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 where national or 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?

Immediately after school closure, pupils will receive a paper work pack with enough work for at least one week and an exercise book. In addition, all class website pages contain links to some activities that children can undertake at home to practice their basic skills. Children can also access further learning activities immediately through their 'Purple Mash' and 'Times Tables Rockstars' accounts.

All pupils have a Microsoft Teams account and have been taught how to log in. One day after school closure, teachers will schedule a Microsoft Teams meeting with the children and parents or share further instructions through documents and messages. The teacher will discuss the remote learning arrangements and expectations. This information will also be shared through the school's communication channels. Teachers will share a timetable of learning, including when any further meetings between the children and teacher will take place. Specific times to log on for any directed learning will be shared.

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; there may be an increased focus on strengthening 'basic skills'; practical activities such as scientific investigations or clay modelling would need changing or adapting due to the nature of remote learning, PE sessions from home, etc.

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:

Key Stage 1	3+ hours
Key Stage 2	4+ hours

Accessing remote education

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

Children will access their online remote learning primarily through Microsoft Teams, where teachers will set tasks, host live meetings, answer questions, provide feedback and share resources or links to external websites where needed.

Links and resources will utilise Oak National Academy learning materials and Purple Mash activities, which align to the Sandbach Primary Academy curriculum and teaching objectives for the year group.

Children may also be asked to visit 'universal' online content / resources signposted to them such as Times Tables Rock Stars, BBC Bitesize home learning, Oxford Owl reading, Youtube links, and other educational sites.

The tools and sites stated above are all accessible via a computer, laptop, smartphone or tablet. They do require an internet connection.

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 will have some provision to lend laptops to pupils without a device, dependent on Government supply. Please contact school by phone or e-mail to enquire further and register your need. Devices will be allocated on basis of need.

- We may be able to help with obtaining a free internet connection via BT. Please contact school by phone or e-mail to enquire further.

- In the event of having no online access at all, please make a special request for work or textbooks to be supplied by school. Please contact school to discuss further.

- In the event of having no online access at all, paper work or text books can be returned to school and given to the class teacher at the end of each week.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Some examples of our remote teaching approaches;

- Live registration/check -in Microsoft Teams meetings in the morning and afternoon.

- Recorded teaching e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers, BBC home learning lessons.

- Live teaching sessions prior to independent work, to introduce learning, share objectives or model teaching points.

- Files, resources, documents and assignments shared through Microsoft Teams.

- In the first two weeks; printed paper packs produced by teachers e.g. workbooks, worksheets

- Reading books pupils have at home and online libraries/reading sites such as Oxford Owl, Audible, Storyline, CBBC stories.

- Membership websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas such as Purple Mash and Times Tables Rockstars. Children have individual accounts for these. Please contact school if you need a reminder of login details.

- Internet based research activities

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?

- Pupils are expected to engage with their learning every weekday by joining any live meetings, following instructions through their class page on Microsoft Teams, completing and submitting work as directed by teachers.

- Parental support; please support your child by providing a space to work and a routine to complete work each day, with breaks. There is a suggested timetable for each day provided by teachers on Microsoft Teams and a general timetable in the home-learning parental handbook on our website.

- We understand that younger pupils may need more help from parents and carers to access their learning. We acknowledge that parents and carers will be very busy at this time e.g. supporting many children, working from home etc. Therefore, in line with Ofsted guidance, we will take steps to ensure as much as possible that children can attempt work by themselves. We always encourage independent learning from the children and set tasks for them to access and complete on their own.

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

- Pupils' engagement with remote education is checked and recorded on a daily basis, through live check-ins, submitted work, and online classroom messages.

- If school is concerned about a pupil's engagement, we will communicate this to parents and carers via phone call or e-mail from the head teacher, class teacher or office staff.

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:

We will provide feedback to pupils in a number of ways;

- Instant verbal feedback during live lessons and written feedback through the classroom chat areas on Microsoft Teams.

- Written feedback or points awarded for completed assignments submitted through Microsoft Teams.

- Written feedback where work is submitted via photos sent through email.

- Mark schemes given for some work to enable children to check their own learning.

- Quizzes and tests via learning platforms may be automatically marked to provide instant feedback.

- Scores, stickers or written feedback for work completed through Purple Mash.

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 pupils with a SEND need, school will endeavor to deliver additional support via 1:1 or small group meeting, delivered by the child's familiar adults from school. Examples might include Speech and Language support, motor skills sessions, phonics or reading support etc. Additional resources may be provided where necessary to enable parents to support this.

- Where children would normally receive additional support from SEND agencies, the SENDCO will make arrangements for those to continue via Teams as long as the agencies are able to provide this.

- If the child is vulnerable in any way, the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) will ensure that appropriate agencies are notified and arrange for regular safety and wellbeing checks via a phone call or visits as appropriate

- If a child is entitled to free school meals, school will ensure food is made available through either a grab bag lunch (which can be collected from school, or in exceptional circumstances can be delivered) or through meals vouchers provided by the government. Please contact school to enquire further about this.

For younger pupils, for example those in Reception and Year 1, school will do all we can to set appropriate tasks to match their concentration span and abilities.

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?

To ensure individual pupils self-isolating are taught a planned and well-sequenced curriculum, they will be required to engage with the class and class teacher through Microsoft Teams and pupil email.

They will be given a paper copy work pack in the first instance. After the first day of isolation, self-isolating pupils will receive instructions and any resources for learning through Microsoft Teams and email. Feedback on work will be given through Microsoft Teams or via email.

The curriculum for self-isolating pupils will be in-line with the curriculum learning in school, as much as is possible. Where this is not possible, alternative learning will be given or signposted e.g. for PE, a home workout session.