

Remote Education Provision: Information for Parents

This Remote Home Learning Strategy has been written as guidance for staff and parents during the COVID-19 Pandemic. It sets out the systems and procedures that staff will follow to provide Remote Home Learning for children who are not able to attend school due to national restrictions, local restrictions or year group/class bubble closures. For details of what to expect where individual pupils are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

Our remote curriculum

What should I do if my child suddenly has to engage in remote education following a bubble closure or self-isolation?

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. However, we do have systems in place to allow for almost instant access to high quality remote learning. We do this to ensure that children are not disadvantaged by school absence.

Your child should immediately be able to access Seesaw to engage in the lessons set for the day. If you do not have your login, please email the year group email address and the teacher will send you the details.

You can arrange to collect a Home Learning Pack from school if you wish. This contains an exercise book, pencil and a maths workbook as well as the login details for all of the online resources your child can access from home.

Seesaw is available on a wide range of devices – mobile phones, laptop, PC, iPad, android tablet, Amazon Fire, Xbox, PlayStation and any other device that has an internet browser. Work can be completed online and submitted, or written on paper or in the exercise book provided. A photo of the work can then be emailed via seesaw or to the year group email.

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

We follow the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. We make some adaptations when necessary. For example, if we deliver an art lesson in school using resources that may not be available at home, we may set a different activity for remote learners.

Remote teaching and study time each day

How long should my child take to complete the work set by school each day?

The Department for education require children to engage in remote learning daily for a minimum of 3 hours per day in KS1 (years 1 & 2) and 4 hours a day in KS2 (Years 3-6).

We suggest EYFS children spend up to 2 hours a day on remote learning. Our Early Years (Nursery & Reception) children are used to having a very practical and play-based curriculum. We realise it would not be appropriate for Reception children to be sitting and learning in front of a screen for 3 hours. A large part of their day at school is made up of play-based activities and these should continue at home – supported by the high quality learning opportunities planned out for them on Seesaw by their teachers.

Please note, the suggested learning time can be spread over the day in a series of shorter sessions and does not have to be at the same time as suggested on our timetables. However we do recommend that you establish a routine for your child and provide a work space if possible to help your child focus on their work.

Accessing remote education

How will my child access the online education school is providing?

Pupils can access their remote education via the Seesaw platform. Seesaw is accessible on a huge range of devices – laptop, iPad, android tablet, Kindle Fire, mobile phone, Xbox, PlayStation and more. If there are any problems in accessing this platform, parents or carers are advised to contact school via the year group emails or the admin team at admin@thackleyschool.com or call 01274 414437

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will school support them to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We are taking the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

- Seesaw has been selected due to the wide range of devices it is accessible on, including gaming devices.
- Home Learning Packs have been sent to all children consisting of an exercise book, pencil and ruler. Children can complete tasks in their book or on paper. This can be returned to school. Paper based work can also be submitted by taking a photo of it and submitting via seesaw or by emailing it to the year group email addresses.
- White Rose Maths workbooks will be sent home to all pupils for each Block of learning.
- We have sim cards that we can issue to parents that provide 30GB of data for free.
- We have a very small amount of Chromebooks that parents may be able to borrow.
- Internet providers are offering additional data to families. We can signpost families to this if necessary.
- If you cannot access the online content, paper copies of the instructions for tasks are available every week. These can be requested from the office and then be collected from the school. Contact admin@thackleyschool.com to arrange.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Uploaded tasks on Seesaw with written explanations or voice notes to help the pupils know what to do.
- Recorded teaching (eg Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recording made by teachers).
- Feedback provided for all work submitted through written comments, audio recordings, recorded video feedback over work and sometimes individual video messages to pupils.
- Offers of exercise books etc for those without resources at home.
- Printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets).
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences (e.g. White Rose for Maths).
- Support via email or telephone for parents.

Engagement and Feedback

What are school's expectations for children's engagement and the support that parents and carers should provide at home?

We expect all pupils to log in to Seesaw every day and find out what tasks they have to complete. They are expected to complete a Maths & English task daily plus another subject. There is also an expectation that children read to an adult at home at least three times a week and practise their spellings.

If they are unsure of what to do at any point, they should send their teacher a message on Seesaw and ask for help. We also expect pupils to try their best and take care over their work and respond to any feedback.

In terms of parental support, we ask that parents help to make sure their child has the correct resources to be able to successfully complete their remote learning and a quiet space to be able to work in. We recommend establishing a daily routine if possible. If parents are struggling with providing this environment for any reason, we ask that they contact school for support.

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

Each pupil's work will be checked regularly throughout the school day by the teacher from their year group who is responsible for Home Learning that day.

Teachers will track levels of engagement daily. If a teacher becomes concerned about a pupil's level of engagement, they will contact the parents or carers to discuss how they are getting on and will work with the family to find a solution.

If engagement is not satisfactory by the Wednesday of each week, parents will be contacted by phone or email.

If teachers cannot make contact with the family, the Safeguarding Team will then attempt to make contact. If there is no response, a home visit may occur or a Police Welfare Check may be requested.

If children or parents have any issues, we ask that they contact teachers via Seesaw, the year group email address or by contacting the admin team at admin@thackleyschool.com or 01274 414437.

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

Feedback will be provided daily. 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:

- Each piece of work a pupil uploads onto Seesaw will be approved by a teacher and, where necessary, a comment will be given;
- Feedback will be provided on a daily basis and often throughout the day;
- Feedback may sometimes be a message to the whole class as an announcement if that is appropriate.

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 will be differentiated where needed for certain pupils and tasks will be set individually on Seesaw for them;
- Activities for children in Year One and Reception may differ to the tasks set for the rest of the school (e.g. more audio message explanations, more practical tasks);
- The school SENDCO and the year group teacher are also on hand to support parents and give advice on how best to support their child's learning at home.

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 is ill and not able to complete home learning tasks, please inform the school office.

If your child is well enough to complete remote learning, daily work will be uploaded to Seesaw for your child in a similar way to that stated above and feedback will be given. However, the teachers and TAs will be teaching the whole class in school at this time so feedback is likely to be less detailed and may not be sent until the end of the day. You can still request a call back from the class teacher but please note that this may not be possible until the end of the school day.

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