



### Primary school lacks 'space and staffing capacity' for Year 6 pupils

**Michael Jenkins:** An important transition from one school to another and a worrying time for a young person. Even if they attended for a short while in year six I feel sure it would be good for the child's well being.  
**Louisa Jenkins:** It would have been nice to be offered something, even the last two weeks in July. Some sort of closure for the children would have been nice.

### Will your workplace's water supply be safe when you return following the coronavirus lockdown?

**Stephen Murray:** This is a little bit alarmist. I would have thought any responsible closed place of work would have been following the sensible guidelines from the start of this lockdown. I suppose a reminder is helpful.  
**Danny Young:** We flush the taps and toilets every week even before the lockdown.

### One fifth of Princess Alexandra Hospital cancer patients' treatment delayed over two months

**Kim Sharpington:** I was told that private hospitals had taken up the backlog of cancer patients!  
**Jane Ann Smith:** PAH Harlow has no problems at all.  
**Donna Horncastle:** That may be true for those already diagnosed but there are no routine screening services to diagnose new patients... so in effect its true! Cancers that should be picked up aren't.

### 'You miss your school and we miss you too' - teachers spell out touching poem to pupils

**Stephen Murray:** Although now I only teach part time, in my 39th year, like all the teachers I know I am really missing the buzz of engaged pupils in the classroom.

### Council rejects calls for booking system after recycling centre queues

**Dave Buchan:** If the council just carried on with the restricted opening, over time people would get used to it and the peak build up from when it was closed would be dealt with.



### Paralysed by fear

OPPOSITION politicians have criticised Johnson's announcement of the easing of lockdown restrictions as 'vague'. Having deemed the previous rules authoritarian, these armchair critics now look back on them with nostalgia.

It's uncomfortable being asked to examine the evidence for what to do and to use your own judgment, isn't it? It means taking responsibility - some would rather blame the Government whatever happens.

The teaching union NEU has adopted a general principle of "No going back until it's safe". It has asked all members to send a letter to heads refusing to take part in any discussions about how their school might reopen more widely on June 1, and instead to await advice from the union.

Nothing is certain in science, but the overwhelming weight of evidence at present - from around the world - is that children are highly unlikely to suffer from the symptoms of Covid-19.

Schools are essential, not only to education, but also to the economy. Parents struggling with the impossible task of 'working from home' while having to look after their children, families shut up in tower blocks desperate to get back to work to pay the bills, might generally be keen for schools to reopen. They need reassurance that schools will be reasonably safe for their children to attend, and staff will be crucial in this.

We must not be paralysed by fear, but discuss how to move forward.

We know we face difficult days ahead, and we will have to face them as best we can.

**Will Podmore**  
Clavering Road, Wanstead

### Brexit and coronavirus

NEGOTIATIONS to finally complete our exit from the EU in December are conducted by dedicated teams, both here and in the EU, completely separate from any dealing with the virus, which has no effect on the negotiations. The end result will depend on goodwill from both sides but currently the EU unfairly wish to retain free access to all our fish.



Facebook readers were touched by this poem written by staff to pupils at Little Parndon Primary Academy, in Harlow

Chris Summer (Delay leaving the EU, Opinion, May 14) is correct that most EU rules were made when we were full members but he forgets that our vote share in the European Parliament was less than ten per cent so we were continually overruled.

It is a pity that he resorts to class and envy politics in making his case.

**Michael McGough**  
Wellfields, Loughton

### Difficult times ahead

THE figures are staggering. Chancellor Rishi Sunak launched a package of measures on Tuesday, March 17 to support businesses and employees costing £350 billion.

Even then we know that the economy will be smaller when we get out of lockdown.

Everyone knows that there are really difficult times ahead. We have not come out of the last recession yet. We cannot take more cuts to services. We know that our poor response to the coronavirus was because of cuts over the past 10 years in

the NHS, in local authority services and underfunding of care homes.

Another hit will be Brexit. Cost of the divorce bill is around £39 billion. Loss in revenue to losing trade with Europe will be costly. Trading links will be broken when we need every customer we can find to buy British goods and trade with us.

Why are we then rushing to end the transition on December 31? We are in a totally different situation than even three months ago.

Let us delay our departure, giving us time to get a settlement that is the best for the UK.

A decision on extending the transition has to be made by the end of June. Write to your MP to support an extension and sign the petition on the European Movement website.

**Richard Newcombe**  
Chair, Waltham Forest European Movement

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