

Reception Remote learning during lockdown



For all children in Reception

As you will be aware, schools must provide remote learning to children not attending school during the lockdown, and children are expected to engage with this work.

Our remote learning plan has been made with our pupils and their families in mind. We believe that this strategy will work best for the children at our school.

We understand that these expectations can place huge pressure on families; please talk to us so that we can support you as best we can. Lockdown can be stressful for us all, and we want to work with you in the best interests of our children.

Expectations of learning

How long should my child work for? What will be taught? How will it be taught?

The government expect children to be working from home for *'the equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school'*. For Early Years children, the government has advised that this will be less than 3 hours.

The activities teachers set will be as closely aligned as possible to the teaching and learning taking place in school, and to the year group curriculum map which outlines the key knowledge and skills the children should be learning over the term. It's very important that your child is supported to complete this work, so that they do not fall behind with their learning.

For Phonics, Literacy and Maths lessons, teachers will upload a video of the key teaching points or a voiced over presentation, as well as an activity to complete.

The lessons will be set as follows:

- a daily Maths, Literacy and Phonics lesson;
- a daily lesson linked to other areas of the curriculum e.g. Communication and Language, Understanding the World or Expressive Arts and Design.
- 2 weekly Physical Development sessions. 1 from the PE team and 1 linked to other objectives areas from the Early Years curriculum.

Children will continue to be taught planned essential skills and knowledge across the curriculum

Children will also need to continue daily reading and we advise that you complete name writing and dough disco every day.

As well as this, your child should now have received their Numbots log in and we suggest your child plays on Numbots 3 times per week.

A weekly timetable of activities for the next week will be shared on Tapestry by 5.00pm every Friday. All lessons will be available at the start of each day (8.30am), videos will be no longer than 10 minutes and we recommend that follow up activities are carried out for approximately 15 minutes. In between activities and learning set by us, please allow your child time to learn through play at home using their own toys and ideas, as they would in school. This will ensure that your child can pay full attention to the videos and learning activities, which will be more difficult if they complete them all back to back.

The government expect all children to be taking part in school work at home every day.

What we expect from your child

Why is home learning important? What happens if my child doesn't do the work?

It's really important that your child engages with home learning and completes the daily lessons. They will find it much harder to catch up with their peers if they don't do the work, and their progress is very likely to be affected.

Whilst we appreciate home learning can put huge pressure on families, it's simply not acceptable for children to not complete the work. Missing out on the learning will make the return to school so much harder for children, who will not be used to a routine of work and will find they have fallen behind their friends.

If children aren't engaging with the learning you will get regular phone calls from the year group team to ascertain why your child isn't working and remind you how vital their continued education is. If there is no improvement, you will get a phone call from a senior leader. You may also be contacted if your child is not working to the best of their ability. We understand that this could cause additional pressure on parents; however, please support staff during these phone conversations as we wish to work with you to achieve the very best for your child. In addition, it is the government and Ofsted expectation that *schools 'have systems for checking, daily, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and work with families to rapidly identify effective solutions where engagement is a concern'.*

All children must complete the work set for them

We also expect children learning at home to still work within our 'ready, respectful, safe' ethos; any issues will be dealt with as appropriate.

Your child will fall behind if they do not complete their school work

What you'll need at home

Can school help with any resources?

To learn effectively at home, it will be really helpful for children to have:

- A device that can access the internet: ideally a laptop, desktop computer or tablet, alternately a smartphone (phone screens are not optimal for children to be able to easily respond to work);

- Stationery, such a pencil, paper and colouring pencils. We have already offered parents exercise books; please let us know if you did not collect them and would like to do so now;
- A quiet space where children can concentrate on their activities;
- Support and encouragement from an adult.

Early Years activities are very practical in nature. We will be ensuring that we always offer ideas of items you can use around your own house for the activities that we are completing e.g. using oranges as counters in Maths and using flour in a tray for mark making.

Children need a quiet space and help from an adult

We know that some families are struggling with internet access. We have been allocated a total of 29 laptops for the WHOLE school, so unfortunately we are not able to support all families in the way we would like to. We currently have a waiting list for laptops, should the government allocate more to us. Please let us know if access to the internet continues to a problem.

How we support additional needs

Some children in school have special educational needs and we recognise that remote education can be especially tricky for them. We will provide activities for children that we hope they can access at home and will support the learning with additional prompts, guides and resources.

Parents of children with special educational needs will also be contacted regularly by our pastoral team. Please share with them how the learning is going, how your child is feeling and coping at home and please ask for help if you need it.

We will still work towards your child's targets

Communication with teachers

How will teachers assess work and feed back to children? What if I have a question?

Feedback

Teachers will feed back on all work children submit. For core lessons, this will be a comment on the children's on how to improve work or on the next steps for learning. For other subjects, teachers will look at the work, 'like' it to show acknowledgement and may make a comment from time to time.

Teachers will try to provide feedback on work through the day; please remember they will also be teaching their 'bubble' in school and so will not always be on line.

Teachers will feedback on the work submitted. Praising your child's attempts and sharing ideas for next steps and further challenge activities with parents.

For children completing all activities on paper, as agreed with the class teacher, please be mindful that the feedback will not be as regular or provide the same opportunities for immediate improvement of work.

Queries

There may be times when you have a question for a teacher or need some support with the work set. You can message the teacher on Tapestry, by sending them an observation with your question written as the note, and they will contact you as soon as they are able – this may not be until later in the day. Please do not expect immediate responses from staff or responses after 5pm.

Zoom video calls

There may be opportunities for children to have video meetings or calls on 'Zoom'. This could range from a class assembly or listening to the class book, to one-to-one online meetings. Very strict engagement and safeguarding guidelines will need to be followed by staff and families, to enable these calls to take place. These include:

- Following all Zoom security measures put in place by staff setting up the meeting:
 - You will need to wait in the 'waiting room' to be let onto the call;
 - You will be 'muted' before entry to the call;
 - You should have a neutral background such as a plain wall or a Zoom background screen;
 - You must not record the call on any device;
 - Only staff will be able to share their screen.
- Having an adult available at all times during the call;
- Having an adult visible during the video call for one-to-one meetings (this is not necessary for class video calls);
- Children dressing appropriately – no pyjamas please!;
- Children following the schools rules of 'ready, respectful, safe' – children must listen carefully and follow all expectations of the teacher, such as only 'chatting' when requested and only 'unmuting' when permitted;
- Supporting children to be in a quiet area where they won't be interrupted;
- Ensuring no calls are recorded or shared with others.

Parents are asked to be mindful that Zoom calls are for communication between the children and the teacher; this is not an alternative method for parents to contact staff.

We hope children will enjoy these opportunities to 'meet' with their classmates or school staff. Unfortunately, we wouldn't be able to offer this to any child or family that consistently failed to follow these guidelines.

If you do not want your child to take part in Zoom calls, either from home or within school, please let us know.

What you can do to help

We appreciate that isolating and remote learning may present some challenges for you. We kindly ask for your support so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for your child during this time.

Some children need support in accessing online materials, understanding the tasks set and staying focused. We ask that you help them as much as you can; we know this can be difficult – any help you can give your child will make a difference!

Our top tips:

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day; it may be useful for you to create a timetable or set routine;
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life;
- When taking photos to upload to Tapestry, please be mindful to ensure photos are taken in good light and close up, to make sure the teacher can easily view the work;
- Complete the 'core' activities first and provide the best support for these – Phonics and Maths.
- Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active.
- Alternate between a directed activity from the school and allowing your child chance to play and learn with their own toys at home.
- Work from the day can be submitted as separate posts, or if you prefer, you can upload multiple photos and videos to one post a day to show the learning across the day.

Please talk to us if you have any concerns about learning at home.

