

Remote education provision: information for parents

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?

All the children already have access to Class Dojo, our chosen learning platform. Learning inputs and activities are put on weekly for children to access so children should be able to access relevant learning from day 1. The school are aware of families who may not have immediate access to online learning and these children will receive paper workbooks until we can make sure there is accessibility to online learning.

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 teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, there may be times when children work at different paces so coverage of subjects may be either slower or faster in school. We will try to address this as it arises to ensure continuity for all children.

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 broadly the following number of hours each day:

Foundation Stage (Reception)	Up to 3 hours a day
Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2)	A minimum of 3 hours a day
Key Stage 2 (Year 3,4,5 and 6)	A minimum of 4 hours a day

Accessing remote education

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

We use Class Dojo for all our online learning.

All children have received a username and password. If you have any issues accessing these then please contact your child's class teacher.

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:

Western Primary school is able to provide laptops for children who do not have any devices for accessing online learning. We also have a limited number of dongles for any families who need internet access. To discuss the use of any of these please contact the school.

We are encouraging all our children to complete the learning online and try to minimise the use of paper packs as much as possible. This enables all work to be marked and for feedback to be provided by the teacher on the same day. If you feel your child would benefit from writing materials (either paper or exercise books) then please contact the school and we will be able to provide you with these. We are unable to accept these back into school but would encourage parents to take a photo of the work and send it via Class Dojo, this way teachers are still able to mark it and give feedback.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

To ensure that children are being provided with the breadth of education necessary we are using a variety of teaching approaches. We are using recorded teaching via Oak National Academy or video/audio recordings made by our teachers. As well as video links to other commercially available websites, such as YouTube and CBeebies.

Teachers may also post PowerPoints and helpsheets that would have been used in the classroom to explain learning and activities set.

During a National Lockdown or if a whole class bubble has to self-isolate then a teacher will be available every day online from 9-3.30. Most work submitted within this time will be marked and feedback given on the same day. The chat function should also be used to stay in regular contact with the class teacher.

Engagement and feedback

What are the school's expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

We expect that children access all the activities set, everyday, as much as is reasonably possible. Teachers are online daily for help and support.

We understand that for parents this is a huge responsibility and a very different way of working. Most children in Key Stage 2 (Yr 3,4,5 and 6) should be able to access the learning offered without much support and intervention. However, we realise that both Foundation Stage (Reception) and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) will need a lot of adult assistance to complete the tasks set. Please use the chat facility to gain any teacher support you require. Try to set up a timetable with the children to show them what is expected and help create a routine. Make sure you all take regular breaks. We are here to help and support please contact us if need anything.

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

Class Dojo allows staff to see who has been online, even if no work has been submitted. If work hasn't been completed, then teachers will send a message of support to both your child and yourself.

If activities haven't been submitted after a few days then the senior leadership team will call or complete a home visit to ensure everything is ok and offer any assistance.

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:

All activities submitted on Class Dojo will be marked and feedback given by a teacher. If it is submitted within the hours of 9 - 3.30 then most activities will be marked and returned on the same day.

Activities may also include self-assessment tools in order for the children to assess their own learning.

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:

Children who have SEND needs and are not in school will be offered a different approach to learning. Children will be sent practical activity packs of learning to complete at home. We request that parents upload photos of these onto Class Dojo so the teachers are able to communicate with you about them.

For children who are carrying out specific intervention programs staff will still deliver these via face to face video calls.

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?

If your child has to self-isolate then they will be expected to complete their learning on Class Dojo.

While school is running at full capacity the work uploaded is always a week behind what is being offered in school. This is to ensure that staff have enough time to differentiate appropriately for the child at home. Therefore, Week 1 will be recap of previous learning and from Week 2 will be new learning. We will ensure that any gaps in learning are addressed when your child returns to school.

The class teacher will be online after every school day to mark activities and provide feedback. Please use the chat facilities for any queries or questions.