

# Remote Education: Information for Families

## 2020-2021



### St Mary's C of E School

"DON'T LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU  
BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG. BE AN EXAMPLE TO  
ALL BELIEVERS IN WHAT YOU SAY, IN THE WAY  
YOU LIVE, IN YOUR LOVE, YOUR FAITH AND YOUR PURITY."

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

THE  
SUNRISE  
CURRICULUM

## **Remote education provision: information for parents**

The information provided in this pack covers what pupils, parents and carers should expect in the event of 'bubble' closures, local/national school closures and in the event of individuals self-isolating during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home**

St Mary's began publishing remote learning plans for children and parents via the school website in September 2020. These plans are published weekly and are available immediately for families who may need to access remote learning from home. The remote learning plans can be found on class pages, [here](#).

Remote learning plans are, where possible, closely matched to the learning taking place in school. Further information about our remote curriculum can be found later in this document.

### **Will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?**

St Mary's remote curriculum is broadly in line with the curriculum delivered in school. Wherever possible and appropriate, subject coverage and progression are maintained remotely. However, it is likely that adaptations may be needed in some subjects. For example, where children cannot carry out science investigations at home (due to a lack of scientific equipment) alternatives will be planned or pre-recorded demonstrations may be provided. Physical education is also a difficult subject to deliver remotely. Taking account of any restrictions in force as well as pupils' age and living circumstances, pupils will be encouraged to take regular physical exercise to maintain fitness through online videos or indoor challenges.

In the event that the school is asked to close to most pupils (due to a national lockdown, for example), children who are learning remotely will access work which is matched to the learning of keyworker and vulnerable pupils who remain 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?**

The Department for Education has recommended that children of primary school age access 3 hours of remote learning each day. However, it should be noted that this does not mean that children are required to spend those 3 hours working from a screen. At St Mary's, in addition to the set work for the core subjects, children may spend their time completing a range of the following activities:

- Forest School/Outdoor Learning activities, planned by our Forest School Teacher
- Exploratory Play (setting up reading dens, completing lego STEM challenges)
- Fitness (walking, dance)

## Accessing remote education

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

Our remote education is published weekly via our website here.

The materials can be accessed using a computer, laptop, tablet or mobile phone. In the event that your child does not have access to a device, please contact school.

To supplement our remote curriculum, teachers use the Seesaw app to communicate with children and families. Seesaw also enables teachers to provide individual feedback to children.

Other apps that are commonly used include:



### 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:

If families do not have access to an internet connected device, they should contact school for support. School can be contacted via telephone (01872 276689).

St Mary's can request government funded laptops and tablets for vulnerable children. If you think that you might be eligible, please contact the school office.

With effect from January 2021, some mobile phone companies are offering additional data for families. To see if your network are providing this service and to check eligibility criteria click [here](#). School can request the additional data for you, if you meet the criteria. For more information, please contact the school office.

For families who require printed materials, these can be provided by school on request. Please contact the school office for more information or message your child's teacher on Seesaw.

## How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Staff are learning as quickly as possible to provide a range of high quality learning experiences for children who may need to work at home. These approaches may include:

- Recorded teaching - Teachers will provide pre-recorded videos to support activities, to read stories or to set challenges. Pre-recorded videos will also be shared from national sources such as White Rose Maths, Oak National Academy, BBC Bitesize or YouTube.
- Live Interaction - Teachers will provide opportunities for small group interaction using live meeting tools in Microsoft Teams. These sessions will be to enable some face-to-face interaction with teachers and peers. The sessions may include storytelling, games, quizzes, show and tell and question time.
- Worksheet Packs - For example, PDF copies of worksheets and activity pages.
- Reading Books - These can be accessed online via our reading platforms (Reading Eggs, Fiction Express, Oxford Owl) or suitable hard copy alternatives can be collected from the school office.
- Commercial Learning Tools - Apps and websites such as the ones identified in the section above. Some of these will be used on a daily basis as they provide age appropriate sequences and support children's progress.
- Project Work - children may be set research tasks or be asked to present their learning in the form of pictures, posters, stories or videos.

## 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?

It is expected that all children at home engage in remote education.

We understand the challenges that face families during school closures and will offer as much support as possible in the event that this happens.

Where possible, teachers will plan activities that can be completed by children independently, to relieve pressures on parents who may be working from home.

Parents and carers who are concerned about supporting children with learning at home should contact their child's teacher.

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

Teachers will monitor children's engagement in the following ways:

- Monitoring whether work/photos/videos/questions are submitted to Seesaw
- Monitoring whether children are logging in to apps and websites
- Monitoring attendance at any live meetings

In the event that a teacher is concerned about children's engagement with home learning, contact will be made with the family to see what additional support can be offered.

## **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:

At St Mary's we provide feedback to children in a variety of ways and variety in assessment and feedback will remain throughout any periods of home learning.

Feedback may be seen in the following ways:

- Individual feedback via Seesaw.
  - This may include personal voice notes; personal video messages; written comments; personal messages to parents.
- Group/Whole class feedback.
  - This may be pre-recorded feedback regarding a group task. This type of feedback may include the methods listed above, or may also include pre-recorded messages. Group feedback may also be given within live Microsoft Teams Meetings.
- Immediate Feedback from Quizzes
  - Children may receive immediate responses from Quiz apps such as Kahoot! or Reading Eggs and Times Table Rockstars. These enable children to see how they are progressing in real time.

## **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:
- Work set by the teacher takes into account the needs of the pupils in their classes and is open-ended in nature to allow pupils to engage with and further their own learning.
- For children with EHC plans, bespoke home learning plans are created around the child's individual needs and targets in their EHC plan.
- As a school we undertake weekly check- in phone calls to ensure that pupils outcomes are kept at the forefront and that their emotional needs are being met.
- Resources that support the pupils' development against the four areas of need have been uploaded onto the school website under SEN and the SENCO regularly updates it with useful links.
- The SENCO is in regular communication with external agencies. However, external agencies will only become involved if necessary, following the usual graduated response process detailed above.
- Team around the child meetings and EHC plan annual review meetings are still being held virtually to ensure that pupils needs are being met.

## **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?**

In the event a child is self-isolating and is learning from home, the same expectations for remote education apply.

The main difference will be that the class teacher may not be available regularly throughout the day, as class teachers will be teaching the majority of the class who remain in school. However, teachers will endeavour to respond to children's work as soon as possible and always within 24 hours.