

Remote Learning at Mount Primary School



Information for Parents

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 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?

Google Classroom will be used to share work from the first day of remote education. These activities will mirror what would have been taught in the classroom as closely as possible, but will not have the same level of teacher input that will be normal practice throughout the rest of the isolation period. Children will be asked to work more independently during these first days.

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 teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, in science, if the topic requires high levels of resources and practical work then staff will reorganise the curriculum to ensure topics which are easier to cover at home are taught. This will still be from the age related curriculum that would have been taught in school.

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:

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| Primary school-aged pupils | Between 3-4 hours including independent reading and physical activity |
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Accessing remote education

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

Mount Primary School uses Google Classroom as the main platform for delivery of the curriculum, feedback and assessment. All children have access to this.

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:

- For families who do not have appropriate devices to work on we will provide a laptop where possible. If we do not have a laptop available, the school will add parents to a waiting list and explore other options with the family such as access through an Xbox, Playstation, phone or tablet
- The school has a number of SIM cards with data available and have shared information on how we can apply on a parent's behalf to have their data cap lifted with certain mobile phone providers.
- Where pupils are unable to access the internet, the school can provide paper worksheets on a weekly basis. This is not the preferred route as it limits the input from teachers so school will work with families to ensure children can access online learning wherever possible. Workbooks and exercise books have been provided to enable children to work away from a screen and children are often encouraged to work in ways which do not require technology. Images can be uploaded to Google Classroom for staff feedback
- If children are unable to submit work daily online and a solution has not been found after working with the school, paper packs can be dropped into the office weekly and a new pack collected.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Live 'check in' sessions weekly on Google Meet
- Recorded teaching including video/ audio recording made by teachers for maths and English and Oak Academy recordings for the wider curriculum.
- Maths No Problem workbooks and exercise books made available for all children working at home
- Reading books pupils have at home

- commercially available websites, including BBC Bitesize, support the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences
- Other platforms including MyMaths, Times Table Rockstars and Spellzone are also used to promote independent practice

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?

- Work is set daily and we expect children engage with this work as they would in school. Staff monitor Google Classroom throughout the day and children can use this to ask questions and get support with their learning.
- There is a suggested timetable in place to support families to establish routines. We have built in flexible deadlines to support different family circumstances and we ask that families work with us to ensure their children are engaging with the work set. The staff allocated to set remote learning are on hand to support families and can be contacted through the school office.

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

- Google Classroom is checked daily and engagement recorded. Children submitting work through Google Classroom will receive feedback from the teacher.
- Staff make phone calls weekly to families of children who are regularly not completing work set.

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:

- Children receive daily feedback on work set through Google Classroom. This may be verbal or written.
- Platforms such as Times Table Rockstars, Spellzone and MyMaths all provide instant feedback.

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 who cannot access the class curriculum will have other provisions put in place which may include:

- Personalised work
- Additional support from school including phone calls, Google Meets etc
- Support or additional resources to access the learning

Remote learning for Foundation 2 and Year 1 is planned to include more open ended tasks that do not require as much screen time. Additional teacher videos including daily story times are used to encourage engagement. Verbal feedback is used.

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?

Where individuals are isolating, Google Classroom will still be used to share work. This work will be added weekly with a suggested timetable for children to follow. Staff will give children feedback on completed work. The work set will mirror that being completed in school where possible and although it will not be possible to record teacher videos, recorded lessons such as those produced by Oak National Academy will be used to support pupils at home.