

# Whitecote Primary School



## Remote Education – Information for Parents

January 2021

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?**

In the first instance, children will be sent home with a work-pack containing enough work for two weeks. If children have told us they don't have a device (through our pupil survey) they will be provided with one, assuming there are devices available. We have a loan system of tablets and laptops. In the event that we do not send a device home with a child but they need one, parents can contact school to request one.

### **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 broadly teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we may need to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, where new content might need more explanation or topic work may be altered to fit with what can realistically be done at home.

We continue to have a focus on wellbeing and mental health and there will be tasks set around this, including activities from our Health Mentor.

### **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 approximately the following number of hours each day:

Little Doves, Nursery and Reception	Less than three hours.
Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2)	Minimum three hours.
Key Stage 2 (Years 3,4,5 and 6)	Minimum four hours.

## **Accessing remote education**

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

If your child is in Little Doves, Nursery or Reception, you will access tasks via Tapestry. Reception classes will also have a daily, where possible, live Zoom session lasting approx 20 – 30 mins. The link for this will be posted onto Tapestry and also sent via text message. Parents/carers can upload pictures and videos of their child's learning and this will be commented on by staff.

If your child is in Year 1 – Year 6, they will access their remote learning through Class Dojo. Tasks, instructions and links to pre-recorded videos (either school staff or external links, such as Oak Academy) will be posted to the Class Story and into the children's Portfolio. Sometimes this will contain a link to the Remote Learning area of our school website, where you will be able to access videos and lesson resources. Links for live sessions will also be posted to the Class Story.

Children submit their work via their Portfolio in Class Dojo and teachers/teaching assistants will provide comments and feedback.

Paper packs will also be available for those who need them, although we ask you to prioritise the online tasks if you can.

### **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 loan out school tablets and laptops. We have conducted a pupil survey and where children told us they did not have a device we will have contacted you with the offer of lending one, or will send one home with your child if their bubble collapses and devices are

available at that time. If your child does not have access to a suitable device or you have multiple children but only one device, please ring school and ask to speak to Mrs Burling. Once allocated to a child, tablets or laptops will be available to collect from the main office (outside the door), please call ahead to arrange a time.

Where we have been made aware that families do not have access to the internet through a broadband connection, we are able to apply for wireless routers or mobile data boosts. Please call school to request this, you will be asked to provide some details about your phone contract.

Paper packs will be sent home initially and then every fortnight to those who request them during longer lockdown periods. If you require a paper pack at any point, please email the year group email address and the staff will arrange a suitable collection time, or alternative ways of getting the pack to you if you are isolating or unable to collect.

### **How will my child be taught remotely?**

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

- Live teaching (online sessions via Zoom).
- Recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers).
- Printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets and other activity ideas).
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences. Links to these will be posted on Tapestry or Class Dojo as appropriate.
- E-books via Oxford Owl website, please email the year group email address for queries relating to log-ins.
- Digital learning platforms where children already have log-ins – e.g. Times Table Rockstars, MyMaths, Purple Mash. Please email the year group email address for queries relating to log-ins.
- Activities and videos from our Health Mentor on wellbeing and physical health.
- Suggestions of practical games or family activities to do together.
- Further support for children with SEND.
- Small group or 1:1 intervention sessions (always with a second adult present).

## **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?**

#### Expectations for pupils' engagement with remote education

Children are expected to complete some tasks each day and submit these to their teacher. For Year 1 – 6, children will do this via Class Dojo. For Early Years (Little Doves, Nursery and Reception) parents/carers can submit via Tapestry.

Children in Reception to Year 6 are expected to attend a live Zoom, where possible, each morning. Times of Zooms are scheduled to avoid clashes with too many year groups, for those families with siblings across different age ranges. KS2 (Years 3 – 6) will offer an afternoon Zoom session as well on some days, which will be a drop-in session to support with questions or issues arising from the work set, or some further input.

#### Expectations for parental support

Parents are expected to support school by valuing the importance of their children completing some work each day and by helping them join the live Zoom sessions where possible.

Parents are expected to keep routines for their child, such as regular bedtime and getting up, dressed and ready for the day at a suitable time in the morning.

Parents are asked to contact school if they need help with any of these aspects.

Parents are asked to answer their phone or respond to messages received if school staff have tried to make contact with them for work or pastoral checks.

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

Daily checks will be made on engagement with remote learning – including attendance at live sessions and whether children have sent in any tasks via digital platforms. Where paper packs have been provided, contact will be made over the phone to check how the children are getting on with the tasks.

Parents/carers will be contacted each week if there are concerns and attempts will be made to offer further support. We may do doorstep visits if we have been unable to make contact.

### **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:

During a lockdown, each week there is one class teacher and one or more teaching assistants assigned to remote learning. They will make comments on Tapestry or Class Dojo acknowledging work sent in. If a bubble collapses when schools are fully open, the teacher and TAs from that bubble will be providing remote teaching and feedback from home.

For Years 1 to 6, staff will acknowledge all work received and give feedback on some pieces of work before returning them for editing/corrections.

Verbal feedback will be given as appropriate to small groups or whole classes during live remote teaching sessions or live 1:1 intervention sessions. There will be another adult within earshot for any 1:1 support sessions over Zoom or by phone.

Feedback will be given during school hours. We appreciate family commitments might mean needing to send in work after these times, in which case it will be responded to the next morning. For older children who are able to send in their own work, we are encouraging them to submit each piece as soon as they have completed it.

Where children are working on paper packs and require additional support, packs can be returned to school for marking and feedback. They will be quarantined before staff look at them and feedback will then be given via support phone calls or live sessions.

### **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 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:

#### SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

If your child has SEND, we will provide additional support to enable you to support them at home with their learning. This may include sending different work, signposting support resources or offering small group or 1:1 intervention sessions and support sessions from teachers and/or teaching assistants over the phone or via Zoom. Where your child is in a 1:1 session, there will be a second school adult within earshot and we would ask you to remain in the room with your child during that time. Children with SEND will be included in all aspects of remote learning and provided with tasks to meet their needs. Expectations are high for all children, but these will be adapted with an awareness of the extra demands on adult time a child with SEND might need while learning from home.

#### Young Children

We recognise that younger children require more adult support to engage in remote learning. For our Early Years children - those in Little Doves, Nursery and Reception, we will continue to use Tapestry to share activities and for parents/carers to upload pictures and

videos of the children completing the tasks. Activities will also be provided via paper packs as required. Activities will contain practical tasks that the whole family can enjoy together, as well as some specific learning activities. Children in Reception will have a daily live session. The running time of this will account for their attention spans and include practical aspects to keep them engaged.

Families will be able to choose from a range of tasks for their younger children in order to find what is manageable for them. We understand that parents/carers may also have other toddlers/babies to look after, older siblings to support or their own work commitments to fulfil while also supporting the remote learning of their Early Years child.

We recognise that children in Year 1 may also need additional support to access live sessions or submit work via Class Dojo and will assist families with this as needed.

### **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?**

For children in Little Doves, Nursery and Reception, activities will be put onto Tapestry to be accessed by anyone needing to self-isolate. For children in Year 1 to Year 6, work will be set via Class Dojo. Tasks will be uploaded weekly, to be accessed by anyone self-isolating and then further tasks can be allocated individually to those children. Contact will be made by the end of the second day that a child is absent if we have received no work or other communication by then. Feedback on work submitted by children who are self-isolating when the rest of their class is still in school will be given within 48 hours of the work being received. We ask parents to recognise the dual demands of teaching a class in school at the same time as providing remote learning for children needing to self-isolate. Feedback may include returning work to the child (via their Portfolio in Class Dojo) for them to make improvements or complete corrections. Children will be expected to submit work that is done to the best of their abilities.