

Remote Learning at St Thomas': A Summary for Parents and Families

Schools have a duty to provide remote education at this time. Each school offer is different and should not be compared as schools have different resources and each knows their children and families best. Here at St Thomas' we believe a blended approach to learning works effectively for all our children and families.

Our school offer is developmental and will continue to evolve. We will review and refine this offer at regular intervals, taking account of children's, parents and staff views. We will be sending out a survey in the near future to evaluate our offer and make any appropriate changes.

In order to deliver an effective blended approach to learning, the school utilises two platforms: Seesaw and MS Teams. Through these platforms we will teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are developed. We will be clear about what is intended to be taught and practiced in each subject so that children make appropriate progress. We aim to publish the next day's lessons and provide lesson notifications no later than 7pm the night before.

The amount of remote learning education provided will be, as a minimum:

- **Key Stage 1:** 3 hours a day with less for younger children
- **Key Stage 2:** 4 hours a day.

Our daily offer will include live direct teaching and feedback, recorded content and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. Online 'live' lessons do not necessarily need to be recorded by teaching staff at the school: White Rose maths lessons, for example may be used as 'live' video led content. At this time, we have not set minimum expectations for teachers to be 'live' on screen each day, but aim for an appropriate balance, trusting the judgement of teaching staff to deliver what is needed for effective learning to take place, working within DFE guidelines and our agreed strategy. We welcome feedback but please be aware that staff are extremely busy and will respond to messages at set times of the day.

Our aim is to transfer what we already know is effective teaching into our remote education offer. This includes a variety of strategies including:

- Ensuring pupils receive clear explanations
- Supporting growth in confidence with new material through scaffolded practice
- Application of new knowledge or skills
- Enabling pupils to receive feedback on how to progress

For effective remote learning to take place we rely on parental involvement and support, especially with younger children and those with additional needs. We will work collaboratively with families, putting in place reasonable adjustments, as necessary, so that all pupils can successfully access appropriate learning. Digital provision on its own is not effective, parental support is needed with many aspects, such as reading and accessing learning. We recognise and appreciate the hard work of our families at this time.

Keeping children safe online is essential. The school follows the statutory guidance 'Keeping Children safe in Education' to deliver remote learning safely. If issues do occur, parents are expected to report those matters to the school so that they can be addressed, in line with school policy.

The offer is only as strong as the staff team who deliver it. Our teaching team is working mostly from home to try to ensure continuity of provision for children, as much as possible. During this pandemic we need to be mindful that if staff are unable to deliver remote learning for any reason then the school will seek to provide the next best option for that period.