

**NEWS**



Councillor Abtisam Mohamed, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

# 'You have our full support'

**Coun Abtisam Mohamed**  
Cabinet Member for  
Education and Skills

We are so grateful to all of our schools for their efforts during these unprecedented circumstances.

Almost all Sheffield schools have been open throughout lockdown for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers, and all have been supporting home learning.

As always their collaborative ethos has shone through.

We should also applaud our families who have stayed at home and done their best to support home learning.

They should be reassured that families won't be fined for absence in this next few weeks and can make their own decision about wheth-

er to take up a place when it is offered.

As we now contemplate the next steps, our priority is safety.

We want children back at school learning but only when it is safe for this to happen.

Ultimately the decision to open will be made by school leaders and governing bodies, who have our full support to decide what they can do safely and when they can start to bring back more pupils.

We know they are working to provide a clear, safe structure for their schools and we will do everything we can to support them.

Each school is taking a measured approach to planning and carrying out a rigorous risk assessment.

Every school is different and so this will happen in

different ways and at different paces in schools across the city.

Some schools will be ready to bring back more children on 1 June, more will do so later that week and perhaps the majority will start to welcome back more pupils from 8 June onwards.

Schools will stagger this process to make sure that they get this right for pupils.

And all of this will only happen if the government confirms that its five criteria for moving to the next stage of easing the lockdown have been achieved.

This includes a national test, track and trace system being in place.

We believe that this is critical before schools begin expanding the number of children who are attending.

## 'Homeless' beggars warning

Police have warned residents in a Sheffield suburb to be vigilant after door-to-door beggars pretending to be homeless targeted elderly and vulnerable people.

Community support officers from the Sheffield South West neighbourhood team have delivered letters to houses on Montgomery Road, Nether Edge and nearby streets after reports of people knocking on doors to ask for money.

Houses of elderly and vulnerable people were targeted on Oak Dale Road, as well as Montgomery Road and other areas, police said.

A spokesperson for South Yorkshire Police said: "These people are not homeless, they have somewhere to live. If they are successful at one address, they are more likely to return to this address, or pass this on to other people doing the same."

## 'Hello Neighbour' boxes spread joy

Over 1,000 boxes full of activities, information, and gifts, have been created to help bring joy to the lonely and vulnerable in Sheffield.

Age Better in Sheffield teamed up with a number of individuals and organisations to create the 'Hello Neighbour' boxes for people aged 50 and over.

They are packed with various items including post-cards with Pete McKee's distinctive 'Perfect Day' image on, Move More's booklet on keeping active at home, a page from Josephine Delow's famous Sheffield Colouring Book, information on Age Better's befriending service, tips on mindfulness, and a trusty Yorkshire Tea bag.

Hannah Thornton, from Age Better in Sheffield, said: "Although everyone's idea of joy is different we hope that at least some of the items

in these boxes spark creativity, remind people of the wonderful city we live in, help connections thrive, and reassure people that we (and many other organisations) are here for them if they need us.

"We'd like to say another big thank you to all the wonderful people in Sheffield who have generously contributed their work for this - it has been a hugely collaborative effort and there's a lot of love being sent in every box."

"A final thank you to The National Lottery Community Fund whose support has enabled us to create these boxes."

For more information or to request a box, call 0114 2900 294 and ask to speak to a member of the Age Better in Sheffield team or email [agebettersheff@syha.co.uk](mailto:agebettersheff@syha.co.uk).



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