**NASS Update (21st May 2020)**

Hello everyone,

We hope you are getting chance to enjoy some of this lovely sunshine, and that it continues into the half-term break, for those of you that will get one!

Nothing ground-breaking has been released in the last few days, but there have been some guidance updates, and we wanted to share the attached resources with you.

The first is a helpful flowchart from Browne Jacobsen about things to consider when making staffing decisions for your school. The second is the Union’s Coronavirus Workplace Checklist, which is worth a read so that you know what to expect if your staff raise it with you!

The dispute between government and unions over wider school reopening rumbles on, and we’re seeing an increase in local political responses, with a number of Mayors and Council Leaders ruling out a wider 1st June reopening based on local infection rates. We have been flagging the particular issues for our schools around children coming to school from multiple areas, and on challenges with school transport and guidance on PPE, in our conversations with DfE, and will update further when we can. Your local, risk assessed approach, in line with our previous briefings, is likely to be your best guide, as on most things!

The [safeguarding guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers) has been updated to include additional things to consider as more children return to school. This is mostly around being vigilant for and prepared to act on any new safeguarding concerns that may have arisen since children were last in school, and to keep your child protection policies up-to-date and ensure staff are aware of any updates. It re-emphasises the need for all staff to be aware of who the DSL is and how to contact them, even if they are not able to be on site.

The government has left it to schools to decide what is best for their school community, in consultation with their families, in terms of opening over half-term. The [guidance for parents on education settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers) was updated last night to reflect this, and also to include a section on children receiving SEND Support (those without EHCPs).

And finally, the DfE announced £37million for equipment and resources for children with ‘complex needs’ to be distributed to low-income families through the Family Fund. If you’re working with families that might be eligible, you can find out more here: <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/faqs/how-do-we-apply>

We are still expecting more specific guidance for specialist settings, and will of course be in touch when it lands!

With all best wishes from Kate, Claire, Karen and Jenny