



COALWAY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL
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Term 3 Newsletter

As this is our first newsletter of 2021 may we first wish all of our families a very



We hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas break despite the circumstances and that you and your families are well.

With the return to a national lockdown, this term (and the New Year) has not started as we had hoped and will be quite different to the one we had initially planned. The ongoing, ever-changing situation will be challenging but we will get through it together – please be assured, we are here to help you in any way that we can, all be it at a distance this term. In the meantime, because of the highly contagious nature of this virus, please stay safe, stay at home, reduce your contact with others wherever possible and look after yourselves.



Remote learning

Following the introduction of the national lockdown on 4th January, schools must move to remote education for this term, except for vulnerable children and children of key workers where they have no alternative child care.

We are therefore putting into place our remote learning plan, as shared with parents in our November newsletter (also available by clicking this link: [Remote Learning Plan \(coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk\)](https://coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk))

This is already well under way, with teachers having made contact with most parents during the course of the last week and parents doing such an amazing job already. Thank you so much - We are so grateful to you for your support, which will be invaluable in keeping the children on track. Staff will be there to offer any advice/guidance you may need at any point during the coming term so please keep communicating with us - We will do everything we can to help you remotely.

What will remote learning look like? What can you expect?

Microsoft Teams



The teachers will **contact parents** every week via Microsoft Teams (or a phone call if parents would prefer) for a weekly catch up and to explain the week's learning. This will be an opportunity to discuss how your child is managing the learning we set and to give you any further support we can. All staff have tried to contact all parents over the course of the last week and have enjoyed seeing/talking to you and the children already; thank you for your engagement to date.

 	<p>Each week the teachers will add your child's home learning activities on to their Purple Mash account. (Every child in school received their unique log-in details last term; should you have any queries/problems accessing Purple Mash please get in touch with us). A weekly plan will be uploaded for the start of each week which will include links to teaching videos and activities.</p> <p>The week's plan will include some English, Maths, PSHE, Topic/Creative, ICT, Music and Physical activities for you and your child to choose from. Staff may also add some other activities to the '2Do' tab on the Purple Mash site from the Purple Mash site itself for pupils to do at home.</p>
	<p>Parents will be able to save their child's completed work onto Purple Mash so the class teacher can see it and be able to give them some feedback.</p>
  	<p>Teachers will check the work that the children have uploaded and provide feedback to them each week through return emails, comments and emojis!</p>
 	<p>Teachers will also provide a telephone/video call opportunity each week so that the children (and parents) can see and keep in touch with staff during the closure period.</p>

Parents will soon become familiar with our new way of working and once parents get used to using the sites everything will become clearer.

Parents will find user guides for Purple Mash and Bug Club on these links: [Parent User Guide Purple Mash \(coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk\)](http://coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk/parent-user-guide-purple-mash) [Parent Guide to Bug Club \(coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk\)](http://coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk/parent-guide-to-bug-club) and also on the Class page of the website. Any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.



What work should my child do and how much should they do each week?

On the children's weekly plan we will always include some:

- Literacy, Reading, Phonics and fine motor/handwriting activities
- Maths
- Topic / Creative work
- PSHE
- Music
- ICT
- And Physical activities

We will include all the links to lessons that you may need as well as some activities to complete. Links will be given to the schemes we have been using in school so that the children continue their learning as closely as possible to what is familiar to them. For example, you will find links to White Rose Maths lessons, Letters and Sounds lessons for phonics and Oak National Academy/BBC Bitesize for topic work.



Teachers will talk to parents during their weekly Teams calls/telephone calls about the most important things that your child should do each week. This will be different for different children.

Teachers will provide you with a weekly plan of home learning choices so that parents can complete those they feel most comfortable doing, that their child will enjoy most and those that they have the resources and time to complete.



We appreciate that parents are not teachers and that every family's home learning circumstances will be different. For example, some parents will need to juggle working at home with home learning, some will need to support a number of children at once with home learning activities, some also have babies and toddlers to care for, some are caring for other adults, some have limited IT resources/access, etc. Everyone's situation is unique and parents should do what they are able to and feel comfortable and happy with. Please don't put yourselves under pressure to complete everything we add to the weekly plans.



The DfE recommends that Primary pupils (i.e. pupils up to 11 years of age) complete 3-4 hours a day of home learning. For infant aged, younger children this is more likely to be 1-2 hours per day and should be more practical in nature and done in short bursts.

We suggest that you try and get in to a **routine** that suits your own home circumstance and the whole family. The children are very much used to having a regular routine within school so it will be a great support to them if you could keep this going. Make up a timetable together if that suits you. This routine could include any of the following:

Learning time	Try some of the activities we put onto Purple Mash - whichever you and your child like the sound of. Splitting this into something to complete in the morning and something after lunch may help. Doing a bit of Literacy and Maths every day would also be great!
Play & snack times	
Creative time	Craft, drawing, lego, music, cooking, baking
Quiet time	Reading, puzzles, drawing, mindful colouring activities
Reading time	Books, Bug Club, phoneme card games, word games
Fresh air time	Playing outside, on their bike/scooter, walking the dog, going into the woods or on a walk for daily exercise
'Keep active' time	
Family time	Play a game, go on a family walk, share mealtimes together
Free time	
Chore time	Complete different household chores to develop their independence/responsibility around the house



Please remember to limit the amount of 'academic' learning time each day to ensure that the children get plenty of fresh air, exercise and time to relax and play.

Parents can talk to class teachers about their child's work and any home learning difficulties during their weekly Teams call/telephone call or via the Purple Mash email option. Staff will be there to offer ongoing help and advice as parents require it.

Completed work and feedback



We would love to see the children's completed work! If parents can photograph/upload it to Purple Mash that would be wonderful (teachers will be able to show you how), otherwise please keep it and talk directly with teachers about how they will be able to otherwise see it.

Teachers will give the children feedback on their work through the Purple Mash email system as well as when they see them each week on Teams. They will also be able to provide further help to address any difficulties the children may have.

Class teachers will post feedback daily in response to work completed and provide a weekly Teams meeting for each child and their family. (N.B.: Please be aware that teachers are also teaching in school during the week so feedback may not always be immediate on these days).

Providing ongoing feedback should encourage the children to keep working, continue to develop their confidence and independence and ensure we are able to keep celebrating their successes.

Teacher time/absence



All staff are currently still teaching within school, catering for those vulnerable and key worker children who need child care. Class teachers are also managing remote learning for the majority of our pupils. Therefore, staff are juggling their time between class teaching, planning remote learning, responding to emails and holding weekly Teams meetings or telephone calls with each child's parent(s). We would therefore ask that parents bear with us if we do not respond immediately to email queries but assure you that they will be responded to as soon as staff become available each day. We would also remind parents that they should only contact staff Monday-Friday, during normal school working hours.

Please also be aware that there may be closures of bubbles within school due to self-isolation guidance or the virus itself. Changes are likely to be made at short notice, including to staffing. In the event of teacher absence due to illness, year group colleague teachers, regular supply staff or teaching assistants will take over a class Purple Mash account, and aim to provide the weekly timetable/plan of activities, hold weekly Teams meetings and provide feedback on a Class Teacher's behalf. If responsible for two classes, we are hoping that teachers will be able to provide feedback every other day and a Teams meeting weekly, although this will depend on staffing availability and teaching commitments. We will keep you informed of any changes to arrangements should they be necessary.

Other help



Miss Roberts as Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Lisa as Family Support Worker or Mrs Hamilton/Mrs Burke as Headteacher and Deputy Head may also be in touch with parents to offer additional support or guidance as it is required, to continue delivery of programmes of work already established, or to complete 'safe and well' checks for those not engaging with teachers or with home learning. Appropriate agencies will also be kept informed as necessary. Mrs Nash or Mrs Edwards may also be in touch as School Administrators.

We would encourage any parent to contact the School Office or Class Teachers should you require any advice or help at all. We appreciate that needs and anxieties are likely to change over the coming term and with the ever-evolving situation that the pandemic presents the circumstances we find ourselves in are so challenging. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at any point if you need to and please also make sure you engage in our weekly 'check-in' opportunity with Class Teachers.

Remote Access

Parents are reminded to make teachers aware of any barriers to accessing remote learning. We recognise that some households may have limited access, or time-limited access to devices, or may prefer hard copies of work and resources. Packs of work, stationery or equipment may be made available to parents as required. Where funding can be accessed or equipment loaned, we will endeavour to do so.

Music

Singing is so good for our mental health and certainly lifts everyone's mood. We will therefore keep adding songs to the Music page of the website for the children to listen to and join in with at home (under the Curriculum tab; Music Subject Page). Happy singing!

We also use a Music scheme called 'Charanga' in school so will shortly send you a log-in so your child can continue their Music lessons at home. Details will be added to your child's remote learning plan each week.

Other home learning options



Jo Wicks has begun his online daily lessons once again [streamed live on Wicks' YouTube channel](#)



BBC Bitesize is also offering 'Lockdown Learning' options. CBBC are broadcasting three hours of primary school programmes from 9am every weekday. They will include BBC Bitesize Daily, as well as other much-loved shows with an educational twist. Bitesize Daily Primary will also air every day on BBC Red Button, and episodes will be available on demand on BBC iPlayer. BBC Bitesize also has lots of easy-to-follow lessons for home learning, as well as collections of resources for all ages. There is also information for parents on supporting their children's learning from home. [Home - BBC Bitesize](#)

Free School Meals

All children eligible for Free School Meals are entitled to school dinners during the school closure period. Please follow the link below to check if you are eligible for this; we appreciate that circumstances may have changed for some parents. [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Mrs Nash or Mrs Edwards have been in touch with all eligible parents to arrange provision for our current pupils. To date, this has been in the form of 10-day hampers provided by Caterlink, our school meals provider.

From Monday 18th January, the national free school meals voucher scheme will be available again and we will be able to order vouchers from Edenred, should parents prefer.

Please contact Mrs Nash or Mrs Edwards in the Office should you have any queries about meal provision during the closure period.

ParentMail

The School Office will continue to send information/messages/letters to parents using ParentMail. If you need help setting this up please contact the School Office. We would highly recommend parents download the ParentMail App for ease of use.

And finally...

Thank you all for the amazing job you are doing with home learning and keeping the children safe. You are all doing a fantastic job and we very much appreciate your support.

The situation remains challenging and we hope that you are all managing to keep positive.

Should you need any further support or advice, please continue to contact us.



Please ensure that you stay at home and keep yourselves safe.
Follow the national lockdown guidance [National lockdown: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Coronavirus is spreading fast.
1 in 3 people who have the virus have no symptoms. Stay home, stop the spread.