The physical and mental health of children and young people.

Having kept in constant contact with my class of Year 4 pupils, both online and through telephone calls, most children appear to be coping well with the lockdown. There are some children who initially found it hard to settle into a routine and some are still to fully engage with any form of regular learning at home. However, in many cases, there is a clear daily routine which has helped with anxieties. Upon the return to school, we may experience issues with socialisation, particularly for those children who already had social challenges, as well as re-establishing daily routines and expectations of learning.

Vulnerable and disadvantaged children (including pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, children in need, looked after children and children eligible for free school meals).

The major impact I have observed has been on the parents. They have had to try to adapt their home routines and behaviours to meet the needs of their child as a learner, as well as helping them to comprehend the changes and supporting their emotional wellbeing. I have maintained enhanced contact with the parents of these pupils in my class, providing advice and support on routines, strategies to manage behaviour etc. Parents are under considerable pressure, as they aren’t able to access to daily ‘respite’ support offered by normal attendance at school, as well as the daily pastoral support from staff.

Statutory school education, including arrangements for remote learning, continuity of learning, the impact on educational outcomes and the implementation of the critical workers policy.

We have found ourselves in a good position in relation to online learning, with considerable take up. We may experience growing academic gaps between learners as I am aware that some children are working daily on basic skills, consolidation etc whereas others are doing little or no ‘formal’ learning. Therefore, whilst I am offering continuity as a teacher – I cannot guarantee the take up of this at home. We have implemented a 1 hour daily session of online learning for the children of critical workers in our childcare hub, to try to ensure that they aren’t missing out on education opportunities.