Parents and Carers guide to remote education

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Whenever your child, a group or a bubble of children need to self-isolate or there is a local/national lockdown requiring pupils to stay at home they will be provided with remote education. If your child is otherwise well but is awaiting the results of a Covid test, or isolating with the rest of your household they can complete the remote education. If your child is unwell, or on unauthorised absence, we will not provide or expect you to support your child to complete any learning.

The changes in the guide reflect our migration onto Microsoft Teams to support and streamline our home learning.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils will look slightly different to that provided when the school is operating in partial opening, or when a whole class is isolating. These differences are set out later in this guide.

What is taught to pupils at home?

Our remote education is designed to reflect the teaching and provision delivered in school, within the restrictions of the timings for learning at home.

The Government set out that these timings will be matched to the equivalent length of core teaching that pupils receive in school which is

- Key Stage 1 – 3 hours a day on average, with less for younger children in year 1 and Year R
- Key stage 2 – 4 hours a day

In years 1-6 we will continue to provide a focus on reading and phonics since these skills allow children to access all other learning, as well as maths, online safety, PE and physical activity and subjects which continue to be delivered through our Discovery curriculum. We will continue to use apps such as Purple Mash, AR, Spelling Shed, Phonics Play and so on.

In year R, we will continue with the same approach that is used in school, using Tapestry to communicate and celebrate achievements for our youngest children.

We also provide workbooks for children who work out of year group where they would be unable to access our online learning and to support their developing independent skills. We also provide these where we have a few families who have no broadband and very limited mobile signal (due to the local geography).

We will provide access to online reading sites which support reading for pleasure, as well as developing phonics for our early readers. Parents can request reading books where they are unable to access

these online, such as our families who have no broadband/limited mobile signal. These can be changed when necessary.

What about if I don't have access to technology to support my child?

We are aware from our term 1 parents survey that the majority of children either have their own device, or access to a shared family device to learn remotely. However, if this is not the case, please contact us so we can see how best to support you. Our learning platform can also be accessed on Playstation and Xbox which has increased how many children can access remote education.

We can apply for additional mobile data and/or broadband dongles if you fit the strict criteria set out by the Government scheme. Please get in touch to find out more or have a look at https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches

Year R
- Year R will continue to use Tapestry
- We will be rolling out a trial for daily live check-ins for all classes. This will be according to a timetable for the morning, so that even where children have a shared device, they can each spend time talking to their teacher and friends.

Years 1-6
- Pre-recorded Timu teacher lesson inputs. These will feature all 4 teachers from your child's year group, not just only your child's teacher
- Video lessons from well recognised sites, such as BBC BiteSize, Oak National Academy or White Rose Maths
- Resources to support learning, such as word mats, word banks, knowledge organisers, links for research websites and so on
- Links to apps used by your child, such as Purple Mash, TT Rockstars, AR, Phonics Play and so on
- Online and 'off-line' activities which your child can complete. These can be returned via the Teams platform
- We will be rolling out a trial for daily live check-ins for all classes. This will be according to a timetable for the morning, so that even where children have a shared device, they can each spend time talking to their teacher and friends.
- Online reading portals – Get Epic which uses AR levelled books as well as a huge range of reading for pleasure non-fiction and fiction books. Oxford Owl Big Cat Phonics books which are linked to the level of phonics that your child is learning. For some children we can also offer books loaned from school where no technology is available to use these platforms
- If you child is working from workbooks the teacher has supplied, they can undertake the work in these as suggested by the teacher, as well as joining in with the rest of the Discovery learning. Images of the work can be uploaded via the Teams platform to share with your teacher.
- Pupils can message their teachers for support through Teams

Please let us know how we can enable your child to speak with their teacher to get support and feedback if you have no broadband or limited mobile signal.

We have shared the Remote Education home-school agreement with all parents and carers, with the option to raise concerns.

How will my child access remote education in years 1-6?

We are currently migrating all pupils onto Microsoft Teams learning platform. A parent and pupil guide has been shared with all parents to support them to access Teams on all types of devices, and how to use the software. This guide is also uploaded to our Trust website. Once the migration is complete, all files and information which supports remote

During national/local lockdown, or when a class is isolating, the timetable for a week of learning will be made available on your childs class page in Teams. This platform will also be used to share resources to support learning, including website links, apps and assignments which are completed online and returned online.

You will be able to take photos of the work set which is 'offline' and send these back via the Teams platform.

The class teacher will send via their class email address the sign in details for your child. Once you have signed in the first time you will be prompted to change the password. Once this is changed, we can no longer tell you what the password is.

What do you expect from us as parents and carers?

The remote education is designed to help your child learn along with their class and be accessible with minimal support. The remote education is in line with national guidance expectations, but we are realistic about the demands placed on you when working from home, caring for wider family and juggling the needs of your children.

If your child is refusing to undertake their remote education, or really struggling, please contact their class teacher for more advice. If your child becomes ill during this period, please call the school office to let them know. If your child is on the SEND register and struggling to access their learning due to their learning needs, please contact the SENCo and the class teacher.

How to support your child at home

Have a look at the Top Tips information from National Online Safety in Appendix 1 on page 8 of this guide for some general tips on supporting your child.

Create a positive environment for your child to learn at home, for example:

- **Distinguish between weekdays and weekends**, to separate school life and home life – it's important for children to have time to play and relax, particularly if they are anxious
- **Designate a working space if possible**, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over
- **Create and stick to a routine**, as this is what your child is used to at school. For example, eat breakfast at the same time each morning and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day

- **Stick a timetable up on the wall** so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day. This may need to flex around your working day if you are able to work from home, or where you are looking after younger children
- **Make time for exercise and breaks** throughout the day to keep your child active
- **Make sure school work is completed by 3:15pm** in line with the home-school agreement. This keeps a structure to the 'school day'

Have a look at these links for more suggestions:

- [7 Tips for Families During Lockdown (thinkchildsafe.org)](#)
- [K-2: Tips for Supporting Learning at Home | Child Mind Institute](#)

How do I contact the teacher? What if the teacher is unwell?

For years 1-6, you can use the class email address in the format classname@timu-mat.org.uk e.g. Owl@timu-mat.org.uk Please only use this email address for communicating around remote education, particularly when the teacher remains in school teaching as well as supporting children who may be learning at home.

Please be aware that Teams is for the use of your child/ren and should not be used by parents to communicate with teachers, as per the Remote Education home=school agreement.

For children in year R you can continue to use Tapestry to communicate and share with the class team.

Please continue to be respectful when making any complaints or concerns known to staff. If your class teacher is off-sick, then other members of the Timu team will arrange to cover any of your emails and questions and work from your children. Please be patient in this instance, as our class teams are working extremely hard to support all families and children.

How will I be told if there are any concerns about my child's learning?

The teachers will communicate with you by class email or arrange to call you if they have any concerns about your child's learning.

Please contact your child's teachers if you have any concerns about how your child is engaging with their learning, so that we can offer support.

Teachers will check daily to see who has submitted work and will get in touch if your child hasn't returned any work to check what support they need.

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

Your child's class teachers will review all work that is submitted to them.

Some work will be 'returned' with some written feedback and/or specific comments in the body of the work to identify to your child where their work can be improved – this is usually done in school with verbal feedback. Sometimes whole class feedback will be given in the Posts section underneath the assignment – again this is something that would be normal practice in the classroom. The teachers can also use quizzes and apps such as TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed to assess your child's learning.

Not all work will be returned with written feedback – again our approach in school is that we only use written marking where it can benefit and improve your child's learning. Your teacher will use the work

your child has submitted to check on their learning and understanding and help them to continue to progress.

My child has additional learning needs – what help will they get?

Where you child is on the SEND register, the SENCo will assess what additional resources your child will need to help them learn at home. This may include Irlen coloured paper exercise books or filters or resources such as fiddle toys. If this is the case, she will contact you to arrange for the resources to be collected on loan.

Your child will have workbooks they can use when the class is timetabled to do Maths and English, as well as access to online resources which can help as part of Teams. Additionally, they should be able to access the Discovery learning.

Immersive Reader

Teams provides Immersive Reader which can be found in many apps – look out for this icon – sometimes it can be found in the View menu if it is not obvious on-screen.

- In this you can get the computer to read the text using the button

- Click the button to change text preferences, including text size & spacing and change the background colour to help children with Irlen visual processing difficulties

- Click the button to switch on syllables to help your child break the words down when reading

- Click the button to add a reading ruler to show less text on the page (helps some dyslexic and ASD children) or convert the whole text into another language if your family speak another language at home so you can understand the text more easily

- Clicking on a word will call up a picture dictionary to help children understand the meaning of the word

How can I support my child to be safe online?

Please continue to be mindful about the other apps that your child is accessing online and keep conversations going with your child about what to do if they see something online that makes them uncomfortable. Latest research by Internet Matters highlights that talking more to children about their online lives can have a real benefit, rather than just giving advice – obviously this needs to be in line with the age and development of the child.

Your child's class team will contain all the apps and website links your child will need to use, so this will keep them safer whilst doing their learning online. However, it is important that age appropriate parental controls are on digital devices and that filters are in place to block malicious websites. Here are some other resources that are Government recommended:

- Thinkuknow provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- Parent info is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations

- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Internet matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

Should you have any concerns about your child accessing inappropriate content please do contact the school by phone or using the class email address. Alternatively, you can get support for harmful or upsetting content via:

- reporting harmful online content to the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- getting government advice and trusted resources from [Educate Against Hate](#) on safeguarding from radicalisation, building resilience to extremism, and promoting shared values

Bullying or online abuse support:

- get advice on reporting online abuse from the National Crime Agency's [Child Exploitation and Online Protection command](#)
- get advice and support from [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) for children who are being bullied

How can I support my child with anxiety during lockdown?

If your child is struggling with raised anxiety during this time, please do get in touch with the class teacher, SENCo or FLO so they can provide support.

Have a look at these links too:

- [Supporting your family's wellbeing during isolation (youngminds.org.uk)](#)
- [10 tips to handle anxiety and social isolation during this period | GAMIAN-Europe](#)

How can I access wider support for my child?

If you need to access wider support for your child, please do stay in touch with us to see what additional support we can offer your child and your family whilst you are at home.

There is also this guidance from the Government which you may find useful:
[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak#helping-children-and-young-people-cope-with-stress](#)

These are also useful links if your child is struggling to understand the pandemic:

- [Storicise](#) (website) has been created to bring together knowledge, resources and activities to help both younger and older children as they explore, learn, share and discuss the impact of Covid-19.
- [Talking about Coronavirus with Children](#) (Engage Education website).
- [Covid-19: Child-led learning resource](#) (PDF, 5MB) on The Economist Educational Foundation website.
- [Dave the Dog is worried about coronavirus](#) (Nurse Dotty Books website) - a story book for young children that aims to help them learn about coronavirus without fear.
- [The coronavirus explained and what you should do](#) (YouTube Video, Kurzgesagt – In a Nutshell) - an excellent, informative animated video, explaining how the virus works and what we need to do to defeat it. Suitable for older children.
- [Coronavirus](#) (BrainPop website) - a range of resources to help children learn about the coronavirus, viruses generally, the history of microscopy etc. Includes an excellent animated video and quizzes.
- [Talking to kids about the coronavirus](#) (Child Mind Institute website).
- [Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website).
- [Coronavirus: A book for children](#) (PDF, 16MB) on the Nosy Crow website - Illustrated by Gruffalo illustrator Axel Scheffler.
- [Maria and all the Grannies (Nonnas) of the World : A story of kindness during the 2020 Coronavirus crisis](#) (Vimeo video) - a video storybook.
- [Translations of Maria and all the Grannies (Nonnas) of the World : A story of kindness during the 2020 Coronavirus crisis](#) (Issuu website) - available in 4 languages (English, Italian, Spanish and French).
- [Charlie and the C Monsters](#) - a six-minute animated film and accompanying comic/colouring book to explain without words how Covid-19 is spread and prevented. Designed to help deliver this important public health message non-verbally (e.g. for children and adults with SEN or for whom English isn't a first language).

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self isolate, but the rest of their peer group remains in school, our provision will vary slightly. This is due to the challenges for staff in teaching pupils both at home and at school.

The fine details of this will be confirmed shortly and this guide updated to reflect this.

REMOTE EDUCATION 10 TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For parents and carers, remote education isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote education experience.

1. TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

As a parent or carer, your school may have explained how remote education works already, but children may still need help. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.

2. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION AND ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.

3. ESTABLISH A DAILY SCHEDULE AND ROUTINE

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.

4. ENCOURAGE SCREEN BREAKS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AWAY FROM DEVICES

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks; however, it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.

5. ENSURE YOUR LEARNING DEVICE IS IN PUBLIC SPACE IN THE HOME

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral, with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.

6. IMPLEMENT SAFETY CONTROLS AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS ON APPS AND SOFTWARE

Dependant on how your school implements remote education, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.

7. ENSURE YOUR CHILD ONLY USES OFFICIAL SCHOOL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.
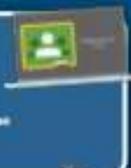
8. FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH RELEVANT SCHOOL POLICIES

Schools should have a policy on remote education that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.

9. MAINTAIN FEEDBACK WITH TEACHERS

Engage in communication with teachers where possible, and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.

10. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Remote education will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as they can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start to with, missing out on seeing their friends every day might take its toll.