Whitemoor Academy Home Learning: information for families

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education if 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?

In the event of a bubble closure or national lockdown, children will be sent home with packs of learning (or these will be available to collect from school) and this will be duplicated on ClassDojo and the school website in the 'Home Learning' section. In addition, other tasks may be set for children to complete. Children will also be expected to use our regular online platforms – Spelling Shed, TTRockstars and Little Wandle as well as read daily

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, we will use Oak National Academy to support us with delivery of foundation subjects as we are unable to copy the reference books which children would have had access to in school that support our wider curriculum

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:

Primary school-aged pupils	Pupils in nursery can expect 1.5 hours of learning daily. Pupils in Reception to year 4 can expect 3 hours of learning daily Pupils in years 5 and 6 can expect a minimum of 4 hours of learning daily.

Accessing remote education

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

Our primary ways of setting work will be through ClassDojo and the school website. These platforms will include links to other resources to support learning such as lesson presentations made by the teachers or links to Oak National Academy or White Rose maths, or Little Wandle., for example.

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 have a limited number of laptops, through the Department for Education, that are able to be loaned out to pupils to support access to Home Learning. Unfortunately, there are not enough devices for every child in a year group to have one. Because of this, these will initially be offered to pupils in years 5 and 6. Parents will be asked to contact their child's class teacher via ClassDojo if they would like to borrow one and will be notified when these become available.

The Department for Education states that devices are available for pupils who:

- Have no digital devices in their household
- Whose only available device is a smartphone
- Have only a single device in their household that is being shared with more than one other child

School will support parents with applying for extra mobile data from mobile phone providers where they are with the following networks:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile

And meet the following criteria:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

If pupils are not able to access resources digitally, please notify the child's class teacher and paper copies of resources will be made available for collection from school.

If pupils do not have online access to post work back to class teachers, then work can be exchanged between school and pupils weekly when work packs are collected from school

How will my child be taught remotely?

We will use a variety of approaches to learning during any lockdown:

- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets) where requested
- Reading books pupils have at home
- Ebooks through Oxford Owl
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences e.g. Spelling Shed, Language Angels and Little Wandle.
- Short films made by teachers on Class Dojo e.g. reading followed by activities.

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?

- Each day, pupils and parents will be notified of the expectations for that day.
- Pupils are expected to upload work daily. If there has been no communication for 3 days, this will be followed up by a phone call and offer of support.
- Please support us with your child's learning by ensuring that they complete the learning set daily, ask us for help if they need it – there is always a member of staff available via Dojo during school hours to support with learning, roughly follow the pattern of a school day e.g. ready to start learning by 9:00am each day. It is important that children still have a routine in their day.

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

- Teachers will check for work that has been uploaded to Class Dojo every day.
- Children will receive regular feedback when they submit work.
- We will contact parents/carers if we have not heard from a child, on the third day of no contact to ensure that everything is ok and offer support with learning if needed. If there is repeatedly no contact from a family then a home visit may be conducted.

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:

- Teachers will comment on work uploaded to ClassDojo at least twice a week.
- Any work handed in on paper copies will be marked.
- Teachers will assess pupils in a variety of ways such as quizzes and, in some cases, work will be marked digitally.
- Sometimes feedback will be given to the whole class or lessons will be adapted in order to work on targets arising from marking.

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:

- Pupils with a high level of need, who hold an EHCP or are part-way through this process are entitled to a place in school during lockdown. However, as the parent, it is your choice whether you take this place up or not. If you are finding this decision difficult to make, we completely understand and are happy to talk it through with you.

- If you choose to keep your child at home, it is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure work is provided for them. However, we fully appreciate the difficulties that this may present when trying to complete this at home. The priority is to keep your child happy and safe whilst their routines have changed. Please do not put yourself under too much pressure to complete large amounts of work with your child and please let us know if you need any help.
- Please access the year group's work on Class Dojo to see whether any of these activities are suitable for your child. Where possible, we like to link our SEN provision with the same topics that the rest of the class are learning so this will give you an idea of the types of themes we will be focusing learning on.

- The class teacher and/or teaching assistants that usually work with your child will then also be preparing individualised learning to support your child's needs. This will be provided for you via Class Dojo or made available for you to collect (if possible) as a paper copy from school.
- If it is difficult for you to collect/ access this work, please contact the class teacher and we will plan to support you with this.

- The staff who normally work closely with your child may well be in touch more often to check how things are going. They will be happy to suggest strategies or techniques that have worked for them when your child was in school. They will also enjoy hearing about the successes you are having at home.
- If an outside agency, who normally works with your child, gets in touch with school with any specific tasks or advice, we will of course also let you know.

- If you or your child are struggling with any aspect of the home learning, please get in touch so that we can support you.

- Parents in nursery, reception and year 1 will receive remote learning in the same way as other year groups, however this will take the form of more practical activities. In addition, teachers will set specific, targeted work via Little Wandle digital resources in order to ensure that our robust programme of phonics continues during a period of lockdown.

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?

Children who are self-isolating will receive work via ClassDojo and these will be adaptations of the work that is being taught in school, ensuring progression in the curriculum and that they do not miss out on any learning. Where there are resources such as class texts, these will be delivered to isolating pupils so they can still access the learning e.g. reading materials.