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## Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

With the recent sunshine and warmer weather making us all smile, now is the perfect time to reflect on a challenging year and look forward to a year of promise to come. The Early Years team are looking forward to supporting you with your work and are delighted that so many of you are joining us for our training on the new EYFS and Development Matters. If you haven't managed to secure a place it's not too late; we have added further sessions this week.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a restful end of Spring Term break and I look forward to reconnecting with you once the Summer Term has started.

With My Very Best Wishes.

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## Emails regarding training courses

The training team have become aware that over the last few weeks emails from CPD (confirmations / cancellation emails) and potentially emails from [workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) are arriving into junk / spam folders or even “other” inboxes (depending upon how your inbox is set up). As such we would recommend that you add these particular emails to safe sender lists and also have them directed automatically to your main inbox.

As a reminder the team can re-send joining instructions, but we require at least 5 days’ notice due to capacity issues within the team from April 2021 onwards due to Rachael’s maternity leave.

An article regarding the training team’s availability from April 2021 has been included in the Early Years bulletin – 5th March 2021, edition 139, [a copy can be downloaded here \(opens in new window\)](#) and will provide you with clarity on the teams availability whilst Rachael is away.

## Government updates

Updated 26 March 2021

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

Changes made to the sections ‘Considering group sizes’, ‘Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing’, ‘Educational visits and trips’, and ‘Staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable’.

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

Changes made to the sections ‘Bubbles and group sizes’ and ‘Children with health concerns’.

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

Clarified related occupations who should get tested twice weekly

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

Guidance updated on advice for those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, LFD testing in post-16 settings, Test and Trace support payments.

Updated 29 March 2021

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(opens in new window\)](#)

Updated guidance on shielding for staff and children, asymptomatic testing, Test and Trace payments for parents, parent and child groups: singing, educational visits and resuming Ofsted visits.

### [Ofsted: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rolling update \(opens in new window\)](#)

Reworked 'Current activity' section throughout to reflect our current plans to return to on-site inspection. Removed out of date content.

### **Based on Ofsted rolling update below, Ofsted confirm the following for early years providers:**

On-site EIF inspections of registered early years providers will begin from **4 May**. We will prioritise providers:

- judged less than good at their last inspection (including those who received an interim visit in the autumn term)
- that registered recently but have not been inspected
- whose first inspection is overdue
- that were not inspected in the last inspection cycle due to the pause in routine inspection

We will continue to carry out urgent inspections if we have significant concerns about a provider.

Updated 31 March 2021

### [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework \(opens in new window\)](#)

Added a new statutory framework for the early years foundation stage which applies from 1 September 2021. Until then, the current framework applies.

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

Added that you can collect tests from local pharmacies. Updated collection site opening hours to 2.30pm to 8pm.

### [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(opens in new window\)](#)

Converted the 'Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' from PDF to HTML. This version has been updated to reflect the DHSC announcement that a confirmatory PCR test is required following a positive LFD test result in England.

## Introduction to the NEW EYFS

Due to demand three additional sessions have been organised to accommodate the waiting lists across the seven original dates (11th, 18th, 25th May and 12th, 15th, 22nd, 29th June). The training team will contact delegates on the waiting lists by 31st March, and we ask that if you wish to transfer please let the team know as soon as you can.

Once the waiting list has been accommodated these new sessions will go live to allow anyone else who wishes to book to have the opportunity to attend.

If you are keen to book a place then please contact the training team on 01905 844 420 or email [workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) to see how this can be organised.

## Early Years Weekly Attendance Data

Thank you for your ongoing data returns. We have been informed this week that the DfE will not be collecting the data over Easter so the next request will not be until after the Easter holidays (week commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April).

[The form for the week commencing Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March is now live \(opens in new window\)](#)

You will notice that we have cut down the number of questions and are now only requesting the numbers for a Thursday, as this is the day requested by the DfE; if you did not have any children attend on Thursday, please enter 0.

Please be aware that you need to use the new link every week – you will **not be able to access the Form** via last week's link.

The form should be submitted by **9am on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April**. Please note that schools with nursery provision should also be submitting a return, for the **nursery/pre-school children** only.

## Pyjamarama is back for 2021

Want a fun way to get children excited about reading, while raising money for a great cause? Pyjamarama is returning for a third time and will take place this year on Friday 14 May 2021.

Pyjamarama is all about getting children excited about reading and fundraising to make sure every child gets their bedtime story.

We ask that children around the country, in schools and nurseries, and at home, spend a day reading, enjoying and sharing stories, find out more by visiting [BookTrust \(opens in new window\)](#)

## NSPCC Plan your Number Day

We know that [Number Day 7 May 2021 \(opens in new window\)](#) might be enjoyed by children in small groups or class bubbles, so we've thought of ways to help you support you in ensuring your event can be enjoyed by everyone in school. After you register, we will provide you with everything you need on our Number Day resources site to make your event a success.

You'll get:

- resources you can use in class including new games, activities, and updated quizzes for 2021
- ideas you can do in class bubbles and small groups
- fundraising tips and ideas to help pupils raise money
- resources to help you promote your event across the school
- access to teacher resources to keep children safe from harm, supporting your school's safeguarding including a class lesson plan and online safety quizzes for all ages.

Find out more by visiting the [NSPCC website \(opens in new window\)](#)

## NEF Hourly Rates – 2021/22

All funded providers should have received a letter outlining the funding rate for 2021/22. To confirm, the rates are as follows:

Category	Amount per Hour
Two-Year-Old Funding	£5.32
3&4-Year-Old Funding	£4.24
Early Years Pupil Premium (for 3&4-Year-Old Universal hours only)	£0.63
Inclusion Supplement – GR2 (for 3&4-Year-Old funded hours only)	£0.90
Inclusion Supplement – GR3	£1.60
Inclusion Supplement – GR4	£2.86
Inclusion Supplement – Exceptional	£6.30

## NEF Support

As outlined previously, NEF support will be limited over the Easter holidays. Patrick O'Connor (01905 844 494) will be unavailable. Nicky Burford (01905 844 441) will be available via telephone on Tuesday 6th and Thursday 15th April. Emails to [EYFunding@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:EYFunding@worcestershire.gov.uk) will be monitored but responses may take longer than normal.

## Contact for families with disabled children – free workshops

Early identification and access to networks of support make a crucial difference to parents of disabled children. And for parents struggling to come to terms with concerns about their child's development.

Our workshops aim to help professionals:

- Increase understanding of disability, including hidden disability
- Increase awareness of the effect of disability on the family
- Enable more effective communication with parents
- Enable a better start to a working relationship with parents of children with SEND

Workshop dates

- Thursday 22 April at 10:00 – 12:30 [Register on Eventbrite \(opens in new window\)](#)
- Wednesday 28 April at 19:00 – 21:30 [Register on Eventbrite \(opens in new window\)](#)
- Thursday 6 May at 10:00 – 12:30 [Register on Eventbrite \(opens in new window\)](#)
- Tuesday 11 May at 19:00 – 21:30 [Register on Eventbrite \(opens in new window\)](#)

For more information please contact [bookings@contact.org.uk](mailto:bookings@contact.org.uk)

## Gypsy Roma Traveller Education service

The Gypsy Roma Traveller Education Team provides educational support and family advocacy to the community of Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers.

The service is currently undergoing a review to ensure Worcestershire Children First are providing the best level of service & support to meet the educational needs of our GRT children within Worcestershire. Our service will promote a culture of inclusivity and provide support to families within the local community. Our mission is for Worcestershire to be a wonderful place for all children & young people to grow up.

We are here to help early years and school staff build good educational relationships with their GRT children, young people, and families. If you have any queries or would like any support from our team, please contact us using the details below. We will keep you updated on service developments as our review progresses. We look forward to working with you.

We would like to thank those who have contributed so far, and if you have any feedback regarding the GRT service please contact Sarah Flanagan: [SFlanagan@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:SFlanagan@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk). Our aim is to have a robust system of support in place and we will provide further updates in the coming weeks. We would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the GRT team, if you require any support please contact the team using the details below.

Our team look forward to working with you.



**Sarah Flanagan:** Learner engagement team lead/GRT adviser



**Louise Sykes & Susan Carrier:** Targeted Youth Workers

For any queries or for support requests please contact us on [01905 846045](tel:01905846045) or via email: [GRT@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:GRT@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

Best regards,



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