**NASS Update (16.06.20)**

Dear colleagues,

We were braced yesterday for announcements from the Government about ’summer catch-up’ arrangements for children and young people. We have had no discussions with DfE about these but after the Prime Minister’s announcement of catch-up programmes last week we have been expecting details. DfE is aware of the lack of appetite for remaining open over the summer from school leaders and teachers and this may be delaying further detail. I am unsure at this point if DfE will go against advice and signal that schools should stay open or if we will get a ‘fudge’ whereby schools will be ‘encouraged’ to think about summer provision, either from their own staff or via summer scheme providers. Both would require clear sources of additional funding to be viable and this is also likely to be delaying announcements. Our position remains that school staff need a break over the summer and we do not support schools being put under any pressure to remain open.

Not much in the way of guidance last night but there was a possible indication of a more ’nuanced’ message from DfE in guidance to primary schools about how they might have more children back in school by using provision flexibly: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/primary-schools-to-be-given-flexibility-to-bring-back-more-pupils?utm_source=b167459b-9389-4b23-87a1-5a9636e3dd20&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate> This very much has the feel of ‘we need to be seen to encourage wider opening without actually forcing schools to take more students back’!

There has been more in the media in the past week about the viability of ‘back to normal’ in September in the face of the 2m rule on social distancing. This is widely thought to be impossible. Again, we have seen nothing from DfE about summer planning but we know the 2m rule is next being reviewed at the end of June and that there will be pressure from business to drop this to 1m. Consequently, schools planning for September would likely be wise to model  the impact of both 2m and 1m social distancing on their potential provision.

This week’s NASS tea, sympathy and thorny issues chat will be on Thursday at 2.00 pm - details below.

Topic: NASS Tea, Sympathy and Thorny Issues Chat

Time: Jun 18, 2020 02:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97118261924?pwd=KzgzL3h4K1JFc252SVlYL3VmRFpGZz09>

Meeting ID: 971 1826 1924

Password: 111439

These are informal support sessions where we talk through the week’s burning issues in a friendly, collegiate environment. Anyone is welcome to drop in and join us. We know that the pandemic has put a high emotional load on schools staff and it’s important that we all keep creating spaces to share and decompress a little.

Wishing you all as calm and joyful a week as possible,

Claire, Kate, Jenny and Karen