



Parents and Carers of
Children and Young People

Surrey County Council
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 2DN

Dear Parents and Carers

We wanted to take the opportunity to write to you again following the implementation of the national lockdown on 5 November 2020. You will be aware from government announcements that all schools and education settings are required to remain open to all children and young people during this time. Would encourage all parents to ensure that their children continue to attend their educational provision, unless they are unwell or required to stay at home in accordance with NHS Test & Trace.

We acknowledge for some families, this may feel a big ask, given the wider message to stay home, but we've seen for ourselves how rigorously our setting leaders have followed the national guidance to make their settings COVID safe. Setting leaders, with the support of the Local Authority, Public Health England and the DfE are revisiting their risk assessments very regularly, to ensure the right measures can be implemented to address any presenting risk or anxiety. As a consequence of this hard work and dedication to detail, we feel assured that settings are as safe as they can be in the context of these challenging circumstances.

Despite all of these measures, it nevertheless may be that, on occasion your child may not be able to attend due to confirmed cases within the setting. There are a range of resources that can support your child with their learning and development at home. Many of these can be accessed via the [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

We would like to thank you for continuing to be patient, supportive and compassionate with setting leaders and practitioners during these challenging and difficult times.

Finally, we thank you for following the instructions from settings when you are informed that your child is required to self-isolate in accordance with national Test and Trace regulations. We know what an upheaval and inconvenience this news can present for family life and are very grateful for your shared commitment in taking appropriate action to reduce the spread of the virus.

We are extremely proud of the way everyone is pulling together to address the challenge COVID 19 is presenting us in so many ways. It's imperative that we continue to do so and follow the national guidance in the weeks ahead to enable us to return to normal as soon as possible.

We recognise that some families are finding these times extremely challenging and we pledge to support you in any way we can. If you are struggling, please contact your setting or the [Surrey County Council Coronavirus webpage](#) or our community helpline 0300 200 1008 for advice or assistance.

We wish you and your family well and hope that you continue to stay safe.



Councillor Julie Iles OBE,
Cabinet Member All Age
Learning



Liz Mills,
Director of Education,
Lifelong Learning and Culture
Surrey County Council