Twitter Thread by Tes

Tes
@tes

How we got here, a thread (1/25)



Before Christmas, owing to rising infection rates, Greenwich advised their schools to shut before the end of term – several councils later advised the same. (2/25)
https://t.co/zt5PKT06Xr

.@educationgovuk threatened these schools with legal action if they did, resulting in schools re-opening their doors for the last few days of term. (3/25)
https://t.co/F0msj2r7HL

The General Secretary of the ASCL, @RealGeoffBarton, accused the @educationgovuk of using "bully boy tactics" to stick to a "robotic mantra to keep schools open whatever the cost" but added "the costs could be incredibly high." (4/25)
https://t.co/YOPeRqFzPj

During this time, @KevinStannard1 warned that we could be heading for another exams U-turn (*spoiler alert*: he was correct). (5/25) https://t.co/ziSGCvXfQ5

On 16 December, our reporters @tweetsbyames and @JohnGRoberts started to hear that there could be a delayed return in Janurary. (6/25)
https://t.co/z5AGSjhn1c

There was also a whole outcry and U-turn around having school staff carry out Covid tests around the same time… (7/25)
https://t.co/NrFTWrHeVC

Schools were being put in an impossible position over lack of clarity about how and when the spring term would start, public accounts committee chair @Meg_HillierMP told top @educationgovuk official. (8/25)
https://t.co/yJSnNpHohi

Revealed in a scoop by us that most secondary school pupils would be learning online in the first week back next year. Only exam groups back in person. This is the same week @educationgovuk took legal action to stop some London schools moving online(9/25)
https://t.co/66wpriA4Pk

In order to get the @educationgovuk testing in place for January, @MattHancock wanted headteachers to work over Christmas to make sure it was ready. (10/25)
https://t.co/u2pRzhiWFb

The new variant of the virus was uncovered, which turned out to be more infectious – and experts warned it might lead to more cases among schoolchildren. (11/25)
https://t.co/bas8TdwxK8

During this period (WE ARE NOT EVEN AT CHRISTMAS YET) @GavinWilliamson and the government claimed that schools didn't drive up the number of Covid infections. (12/25)
https://t.co/TOs1tppQkU

A crunch meeting between the prime minister and the DfE on 23 December about reopening schools was postponed until after Christmas. (13/25)
https://t.co/l5WwaC1glH

The government also accidentally banned the education of children around this time as well… (14/25)
https://t.co/Zwm2H7fLfE

In an exclusive from us, we revealed the government's plans of school reopening after mounting pressure for a delayed start owing to Covid infection rates rising countrywide. (15/25)
https://t.co/yeYDz0KRcy

.@gavinwilliamson gave a speech to the Commons confirming everything we had reported on schools reopening. (16/25)
https://t.co/AEUXPZGxff

Some primary schools were to remain shut, raising questions over why some councils were chosen above others (17/25)
https://t.co/boQDtUPyFW

'Schools are safe,' insists @BorisJohnson. ■■■■ (18/25)
https://t.co/uwHjsHh3aC

On New Year's Eve, education secretary @GavinWilliamson said he is "absolutely confident" that there will be no further delay to school return plans in January (19/25)
https://t.co/pMTsY0cQN2

School leaders started to demand @educationgovuk's reasoning around certain primaries being closed and not others (20/25)
https://t.co/Rx6lzCntc1

U-turn incoming! This raised questions about why all primary schools in London were closed but some in other Tier 4 areas across England were still scheduled to open (21/25)
https://t.co/aczChktDlk

The government insists the U-turn wasn't about safety concerns… (22/25)
https://t.co/xvmncmls6A

The unions then got involved, forming an alliance to protest @gavinwilliamson's plan @NEUnion @NASUWT @NAHTnews @unisontheunion @GMB_union & @unitetheunion (23/25)
https://t.co/zLEc4W4rxo

This all leads to last night's announcement. @BorisJohnson announced – at the end of a day when thousands had returned to school – that schools should close their buildings for all but vulnerable children and children of key workers (24/25)
https://t.co/eRMOQv8vEY

There is likely a lot more coming in the next few days, so keep an eye out on our profile @tes and our website (25/25)
https://t.co/8I0Jt9nwzk