

Halesowen C of E Primary School



We care, we trust, we believe.

We share, we enjoy, we achieve.

Information about the remote education
in place for times when children are
unable to attend school

January 2020/2021

Remote education provision: information for parents

It is necessary to put this policy in place in response to the Covid pandemic. This information is intended to provide clarity to pupils and parents/ carers about what to expect from remote education if whole bubbles need to isolate at home and also in the case of national lockdown.

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?

We will endeavour to send out some home learning the first day after bubble or school closure via parent mail. This will initially be in the form of a grid with links to websites and activities, we also have a section on our website with links to educational websites. When things happen quickly like bubble/ school closures, we need time to plan and prepare our full remote learning offer; including ensuring that everyone has their up to date log on information for teams, and guidance on how to use it if they have a device, and making sure children without a device can borrow one or be sent printed materials.

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 will teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we will need to make some adaptations.
- In planning for remote learning, teachers will follow their medium term plan and overview as closely as possible; however, some planned activities may not be possible at home due to resources restrictions and the lack of full time direct access to a teacher in a classroom scenario.
- Where some children from a bubble are in school and some are at home working remotely we will make reasonable efforts to keep children progressing in the same way and working towards the same learning objectives.

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:

Primary school-aged pupils (years 1-6) :	The minimum expectation (following national guidance) for primary aged pupils (Years 1-6) is 3-4 hours per day depending on age. We will aim to set this on average. Some children may take slightly longer to complete tasks and some may take less time. Time can also be spent on things like reading.
Early Years (Nursery and Reception)	We are aiming to set activities than could take between 2-3 hours a day but would suggest these are done in smaller chunks and a lot of time is spent learning through play.

We do not want to encourage children to be sitting on screens for long periods of time as we believe this is not good for their well-being or health. Please encourage children to take breaks from screens.

Accessing remote education

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

We will share most of our learning through **Microsoft Teams**. Each bubble has a private team. Every day learning will be set up on a new channel (with the title being the date). Teacher videos will be shared through Microsoft 'Stream'. Children will be able to share work with us on **Microsoft Teams** through assignments or by email to dedicated email addresses for each bubble.

There will be some direct "live" input for children. This varies according to year groups and whether more than one bubble is shut at a time in school. Please find details in the appendix for the January 2021 lockdown. Some things will be recorded. This is because we are aware that the timing of live lessons might not suit all families.

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:

We have designed our approach so that learning can be accessed on devices of any size. An internet-enabled mobile phone is the minimum requirement

- Where we have identified that a child does not have adequate access to a digital device, we may be able to loan some devices to families. If your child/children have no way to access the internet, please phone the school office on 01384 818885, or email the school at pastoral@halesowen.dudley.sch.uk
- It may not always been possible to get devices out to all families. We have tried to set work that can be completed even without access to a device. If you need access to printed materials- we will try to arrange this dependant on the circumstances

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

We will use a variety of teaching approaches for different age groups. The circumstances may dictate the methods. For example if a class teacher is poorly they may not be able to lead live learning. Specific information about the plan for lockdown 2021 is in the appendix.

We plan to use a mixture of the following approaches depending on the circumstance

- live teaching/ meetings/ feedback sessions (online using [Microsoft Teams](#))
- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- Home learning grids shared on parent mail and [Microsoft Teams](#) or printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences
- long-term project work and/or internet research activities

Children will either complete online work on [Microsoft Teams](#) assignments, or email work or photos of work to a dedicated email address.

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 all children to actively engage with the Teams-based learning and teams meetings if they have a device.
- We expect parents and carers to encourage children to complete work. We understand you are not teachers but feel work set is suited to the children's age and abilities. Any concerns parents should contact us.

We appreciate that 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. We encourage parents to support younger children, in particular, as they may need support in accessing online materials and staying focused with their remote learning. We don't expect you to watch your child all day, and we wouldn't expect parents/carers to become teachers. But, it would be really helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning by asking them about their day and what they've learned.

Our top tips:

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed prior to learning.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life.
- Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active.

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

- We will monitor how often children attend the Teams sessions.
- We will monitor how often children email / submit work to us.
- If we have any concerns about engagement we will first remind you on parent mail and then telephone you to follow this up.

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

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean written comments for individual children. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

- The teachers will hold review meetings to discuss learning where they can feedback to a whole group sharing successes and misconceptions to support future learning.
- We will ask you to bring any written work produced into school at the end of the period of remote learning
- The teacher may also ask you to photograph work and post it onto the Teams message board for the day
- We will celebrate outstanding work and effort in a weekly Star of the week assembly recorded and shared online.

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:

- For children who have special educational needs and who are unable to access the learning provided for the whole class, alternative work can be provided.
- If we are making use of educational websites e.g. Oak National Academy videos we will try and set at an appropriate level of challenge for your child. This work may not necessarily follow the same medium term planning as the rest of the class, if the teacher judges that different work would be more appropriate.
- Where this approach is judged as not being appropriate to meet a child's needs, a pack of work and activities will be put together.
- We will have dedicated staff in school to deal with queries relating to SEND children and children who need extra support with remote learning for whatever reason.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where an individual pupil needs 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?

- We will only send out remote learning after the child has been absent from school for more than 48 hours or on the recipient of a positive Covid test.
- Lessons and activities from the Oak National Academy will be shared by email, using the Parentmail system.
- A home learning grid will be sent by parent mail.
- Work will be reviewed when the child returns to school.

Appendix

In January 2021 the Prime Minister announced on the evening of Monday 4th January that schools would close to most pupils from Tuesday 5th January. This has meant working very hard, at the last minute, to get remote learning in place alongside teaching vulnerable and key worker children in school. At Halesowen C of E our new remote learning offer had only been tested with one bubble that had, had to isolate. Therefore plans will be trial and error and this offer may be revised.

Please see the plan for each phase/ bubble:

EYFS

We believe children in EYFS will struggle to concentrate on a “screen” for learning for long periods of time and also feel this method is not the most effective in line with EYFS principles.

Children in Nursery and Reception will be invited to view a “live” session with their teacher on a Monday morning (this will be recorded for any children who cannot access their device at that time)

This session will introduce the book and theme for the week for example: “Little Red Riding Hood”. The children will then complete activities that cover the development matters objectives across the week, through mainly play based activities and some links to online material.

A grid of activities will be posted on Microsoft Teams for the families to access and respond to. These activities will cover the areas of learning taught in EYFS. They will also be sent this grid on parent mail. Families should send photos, any work and thoughts about activities to a dedicated email address. Staff will monitor this email address and respond if necessary.

On a Friday morning staff will host another live session where children can join on teams and share work. As the children are young and may not feel confident enough to speak on a Teams meeting the teacher will lead this sharing work they have received through the week.

Key 1 (Years 1 and 2)

For Year 1 and 2 we feel they will benefit by having some direct teaching and feedback from a teacher familiar to them.

Children in Year 1 and 2 will be invited to view a “live” lesson with one of their teachers on a Monday morning and a Wednesday morning (this will be recorded for any children who cannot access their device at that time)

On a Monday- a maths unit of work will be introduced. The teacher will teach a new concept or revise a concept, they will model examples and use practical equipment. They will ensure they explain the activities that will follow for children to complete.

The activities for the maths learning will be posted on Microsoft Teams and also sent on parentmail. Children will complete activities Monday morning and Tuesday morning. Families should send photos, any work and thoughts about activities to a dedicated email address. Staff will monitor this email address and respond if necessary.

On Tuesday, late morning staff will host another live session where children can join on teams and share work. As the children are young and may not feel confident enough to speak on a Teams meeting the teacher will lead this sharing work and talking through what the children have done well and any misconception.

On a Wednesday- an English unit of work will be introduced. The teacher will introduce the lesson. They will ensure they explain the activities that will follow for children to complete.

The activities for the English learning will be posted on Microsoft Teams and also sent on parentmail. Children will complete activities Wednesday morning and Thursday morning. Families should send photos, any work and thoughts about activities to a dedicated email address. Staff will monitor this email address and respond if necessary.

On Thursday, late morning staff will host another live session where children can join on teams and share work. As the children are young and may not feel confident enough to speak on a Teams meeting the teacher will lead this sharing work and talking through what the children have done well and anything they could work harder on next time.

Other work the children will be set will be:

- One skills session a day Monday to Thursday- this will be phonics/ reading or spelling
- A topic session everyday
- Friday morning- physical day to include PE

During each day, children or parents can post questions on Microsoft teams and a dedicated member of staff will monitor and respond to them.

Key stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) and (Years 5 and 6)

We feel that children in key stage 2 will need daily input to maintain motivation with remote learning.

Children in Year 3 and 4 and children in Year 5 and 6 will be invited to “live” teams meetings with one of their teachers each morning.

The teacher will explain the tasks for the day. These will include a maths lesson, English lesson, skills lesson and topic lesson. They will ensure they explain the activities that will follow for children to complete.

The activities will be posted on Microsoft Teams and also some sent on parent mail. Children can complete work directly on assignments on Microsoft Teams or on paper/ printed sheets (by downloading work from teams and printing). They can then email them to a dedicated email address. Staff will monitor Microsoft teams and the email address and respond if necessary.

During the day, children can post questions on Microsoft teams and a dedicated member of staff will monitor and respond to them.

Every afternoon the teacher will hold another Microsoft teams meeting to review learning for the day. In this session good work can be shared, misconceptions can be addressed and children can be helped with any questions.

Teachers will also, from time to time, share videos that will help with learning e.g. the reading of a book.