Dear colleague,

Apologies if you have already told us about whether your school will be open or closed over Easter.  As the information we have is patchy, I’d be grateful if you would answer the questions in the table below and return it to EandS.Support@barnet.gov.uk today if possible.  it should only take a few minutes.

The questions include information on schools pairing with other schools – please see the guidance I emailed to schools on Friday about this and the further guidance from Jane Morris yesterday.

More information on Easter opening is shown below the table of questions.

   PLEASE COMPLETE THE ANSWER COLUMN OF THE TABLE BELOW and send your reply to EandS.Support@barnet.gov.uk.

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| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| 1. Will your school be open over the Easter holiday and expecting pupils to attend?
 | YES/NO |
| 1. If so will this be for both children of key workers and vulnerable children?
 | YES/NO |
| 1. Will your school be open over the Easter holiday if required but expecting to have no pupils attending (zero-register)?
 | YES/NO |
| 1. Will your school be closed over the Easter holiday?
 | YES/NO |
| 1. If your school will be hosting pupils from one or more other schools if required over Easter, please indicate the name(s) of the ‘sender’ school(s).
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| 1. If your school will be closed over Easter but you are pairing with another school, please indicate the name of the host school.
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| 1. If your school will open on some days but not others (e.g. for religious holidays) please indicate which days you will be closed.
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| 1. Please add any other information about Easter provision including if you are using an outside organisation.
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**DfE advice**

In its latest guidance on this matter the DfE says:

We understand that this is a very difficult time for teachers, and we are asking a lot of them, and all school staff, to help the country fight this virus. We know that school leaders and local authorities will make sensible decisions on staffing and what breaks will be needed, but we are asking schools, wherever possible, to maintain provision for children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response over the Easter holidays.

The guidance also indicates that it will reimburse schools additional costs for schools that remain open through the Easter holidays.

**Risk assessments, frontline NHS staff and working with other schools**

There is no clear right or wrong answer about opening over Easter.  We know that you will be talking to parents and staff and carrying out a risk assessment, weighing up the benefits and risks for staff, pupils and their families of making provision for children of key workers and/or vulnerable pupils over Easter.

I am sure you will also have regard to the fact that the pandemic may be at, or approaching, its peak over the Easter period. Given that fact, we are keen to ensure that any child of a high priority key worker (e.g. frontline NHS staff) who cannot be looked after at home (e.g. because of working extra shifts in hospitals) is able to attend their own school or another school for as much of the Easter holiday period as possible.  Your help in ensuring this happens will be very much appreciated.

Thanks again for your efforts and support.

Ian

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| **Ian Harrison****Education and Skills Director** |  |