



Dear Parent,

Your child's school has agreed to take part in our new School Starters project. This project explores the impact of COVID-19 on children's first year at school. We are really excited about this project and hope that you and your child will be able to participate.

To take part, we will ask you to complete a survey. You can find a link to the survey in this email. Unfortunately, we will only be able to process the first 20 complete responses. If we have reached this number when you begin the questionnaire you will be notified immediately and will not be able to continue. Please accept our apologies if you are unable to complete the survey.

Once we have received 20 surveys from your school, we will randomly select approximately 10-12 children to be followed up over the coming year. If your child is selected, they will take part in some language and numbers games. These are done on an app and are designed to be enjoyable. We will also ask their teacher to complete a questionnaire about their behaviour and wellbeing at school. We will do this in the Autumn and the Summer terms. We will also ask for their end of year EYFS scores and we will send you another short questionnaire in the summer. You will also receive a £10 high street voucher to say thank you for you and your child's participation.

We hope this project will help us to understand the impact of COVID-19 on children's adjustment to school and indicate what kind of support might be useful moving forward.

What you will need to do

When you open the link to the survey you will be asked to enter your school ID. Your school ID will be:

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We will then ask you to read some information and complete a short questionnaire. The questionnaire will help us to find out about you and your child, your experiences of lockdown, and what sort of activities you did with your child. The questionnaire can be completed on a computer, tablet or phone and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

You can access the survey [here](#).

If you are unable to access the link please copy and paste the following address into your browser:

https://york.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8oyjQTSQ8JUoOBn

We would request that you complete this survey as soon as possible.

If you are unable to access the survey or need additional support please feel free to contact us on education-schoolstarters-cv19@york.ac.uk.

Your and your child's data will be treated in the strictest confidence. It will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act and any individually-identifiable data will be destroyed securely by the end of 2024. For the purpose of research, the responses will be linked with information about the pupils from the National Pupil Database (NPD) and shared with the Department for Education and the EEF's archive manager and potentially in an anonymised form with other research teams.

Further matching to NPD and other administrative data may take place during subsequent research. On receipt of your questionnaire we will assign you a unique code and remove your name, your child's name and contact details from the questionnaire data. This code will be used to link your data to your child's assessment data. We will not use yours, your child's name or the name of the school in any report arising from the research. Further details relating to GDPR, third parties and confidentiality are provided [here](#).

The data from the language and numeracy measure will be available to your child's school for information purposes. Please see the Early Years Toolbox [privacy notice](#) for more information about how your child's data is held.

If at any time you decide you would like to withdraw your and your child's data you can do so by contacting education-schoolstarters-cv19@york.ac.uk by 31st July 2021.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your interest in our study. We hope that you and your child will be able to take part and will enjoy the experience.

Best wishes

Sarah and the School Starters Team