



Sarah Wilkins

Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning

Email: swilkins@worcestershire.gov.uk

Tel: 01905 846082

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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have been having a good week.

Following the recent announcement from the Government regarding the extension of the Household Support Fund to March 2025, we can now confirm that supermarket vouchers will be available to issue to eligible families for all school holidays up until the end of the financial year. Therefore, the Edenred Portal will be available to issue vouchers for the October Half Term Holiday 2024. Please read the article on page 5 for details regarding portal opening and closing dates.

The Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, is hosting a live online event on Tuesday 15 October 2024 at 4pm. The session will be a chance to hear about their reflections on the government's first 100 days in office and discuss upcoming priorities. The Secretary of State also wants to hear from you and will answer questions from the live chat. [Register for the session](#).

Last month the Chancellor [announced](#) a breakfast club pilot from April 2025. anip TBM ET/Artifact BMC 0.02 0.8
also a

[range of courses](#) available for your mental health lead, with start dates up to the end of spring

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest attendance news and updates

Y7 Attendance Code Recommendations

Following the Attendance Forum with schools in September and queries received directly by Education Engagement, we have put together the following questions to ask around when to use the Y7 code as we have found that the guidance and examples provided by the DFE has meant that Y7 can overlap with other attendance and absence codes. Ultimately the decision on which attendance or absence code to use for a session is a school's but we hope the below questions will mean schools can make a decision on the most appropriate code to support or describe a child's situation.

- x Are the circumstances unavoidable (there is nothing a child or family can do to prevent it)?
- x Are these unique or exceptionally rare circumstances?
- x Is this a temporary issue?
- x Have you made sure there is not another code that is more appropriate?

If you can answer yes to all (or the majority of) the above then it is likely that Y7 is the most appropriate code to use and you as a school can justify its use to the LA, DFE or Ofsted.

If you have any specific cases you wish to discuss please ring the attendance helpline - 01905 844440

FlexiSchooling Guidance

Flexi-Schooling is an arrangement between parent and school where children of compulsory school age are on roll at a school but where the provision is split between attendance at school and home

Latest education news and updates

Edenred Portal access will be available for the October term

During the October Half Term Holiday, eligible students will receive free school meals through the voucher system provided by Edenred. Edenred is the council's contracted provider to issue free school meal vouchers for the school holidays, and no other platforms are authorised to issue them.

All vouchers issued during this period will have a validity period of one month from the date of delivery. Please advise parents/carers to redeem vouchers as soon as possible, the supermarket eGift card will have a longer expiry date in accordance with their chosen supermarket T&Cs, see page 6 of [Parent Carer FAQs](#)

Schools are instructed to issue vouchers only for the corresponding holiday period.

Schools will have access to the Edenred portal from Monday 14 October 2024 until Friday 8 November 2024. This will allow a window for placing orders for the holiday.

Vouchers cannot exceed £15 per eligible FSM pupil for the whole period (£15 per week).

Vouchers are not available for nursery age children or 6th form students (vouchers to be issued to not be ordered to replace term time meals.

accessed here: [Edenred Online Ordering](#)

Please ensure you have the correct recipient email address and that parent/carers are notified they will be in receipt of a voucher to ensure they are expecting it and do not leave vouchers to expire.

To help monitor the vouchers issued under this scheme please can you ensure you include the URN or UKPRN for the school when placing the order.

If a voucher has expired, the voucher cannot be issued by the school, for any queries regarding the re-issuing of vouchers please contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk

It is important to remind schools that as eligibility is linked to FSM status there maybe families who although have FSM status their circumstances have changed. This is a finite pot of government funding and with the government protection on FSM status, regardless of circumstance change,

- x Edenred [user guide](#) – including supermarket details and how to order.
- x Parent/carer FAQ's can be found here: [Parent Carer FAQs](#)
- x Order "pending" – you will need to agree to the terms and conditions and confirm your order for it to be processed.
- x Order "held" – we will ensure any held orders are released.
- x "Ordering window is closed" – please check you are logged into the correct portal. The DfE portal is closed, but the WCC portal is open.
- x Redeem eCodes – Visit the Edenred [redeem eCodes](#) webpage. Please note, we are unable to control which supermarkets you can redeem vouchers at.
- x eGift card queries – have not received ordered e-gift card. Please advise parent/carer to seek assistance in parent/carer guide [Parent Carer FAQs](#) on page 6.

The [user guide](#) will answer many of your common questions and should be your first point of call for any queries. If after reading the user guide and links, you still need assistance then please contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk where we will be happy to help you. Please be aware however that you will not receive an instant response as this inbox is one of many that are manned by our team. The fastest way therefore to resolve your issues will always be to read the guides and links in the majority of cases.

[Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#) at the County Council is available to signpost families to other local sources of support.

For support around the cost of living please signpost parents/carers to our [Cost of living support](#) webpage.

Social Media Experience Measure

Would your school like to test a new Social Media Experience Measure? The [#So.Me team](#) at the – March 2025 to test a new measure of social media experience. This will involve pupils in Y7-Y10 completing the self-report questionnaire during lesson time (e.g. RSHE), and is a great opportunity to bring the topic of social media into scheduled activities around Safer Internet day (11 Feb) or Children's Mental -9 Feb).

Schools who take part will receive:

- x Supply teacher pay for half-day to cover staff time
- x Amazon voucher for lead teacher
- x Activity pack on social media and mental health to use with pupils during Safer Internet day or Mental Health Week
- x A report detailing what we have learnt overall including a bespoke section detailing learning from pupils in your own school (assuming at least 10 participate).
- x Follow-up webinar on most salient social media experiences, based on the data, and how to support these in your school

If you think your school would be interested in taking part, please [complete the EOI here](#).

Free Ofsted Briefing with Senior HMI Ann Pritchard

We are delighted to offer a free briefing session with Ann Pritchard Senior HMI. Ann has offered to spend some time with us outlining the changes to inspection and answering any questions we might have from 2pm to 5pm on Tuesday 15th October.

Please book your place via [CPD](#) online using course code 10524 and your school CPD leader login details. Confirmations are issued at the point of booking and go to the delegate email provided. If your school requires support when booking, please contact the training team on 01905 844 420 or email

Nurturing the Developing Nervous System

Advanced Training for Early Childhood Educators

Empower your practice with insights from the latest neuroscience and child development research!
supporting young minds and bodies.

Date: Choose from 12 October, 9, 16 November or 7 December

Time: 12:00 PM -

Location: Bradley Green Village Hall, Redditch

What You'll Gain:

- x Understand early nervous system development
- x Discover new ways to support children's emotional well-being
- x Practice simple yoga and mindfulness techniques for co-regulation

Key Features:

- x Led by a clinical psychologist and certified yoga instructor
- x Evidence-based interventions
- x Practical, hands-on learning that you can use right away
- x Food and refreshments provided

Cost: FREE (Funded by Inclusive Communities and Nurture Families)

Limited places available. [Book your place today!](#)

Book your place via: <https://nurturefamilies.org.uk/resources-for-professionals/events-for-professionals/nurturing-the-developing-nervous-system>

Latest SEND news and updates

Hereford and Worcester Dyslexia Association ~~for~~ Vacancies

Are you passionate about teaching children with dyslexia?

Latest health and wellbeing news and updates

Lumi Nova App now live

Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS have partnered with BFB Labs to offer children and young people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire free access to Lumi Nova.

Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage is a digital therapeutic mobile game supporting children with fears, worries and anxiety. Designed for children aged 7-12 years, Lumi Nova helps children to reflect on their feelings, build resilience, and learn lifelong skills to self-manage their worries in a fun intergalactic adventure.

Lumi Nova is now accessible to families by visiting <https://luminova.app/handw>

Spread the Word Check out the [Lumi Nova Resource Kit](#) for resources to support you to share Lumi Nova with other professionals and families. Resources include:

- x Intro emails and information sheet for parents
- x Intro emails for your team and colleagues (incl. an invitation to a Lumi Nova Discovery Webinar)
- x Social media and website assets
- x Woit

Norovirus

School Aged Immunisations during 2024/25

Vaccinations are the most important thing we can do to protect ourselves and children against ill health. They reduce the likelihood of outbreaks in schools and protect children, which in turn reduces pupil and staff absenteeism rates.

The UK's childhood vaccination programme prevents around 5,000 deaths, and more than 100,000 hospital admissions, each year in England. Vaccinations have ensured the UK has been declared free of diseases such as polio, with others, like diphtheria, almost fully controlled. However, in recent years we have seen a trend of lower vaccine uptake, and this has been exacerbated by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Schools have a vital role to play to support the routine immunisation programme.

Delivering the influenza and adolescent immunisation programmes through schools makes it more accessible to pupils, ensures timely protection against vaccine preventable diseases, reduces inequality and results in higher uptake levels.

'Vaccinations UK' deliver immunisations across schools in Worcestershire. Success of immunisation programmes are driven by a close working relationship between the school, School Nurses and Vaccination UK. The offer of vaccinations in school also provides an opportunity to check that children are up to date with all their routine immunisations.

Flu vaccination

UKHSA and NHS England have produced a range of useful resources to support the delivery of the annual children's flu vaccination programme this autumn/winter. This includes posters, leaflets, briefings and stickers. Further details of the resources available, and how people can order, can be found in [this slide set](#).

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination

From 1 September 2024, pregnant women can have a free vaccine in each pregnancy, to protect their babies against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

RSV is a common respiratory virus that causes cold-like symptoms in most people. It is the leading cause of lower respiratory tract infections in young children and is a major cause of hospitalisation in infants under 1 year of age. In older adults, RSV can cause pneumonia and bronchitis. The RSV vaccine is a single-dose, inactivated virus vaccine that is safe and effective in preventing RSV infection and illness in pregnant women. It is recommended for all pregnant women aged 18 years and over, regardless of whether they have had RSV before. The vaccine is given as a single injection in the upper arm. It is available free of charge through the NHS. For more information, visit [nhs.uk](#).

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Further Health Information and Support

The [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education](#) is a practical guide produced by UKHSA for staff on managing cases of infectious diseases in education and childcare settings. Updated 12/09/24

The [e-bug](#) resources includes information, games and lesson plans to teach children about infections. Withing Worcestershire the handwashing 'Clean Hands Safe Hands' campaign developed by Public Health has been in place since 2022.

Several resources are available which aim to encourage children to regularly wash their hands as part of their everyday routine. The resources, include toolkits and activity packs and are available via the following website link: [Clean hands, safe hands | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Kooth Talks webinars for Families & Professionals

FAO: Pastoral Leads, Welfare staff, PSHE Leads, Designated Safeguarding Leads, Parents/ Carers, Teachers

Meeting the needs of neurodivergent and Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND) young people Children and young people waiting for an assessment or navigating a diagnosis may need additional emotional support. Kooth are offering a webinar, inendatr-c.(W)-8 Hiang ot(t)af()10 (li)4 (a)14 (fpo)2 (r)14 (m)4

Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub

Initial Teacher Training

Please be reminded that all ITT mentors are expected to complete the 7-hour tier one training. Dates for this training are available on the websites of the University of Worcester, Stourport SCITT, Tudor Grange SCITT and Prince Henry's and South Worcestershire ITT.

Applications for the 25-26 cohort will open on Tuesday 8th October 2024.

ECF Update

For colleagues enrolled on the Prince Henry's ECF programme with Ambition Institute, please note the following upcoming dates for this academic year. Please use the following link to book:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh

Year 1 ECT Events:

Conference 1 – October 2024

Conference 2 –

Clinic 1 – 14th November 2024

Clinic 2 – 6th March 2025

–

Year 2 ECT Events:

– November 2024

Clinic 4 – 17th October 2024

Clinic 5 – 20th March 2025

Clinic 6 –

ECT Mentor Events:

Conference 2 for Year 1 Mentors –

Clinic 1 for Year 1 Mentors – 6th February 2025

Clinic 2 for Year 2 Mentors – 7th November 2024

AB Update

DfE registrations for the 2024-25 cohort remain open. Please use the following link for guidance on how to register your ECTs with Prince Henry's TSH.

<https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/registering-your-ect/>.

If you have already registered your ECT/s with us, please be sure to complete the Service Level Agreement. If you have not received this via email, please contact cemms@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

NPQ Update

Applications for the Autumn 2024 programmes are now closed. Applications for Spring 2025 will open later this term, so please look out for details on our half termly newsletter or on our website using the link: <https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/apply/>.

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

Initial Teacher Training Survey

Teaching School Hubs are required to report periodically to the DfE on engagement with its workstreams. Initial Teacher Training is one of these. They would be grateful if you would complete this VERY short survey to indicate if you are supporting any trainees this year. The survey has a maximum of 4 questions and will take less than two minutes to complete.

<https://forms.office.com/e/sFqm4ERbuC>

They are also receiving requests from ITT providers to support with identifying placements for trainees. To avoid sending you an email, each time they have a request, please would you indicate on the survey if you may have capacity to support a trainee this academic year should a provider contact us. This does not mean you will be asked to support a trainee, but they may approach you if they have a request from another ITT provider. Many thanks in advance for your help with this and thank you to those who have already completed this survey.

Appropriate Body Reminder

It is a statutory requirement that ECTs are registered with an Appropriate Body for their induction and

- x The NPQ for SENCOs is mandatory for all practising and aspiring SENCOs*. They will need to complete this qualification within their first three years in the role.
- x *Please note that SENCOs who have already obtained the NASENCO qualification do not need to complete the NPQ for SENCOs, as well as SENCOs appointed before 1 September 2009.

NPQ Leading Primary Mathematics (applications close on 13th October)

This is a brand new NPQ focused on leading maths in primary schools which has been designed to complement the work of the maths hubs and teaching for mastery. At Rivers, we are proud to have been part of the development of the materials and design of the programme. Our first cohort are well into their studies and have reported how useful it is and how they are able to implement the materials in their schools. We have a limited number of fully funded places left on this course.

Please apply via: [NPQ in Leading Primary Maths \(niot.org.uk\)](https://www.niot.org.uk)

Other NPOs will be open for applications for a Spring start soon.

NATRE Local Primary RE Leaders' network

They are proud to host the NATRE RE leaders' network for Worcestershire. This is open to all types of schools and colleagues interested in developing their leadership skills as well as keeping up to date with current developments in RE.

The meetings are held between 4pm and 5pm at Rivers Teaching Alliance, based at St Clement's Primary School, Henwick Rd, WR2 5NS.

They look forward to welcoming you, whether you have been before or not. Please email teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk if you would like further information or just turn up on the day.

- x Thursdayrd
- x Thursday 26th

Latest government news and updates

Talk Money Week

The Money and Pensions Service's [Talk Money week](#) runs from 4 to 8 November. The theme this year is 'Do One Thing' and schools and colleges are being encouraged to share the 'one thing' they are talking to students about to help them learn more about money. The Money and Pensions Service has published [a toolkit with lots of ideas and resources to help schools get involved and talk money in the classroom](#).

PE and sport premium for primary schools

On 9 October, the Department for Education [updated the PE and sport premium for primary schools guidance](#), to reflect the funding for the 2024 to 2025 academic year and also added 'Examples of

For the year 2024 to 2025, the amounts payable will be:

- x schools with 16 or fewer eligible pupils will receive £1,000 per pupil
- x schools with 17 or more eligible pupils will receive £16,000 and an additional payment of £10 per pupil

and achieve the above aims. This funding must not be used for core-type school activities.

Taking control of the Deep Dive creating your subject narrative

Subject leaders are you ready? This webinar is intended for subject leaders who wish to revisit the Education Inspection Framework in readiness for their inspection. The session will support subject leaders to reflect upon the impact of their subject leadership and to be confident in articulating their curriculum intent and how they support pupils to achieve well. This session is designed to engage colleagues in professional dialogue and personal reflection and to help prepare the narrative around their subject.

Cost: £28 + VAT peer2:6 (e)10 (r51 1)f-5n (r51 1)6 ()-4 (e)9 (rs)2y9 (o())J0.005 Tc 0 VA)1-1 (pFw 0 -1.20 -1.21y

Court Process & Writing Effective Witness Statements: Guidance for schools

This training session will inform school staff regarding court processes and equip them with sufficient knowledge and resources to complete witness statements effectively for prosecution of cases under s444(1)/ (1)A of the Education Act 1996 for unauthorised absences. School Attendance Leads, Head teachers, School Attendance Officers, or any other school based associated staff with a key role in addressing pupil attendance, absence and welfare would be most welcome. Candidates are advised to have a good working knowledge of or, completed the Using Legal Action to Address Pupil absence: Guidance for schools training, for a better understanding of this session.

Cost: £28 + VAT per delegate

Further dates are available in

Book a delegate to attend both Using Legal & Witness Statements on the same day (does not need to be the same delegate per session but must be the same school) for the discounted price of £51 +VAT for both sessions, a saving of £15 (full price for both sessions prior to discount is £66 + VAT)

Book your place on the above training via [CPD](#) using your school CPD leader login details. Confirmations are issued at the point of booking and go to the delegate email provided. If your school requires support when booking, please contact the training team on 01905 844 420 or email