

Email from Carolyn Terry to Essex early years and childcare and childcare providers

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>

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Cc: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 3 January 2021

Dear All

Happy New Year to you and your staff

Not unsurprisingly we are receiving a lot of queries, specifically around:

- how the FEEE funding will be administered for the spring 2021 term and
- querying the Government's decision that early years settings, including childminders, should open to all early years children, even in Tier 4 areas

and I just wanted to let you know that we are raising both of these points urgently with the DfE, but to date there are no updates on the FEEE funding or changes to the guidance issued last week. We will continue to press for answers and will update as soon as we have responses.

We have also received queries on the news today that all primary schools in Colchester, Tendring and Uttlesford are to move to a remote education day on both Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 January.

It was always the plan that the 4 January would be a remote education day but the 5th has also now been added (schools will be open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children on the 5th) This is to allow time for further discussions to be had with the DfE on the primary schools in these three Essex districts to be brought in to the contingency framework in line with the other districts across the County. As I set out above, at this point there are no changes to the guidance for early years settings and therefore this news does not change the DfE expectations for the sector in these areas.

I have attached an updated FAQ summarising the key queries we are currently receiving and will issue further FAQs this week.

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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Please note my normal working days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

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