



Remote Education Provision: Information for Parents

From Wednesday 9th January 2021, schools moved to a blended learning provision for pupils with some accessing remote education, some accessing special provision and some a mix of both. New guidance from the DfE published in January 2021 makes clear the expectations on schools for remote learning. This document explains how we will be meeting these expectations to continue your child's education during this period.

What should my child expect from remote education?

KS1 & reception classes will continue to use year group blogs to set remote learning and to communicate with parents/carers and pupils. There will be new tasks and content each day. Year team teachers will monitor and respond to queries each day through the year group email addresses which are provided for parents.

KS2 classes will continue to use Google classroom (GC) to set the remote learning and to communicate with pupils. Each day, work will be set in GC and the year team teachers will monitor, update and mark daily. Parents/carers are able to communicate with teachers via the year group email addresses.

Year group teams have already sent a communication through Parentmail or the year group blog that set out the details of learning expectations specific to that year group. These are, as you would expect, different in each year group and reflect the increasing expectations as children move through the school.

The new guidance for schools includes the expectation that work set will follow a 'well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally'.

Across the school, our online work is being planned and developed so it follows a clear progression, in line with our curriculum, with each skills session building on the work in the previous sessions. This progression will naturally include content that is new to the children, as well as opportunities for practice of skills taught earlier in the year; more information follows in this guide about how we will facilitate this successfully.

How much work will be set in a day? Will it last the full school day?

Each year group has a suggested timetable/timings for the work set during the day which will cover the areas of learning that they would have covered in school. When children are in school, the logistics of the classroom (registration, break times, handwashing, giving out books etc.) along with group discussions and sharing questions and answers, inevitably take up time, and so the work that your child is given at home will not last the equivalent of a full school day. The DfE expects schools to offer remote learning of up to 3 hrs in KS1 (shorter for the younger pupils) and remote learning of around 4hrs for KS2 children. This will include time to complete independent learning tasks.

Please bear in mind that in school children will frequently be asked to edit and improve work. If your child is completing work very quickly, you might ask the teacher for advice on how to question the child or encourage them to return to edit and improve. In KS2, sometimes children click 'submit' on Google Classroom so that it can appear to parents that the work has been completed, but they may have used single word answers or not fully completed the activity. If you are concerned that your child is completing work too quickly, please email the class teacher who can let you know if there are suggestions for how the child can extend or improve their work.



How will my child be taught remotely?

Remote education is a broad term encompassing any learning that happens outside of the classroom with the teacher not present in the same location as the pupils. WPS will use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:

a) Recorded lessons. This may include

- A teacher from your child's year group talking through a presentation;
- A video of a teacher from your child's year group delivering a lesson;
- A video from a curriculum resource used regularly as part of our provision and therefore familiar to pupils (e.g. Metcalf maths, White Rose); or one of the providers supported by the DfE (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, BBC bitesize).

b) Follow up activities to be completed using the skills/information from the recorded lesson. This could include paper based activities or those to be completed online (for example, on a Google Classroom form)

c) Off-line activities set with written instructions provided via the blog/GC. This may include

- Reading / writing / handwriting / spelling practice
- Practical tasks/challenges

d) Printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)

e) Commercially available websites/apps supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas. This may include

- video clips or sequences
- Games and apps to practice skills such as TT Rockstars, BugClub.

Will teachers be broadcasting 'live' lessons?

We won't be making use of live lessons, but in line with the new DfE guidance, we will be ensuring that any new content for children is accompanied by video or voiced explanations. Feedback from parent surveys show that a number of children only have access to a shared device, often with a parent who is working from home, and therefore there is a need for families to have the flexibility to access learning materials at a time to suit. A number of parents also identified the issues with reliable internet connection within Whiteley which makes live teaching less viable.

How will teachers ensure that there is interaction with the children at home?

We do recognise how important it is for children to have the opportunity to experience interaction with their teacher and some peers. We will therefore be offering a live Zoom session every week to all pupils who aren't able to access the special provision. The zoom sessions are not to replace our curriculum content of recorded teaching / learning, but are instead intended to help provide regular interaction with teachers/peers for those children who are learning from home. These will be up to 30 minutes long, tailored to the age of the children. They may be with the whole class or a smaller group, depending on the activity. Parents are informed of the day/time and log in details for Zoom sessions in advance.

In addition, children in KS2 are able to have regular interaction with their class teachers through Google Classroom using email and the chat functions. Teachers are available throughout the school day to answer questions from pupils, and also to respond to parental emails. In KS1 & reception, parents are encouraged to use the year group email to keep in touch with the class teacher, letting them know how children are getting on and sharing pictures of their work. Teachers will also make phone calls where needed to help keep in touch with parents and children where it is identified that a more individual approach is required.



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. In the Autumn term, we surveyed parents to find out about the device and internet access at home and used the results to help us target families for loan of equipment. A small set of school laptops have already been loaned to families, and we are in the process of allocating the DfE allocation of laptops which recently arrived. The school also has a small resource of data only SIM cards which can be provided to families without WiFi connections.

Printed work packs can be provided to families where there are difficulties with digital or online access for the child. Arrangements can be made to collect these from the school office.

If you are experiencing difficulties with digital or online access for your children, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

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 do appreciate that everyone's circumstances are different and the amount you are able to support your child at home will differ – it is therefore important that you find a timetable that works for you at home, but would urge you to ensure that the basics of reading, writing and maths are prioritised if your child is unable to complete all the remote learning provided for the year group.

If you feel that you want your child to have further work to do, year groups may suggest some on-going activities or other resources that you might access – for example, they might do some of their own research linked to the year group learning journey; or you may wish for them to access additional lessons from Oak National Academy or BBC Bitesize.

If you feel unsure or concerned about the expectations, check the information provided by the year team or contact them directly using the teacher email address.

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

We will be monitoring the level and quality of engagement of all pupils using a range of methods appropriate to the age of your child. In KS2 teachers are able to track on a daily basis the frequency that each pupil is accessing tasks set in GC and also monitor the quality of the work submitted. In KS1 & reception, we will be liaising with parents through weekly Parentmail feedback questionnaires, as well via email, to monitor engagement and gain feedback on the remote learning being set. Teachers will also monitor engagement of children through the weekly Zoom sessions.

If teachers identify a concern, you will be contacted to check if there are difficulties with remote learning and to discuss how we could further support you.

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

The sequential learning, building learning on previous sessions, means it is important that children access the key tasks/skills through the week; especially in reading, literacy and numeracy. Teachers will use the feedback they have from marking work (at KS2) and from the Parentmail forms (KS1 & reception) to help them plan subsequent sessions. At KS2, teachers will use Google Classroom to set a range of tasks that will support them with assessment. These may include quizzes, short projects, self-marked tests, or



independent writing tasks. At KS2, pupils will receive a combination of individual and whole class feedback through the week with the expectation that for those pupils accessing daily, they will receive personal feedback at least once a week.

At KS1 & reception, we encourage parents to send in photos or scans of work that children have completed, and also to complete the weekly feedback form. Where common difficulties or comments are identified, these will be addressed through the year group blog the following week.

Additional support for children with particular needs

My child has special educational needs – will they receive different work to complete for their remote learning?

Teachers know the children in their class who may need a differing or alternative approach to the remote learning. This might include some activities where they access the main year group tasks at their own level, or some areas where they have different activities to develop their basic skills - this may be more paper based and provided as a pack for you to use at home.

Pupils that have an Individual Education Plan or Support Plan will have resources to help parents/carers maintain the usual way of working as much as possible. Those who receive specialist support in school, such as speech and language/spelling/social communication/reading interventions, will be contacted to develop a plan to maintain the delivery of support in a different format as much as possible.

Children accessing special provision in school

Will the children in special provision be taught broadly the same curriculum as the children at home?

Pupils in special provision access and work through the same resources and online learning on Google classroom/year group blogs as children who are remote learning. The special provision class bubbles are mainly run by our class teaching assistants who facilitate the learning in school, using the materials prepared by the teachers. This will help to ensure that when school opens fully, the majority of children will have had similar learning journeys during the school closure and will return to the classroom at the same point in the curriculum.

Who should I contact with questions or concerns about the remote learning?

Your child's class teacher should be the first port of call for enquiries that relate to your child's learning. They can be reached via the year group email address. The school's home-school link worker, Mrs Bevan, can also be contacted for parental concerns related to pastoral support of your child (sleep, behaviour, routines etc). If you have questions about the school's approach to remote learning, these should be directed to Ms Bolton (acting DHT) who oversees the remote learning for the school (contact via adminoffice@whiteley.hants.sch.uk).

Additional relevant documents regarding effective remote learning

Education Endowment Foundation: Rapid evidence assessment of distance learning (Oct 2020)
https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Remote_learning_evidence_review/Rapid_Evidence_Assessment_summary.pdf

DfE publication:

Ofsted 'What's working well in remote education' (11th January 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>