



Parents' newsletter

Introduction

We're working with schools, colleges and childcare providers across the city to help them welcome your children back.

Everyone wants to make schooling as normal as possible over the next few months, while following guidelines to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

We hope that this newsletter, and a second one later in the summer, will help provide you with the information you need ahead of your child's return to education.

The new term – keeping safe

The risk to children becoming severely unwell due to coronavirus is considered low, but schools and childcare providers will continue to put prevention and infection control measures in place.

Arrangements at each school and nursery may differ due to the nature of the individual buildings and sites, there are some key measures that will be common to all, including:

- regular handwashing, including as soon as children arrive
- encouraging children to 'catch it, bin it, kill it', asking them to use a tissue if they cough or sneeze and dispose of it afterwards
- extra cleaning in all schools and nurseries, including regular, thorough cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

Each school and nursery has a risk assessment that sets out the measures they will take to reduce risk. This should be available to view on their website.

Your school and childcare provider will be providing you with specific details about their arrangements for the autumn term.

To find out more information about returning to school/ childcare in September, including FAQs, visit our web hub www.york.gov.uk/LetsBeYork#parents

Can we help?

If you need extra support for your children over the summer, please phone our Local Area Teams on 01904 551900 or email LAT@york.gov.uk.

Information for families: www.york.gov.uk/COVIDSchoolsAndFamilies#fam

Our Family Learning team are offering online workshops for parents, carers and grandparents via Zoom during August. They include literacy, numeracy and preparing for your child's first day at school.

Phone 01904 554277 or email family.learning@york.gov.uk

yorklearning.org.uk/family-learning

If you are looking for childcare, or need to find breakfast or after-school club vacancies from September, phone our Family Information Service on 01904 554444 or email fis@york.gov.uk

www.yor-ok.org.uk/families/Childcare/childcare.htm

Travel to school and childcare

We know that organising travel to and from school and childcare providers is a key issue for parents. The government advice is to travel safely by walking and cycling, if you can, and where this is not possible, to use public transport or drive.

Walking, cycling or scooting to school or childcare is a great way to keep fit and active, help improve York's air quality and reduce congestion.

Did you know that:

- walking, scooting or cycling helps pupils reach the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day
- active travel helps pupils develop road safety skills
- active travel keeps our streets free from congestion and is good for the environment
- active travel helps pupils arrive at school alert for lessons
- it's free

Download a cycle route map to help plan your active journey here:

www.itravelyork.info/downloads/download/8/cycle-route-map

For more ideas and resources visit:

www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school

www.sustrans.org.uk

For further guidance on how to travel safely visit:

www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#walking-and-cycling

If you do have to travel on public transport, young people aged 11 years and over must wear a face covering. If you do have to travel to school or childcare by car, you shouldn't share the car with people from another household.

Over the summer we are working with transport contractors and schools to ensure school transport is in place for all eligible pupils for the start of the autumn term. Parents and pupils will be advised of those arrangements towards the end of August.

Coronavirus in school

If your child becomes unwell at school or in childcare and develops a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of smell or taste, you will be asked to collect them immediately.

If they become unwell at home and have coronavirus symptoms, please do not send them to school or childcare. They must stay at home for the next ten days or until they test negative for coronavirus.

We would encourage all parents whose child has coronavirus symptoms to get them tested and, where required, their family as well.

If your child or anyone within the same household has symptoms of coronavirus, they must not come into their school or childcare setting.

For more information, please visit: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/

Parents and carers will be kept informed of any confirmed cases by their child's school.