

Remote Learning Strategy

Updated January 2021

Remote education provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education in times of National Lockdown and if local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.

For details of what to expect where individual pupils are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

A pupil's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching.

What should my child expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of pupils being sent home?

If a bubble has to close suddenly the children will be sent home with a pack of work including learning activities in reading, writing and maths along with some broader curriculum and well-being activities. Children also have their reading books and can practice their spellings and times tables/number bonds. Families will be directed to other online resources that they can access immediately and all children have a password for TT RockStars and Phonics Play for the younger children.

Following the first few days of remote education, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

We aim to teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have to make some adaptations in some subjects to suit remote learning and so put less onus on the support of parents/carers and less strain on resources at home. We may also change the order in which we cover certain subjects to enable us to cover appropriate aspects remotely.

If staff illness is such that we cannot provide our planned remote education, families will be signposted to age specific sections on the Oak National academy online platform, BBC Bitesize and other appropriate resources.

Remote teaching and study time each day

How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?

We expect that remote education (including remote teaching and independent work) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

There is a minimum expectation of 3 hours remote learning for primary aged children each school day.

In Foundation Stage a large proportion of this will be play based activities which mirror those activities that children would be accessing within school.

Learning will be set between the hours of 9a.m. and 3p.m. dependent on pace of learning this may take some children much longer than 3 hours. We do not expect any child to be completing any more than 4 hours of remote learning each day. We understand that expecting young children to work from a screen for extended periods of time is not conducive to concentration, quality of learning and positive wellbeing.

There is no expectation of when learning is completed within the day as we understand that families may need to adapt their routine to suit their individual circumstances.

We are aware that for some families trying to complete remote learning may be very stressful for both children and parents/carers. We are always available to provide support through telephone conversations or video calls to provide additional support for families. For some children, a bespoke arrangement may be needed.

Accessing remote education

How will my child access any online remote education you are providing?

Children in Foundation Stage and KS1 will be able to access daily zoom sessions.

Children in KS2 will have a log in to Google Classroom.

We also use a range of recognised educational websites to support and enhance our remote learning offer. Children and families will also be provided with information and links to access these platforms.

We will also provide paper copies of all work set in order to make remote learning accessible to everyone.

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

Paper copies of the work will be provided to all children and families so that no one is left out.

The school has a limited number of laptops that it can lend to children in KS2 and a smaller number of tablets that it can lend to children in KS1.

Families can request devices and where possible, these will be provided. The device will be loaned for a fixed amount of time for the sole purpose of supporting children to access our remote learning offer.

If a family does not have internet access available, the school can provide support. This includes applying for an increase with mobile phone data.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:

All children are provided with paper copies of learning/activities and with resources needed to complete the activities. This includes whiteboards, whiteboard pens, glue, scissors, pencils, etc. Younger children have the opportunity to borrow play resources such as construction kits.

Children in Foundation stage and KS1 have daily zoom sessions. This includes phonics, maths and a story time.

Children in KS2 have log-ins for google Classroom where they can access their work, view videos of the staff delivering introductions to lessons and view additional resources to support their learning.

Some work set for older children will be long-term project work, perhaps related to a particular book. The children will be provided with the book to enable them to complete the work.

Children are directed to a number of other websites and learning platforms as indicated above.

Children who are struggling will be offered additional support through individual zoom sessions, phone calls, doorstep visits and video calls.

Engagement and feedback

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

We expect children to engage with remote education and complete as many of the activities as is reasonable. We understand the pressures that parents/carers face when trying to balance the demands of isolating, working from home and trying to support more than one child with their learning. The work will be differentiated so that it is within the capabilities of the individual children. This should enable them to complete it as independently as possible. We understand that younger children will require more support whereas we expect the older children to be able to work more independently of an adult.

If parents/carers experience difficulties engaging their child with the remote learning we can support them through phone calls, video calls, door step visits and through talking to the children directly.

During National Lockdown, we offer families the opportunity to bring their children to school weekly to meet with their class teacher, outside and socially distanced. This is an alternative and effective way of providing additional support and encouragement to the children and their families.

How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

Staff will check daily to see if the children have engaged in the zoom calls or logged onto Google classroom as appropriate.

Children will be asked to return their work on paper weekly.

Where staff have concerns, they will contact the parents/carers and children directly to provide further support to enable them to be successful.

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

All work will be marked and returned to children. Children will be given verbal feedback when they come to collect their work packs each week, through phone calls, video calls and door step visits as appropriate.

Children from Y2 upwards will be awarded a grade between A and E. This gives all parents/carers immediate and easily understood feedback on how staff feel their child is engaging with and achieving in their work.

Additional support for pupils with particular needs

How will you work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils, for example some pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those pupils in the following ways:

Children with SEND will receive a personalised approach to their remote learning appropriate to their need. This may include differentiated work that is appropriate to the child which may be similar to that offered to the rest of their peers or completely different work. Support and learning opportunities will also be provided through 1 to 1 or 1 to 2 zoom calls or phone calls. These may be daily or several times a week depending on need.

Staff will also provide support to parents/carers through at least weekly contact.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in school, how remote education is provided will likely differ from the approach for whole groups. This is due to the challenges of teaching pupils both at home and in school.

If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?

If a child is self-isolating for a day or two whilst waiting the results of a test they will be guided to a range of online resources such as Oak Academy as well as having their reading books, access to TT RockStars, Phonics play and ongoing spellings and times tables and number bonds work.

If a child has to isolate for 10 days they will be offered work pack of activities and learning for each week related to the curriculum the rest of the class are following in school. The child will be supported through regular phone calls, zoom or video calls.