

**Mel Meggs**

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Dear parent/carers

With the school summer holidays almost upon us, we would like to bring you a further update on the help available to children and families in Kirklees.

The vast majority of Kirklees schools have welcomed back more children in recent weeks and have continued to give wonderful support to many families. The Covid-19 pandemic has provided the sort of challenges that schools around the country have never faced before. We are proud of the work that has been taking place in Kirklees and we know your school will have been communicating with you direct.

Most schools have remained open to certain pupils throughout the pandemic, including during the Easter holidays and May half-term. This means that many staff have not had a break for several months and will need time to recharge their batteries when the summer holidays begin. We are therefore expecting that most schools will close for the summer break, including to children who have been eligible to attend since the pandemic began.

Each school is making its own decision and has the support of the local authority in whatever it chooses to do. We recognise there is a very difficult balance between the desire to support local families, the need to consider staff and the need to have enough time to plan for September.

This is, of course, a very uncertain time for many people. To help vulnerable families while schools are closed, we are working with the Kirklees Youth Alliance (KYA) to make sure as many children as possible get the support they need. There will be a range of holiday activities and, from next week, you will be able to visit the KYA website for more details:

[www.tslkirklees.org.uk/kirklees-youth-alliance](http://www.tslkirklees.org.uk/kirklees-youth-alliance)

School holiday periods can be especially difficult for those who need to find childcare. We expect that most childcare providers, including holiday clubs which support working parents, will stay open in the coming weeks. You can contact your normal provider for more details, or you can use our website to find a list of childcare providers: [www.kirklees.gov.uk/childcaresearch](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/childcaresearch) If you are still struggling to find childcare which meets your needs, you can complete an online form: [Covid-19 education and childcare enquiry](#) and we will get in touch with you. Some families qualify for financial support in paying for their childcare. More details can be found at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Further details about holiday activities and childcare options are also available from the Family Information Service on 01484 414887.

Looking further ahead, we want to ensure all children receive extra support when they return to school. The usual transitions between year groups have not been possible this year and, while many schools have done fantastic work in giving this help remotely, strong transitions are vital. We are working with schools to have this support in place after the holidays so that all pupils can benefit. This is another way we are easing the impact of the current disruption.

Please be assured we will continue to support local schools in providing the best possible care and education for all pupils. The wellbeing of children, staff and families across Kirklees is our absolute priority. Please help by following the public health guidance on hand washing, isolating and social distancing - this is the best way to keep yourself, your family and your community safe and well.

Yours sincerely



**Mel Meggs**  
**Strategic Director for Children's Services**



**Cllr Carole Pattison**  
**Cabinet Member for**  
**Learning, Aspiration and Communities**



**CATCH SNEEZES AND  
COUGHS WITH A TISSUE**



**DISPOSE OF  
USED TISSUES**



**WASH HANDS  
OFTEN**