter weekend. Our focus for the term ahead is now on our courses which will support you to understand and implement the revised EYFS Framework which all schools and settings need to follow from 1st September 2021.

Last week, the Department for Education published the final version of the **new EYFS framework** and legislation was laid in Parliament. So, after a year like no other, we now have just one term before this becomes statutory, making it vital to be up to speed and fully prepared for the upcoming changes.

If you haven't already booked your places, do come and join us for our summer term training which will fully explore all of the materials and guide EYFS leaders and practitioners through the changes at a practical level.

With most of the sessions booked already do book as soon as you can or get in touch if you would like personalised sessions for your schools or setting.

Wishing you a continued peaceful Easter break.

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Heroes stamp design competition

For more than 50 years Royal Mail's Special Stamp programme has commemorated British history and achievement. Stamps have also been issued to honour the achievements of many British people. Often, the people who appear on stamps are already famous. They include scientists and explorers, writers, artists, musicians, athletes, and Prime Ministers.

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, there have been many people who have done great things. Many of them are not famous, but they have done extraordinary work. These are the people who have helped us all through a really difficult time. Some are frontline workers in healthcare, others look after elderly or vulnerable people.

Millions of key workers have kept the country going when most of us were told to stay home for our own safety. And there have been many people who volunteered to help people in their communities who needed help or support. We think that what these people have done makes them heroes, so Royal Mail wants to honour them by producing a set of eight stamps.

The stamps will feature designs created by eight children aged between 4 and 14 years of age. We are asking our young designers to think about who their hero or heroes are, and to then design a stamp in their honour. A special panel of judges will pick the winning designs. The final eight stamps will be sent to Her Majesty The Queen before they can be printed and issued.

Find out more about how your children can enter independently (with adult permission) or via school on the [Heroes stamp design competition website \(opens in new window\)](#) and the closing date is Friday 28 May 2021 at 5pm.

Government updates

01 April 2021

[Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests \(opens in new window\)](#)

Additional information on what to do if you test positive, and how to claim financial support.

06 April 2021

[Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(opens in new window\)](#)

Updated to reflect changes in requirements for face coverings.

07 April 2021

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(opens in new window\)](#)

We have updated advice on the use of face coverings, Lateral Flow Device (LFD) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and self-isolation. We have removed information on who can attend out-of-school settings prior to 29 March and updated information to reflect the commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 Response – spring 2021.

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(opens in new window\)](#)

We have updated advice on the use of face coverings in schools and out-of-school settings and added new guidance on test and trace support payments. We have also removed information on who can attend out-of-school settings prior to 29 March and updated information to reflect the commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 response – spring 2021.

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 \(opens in new window\)](#)

We have updated advice on the use of face coverings in education and updated information to reflect commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 response – spring 2021.

Government funds Level 3 qualifications in early years for free from 1 April for over-24s

[The recent Nursery World \(opens in new window\) article, 01 April 2021](#), provided an update on how the Early years qualifications for those aged 24 and over are available for free from 1 April 2021.

The offer of the free qualifications, including the Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator), is available to take up from 1 April, for any adult aged 24 and over who has not already achieved a qualification at Level 3, which is equivalent to A-levels.

It is backed by £95 million in Government funding during 2021/22.

The Government said the roll out marks a major milestone in the delivery of the landmark Lifetime Skills Guarantee announced by the Prime Minister in September 2020.

The Guarantee aims to transform the skills system so everyone, no matter where they live or their background, can gain the skills they need to progress in work at any stage of their lives. It will also ensure employers have access to the skilled workforce they need, and more people are trained for the skills gaps that exist now, and in the future, ministers said.

Why not read the full [Government funds Level 3 qualifications in early years for free from 1 April for over-24s | Nursery World \(opens in new window\)](#) or for more information, visit [Qualifications in new funded offers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\) \(opens in new window\)](#)

Designated Safeguarding Lead training changes

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training has been reviewed via Denise Hannibal, Safeguarding Education Advisor, alongside the requirements of key legislation and Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (WSCB) requirements to ensure that it meets the needs of DSL's working in the early years and childcare sector.

As such from 19 April 2021, the safeguarding training for Designated Leads is changing as follows:

- You will be required to refresh yearly
- The course will be four hours in duration
- The course is designed to suit ALL types of DSL's – new, experienced, and extremely experienced / knowledgeable.

- Deputy DSL's would be expected to undertake this course as well
- Delivery will be virtual until March 2022
- We will still offer courses specifically for Childminders / Settings as these have been popular, however the content is the same regardless of which one you attend

The dates for the Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead training (new title) are on [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) to book, however we have outlined those available in the next term below

Cost: £40 + VAT

Childminders specific dates

- 08 May 2021, 9am to 1pm, course code: EY/21/123
- 20 and 27 May 2021, 7pm to 9pm, course code: EY/21/126
- 26 June 2021, 9am to 1pm, course code: EY/21/129
- 10 July 2021, 9am to 1pm, course code: EY/21/131

Setting specific dates

- 27 and 29 April 2021, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, course code: EY/21/122
- 14 May 2021, 9am to 1pm, course code: EY/21/125
- 16 July 2021, 9am to 1pm, course code: EY/21/132

Mixed Settings & Childminder cohort dates

- 21 May 2021, 9am to 1pm, course code: EY/21/127
- 09 and 16 June 2021, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, course code: EY/21/128
- 28 June and 05 July 2021, 7pm to 9pm, course code: EY/21/130

Safeguarding for Early Years and Childcare Practitioners

This course is specifically for staff / volunteers / committee members, essentially anyone who is not the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy DSL. Apart from content updates due to legislation and key guidance this particular course will not be changing. Therefore, this course will be 2 ½ hours duration, delivered virtually, with the in-house option available, and on a three-year refresh cycle.

The dates for the Safeguarding for Early Years and Childcare Practitioners course are outlined below, and all places MUST be booked on [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#)

Cost: £ 22 + VAT

- 05 May 2021, 7pm to 9.30pm, course code: EY/21/151
- 17 May 2021, 6.30pm to 9pm, course code: EY/21/152
- 11 June 2021, 9.30am to 12pm, course code: EY/21/153
- 08 July 2021, 7pm to 9.30pm, course code: EY/21/154

Meet your new Safeguarding trainer: Cheryl Green

Cheryl Green has worked in the safeguarding arena for the past 20 years. In this time, she has gained a wealth of experience and worked with both adults and children in relation to social care and education. She supports and works with a range of school settings across the west midlands to provide safeguarding consultancy, support, and training. She is highly skilled and regularly works with other professionals to support joint working and a holistic approach to safeguarding. She constantly keeps her own knowledge and skills up to date and enjoys sharing this expertise through her safeguarding role.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Morris".

Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

