

Armitage C.E. Primary School



Providing Remote Education

Information for Parents

January 2021

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?

As a pre-emptive measure, all children have been given an equipment pack to take home. These packs include basics such as a book for writing/drawing in and a pen/pencil. The first school day after any bubble closure/lockdown occurs will be dedicated to teachers preparing lessons for the following days. No lessons are expected to go live during this preparation period. Online learning will commence from the second day after a bubble closure/lockdown.

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. It is expected that the number and frequency of lessons/subjects taught during lockdown periods will follow the usual school routine as closely as possible.

However, we have needed to make some adaptations in P.E. (Physical Education) where it has not been possible to fully follow our usual curriculum. For example, Gymnastics and Outdoor Games are much trickier to teach effectively via Remote Learning and therefore, we are delivering as broad and balanced a curriculum as is possible with an increased focus on Dance activities.

All other subjects being delivered remotely are following our usual curriculum and using the resources that would be ordinarily used in school e.g. White Rose Maths (Numeracy) and Charanga (Music).

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:

EYFS	Up to three hours per day depending on the year group and needs of individual children.
Key Stage 1	An average of three hours per day; this will vary depending on the year group and needs of individual children.
Key Stage 2	An average of four hours per day; this will vary depending on the year group and needs of individual children.

Accessing remote education

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

All children will be accessing their online remote education through Seesaw. This can either be accessed on a mobile device through an app or by using a laptop/desktop and accessing this through the Seesaw website. All children have been provided with their logon details in advance of any potential bubble closure/local or national lockdown. Any parents/children who have access issues with Seesaw should contact the School Office via telephone (0161 2734654) where guidance will be provided.

In addition, every class has access to a daily live session with their class teacher. This is being offered through Zoom with joining details sent out to parents/families/children in advance of these meetings. Again, parents/children who are having issues with accessing Zoom sessions should call the School Office for support.

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:

Laptops that have been made available by the Government for online remote education will be issued to parents/children/families who do not already have a device available to them. Requests for these devices can be made through a member of the school's Family Team who are contactable on 0161 2734654. Where a device is available, this will be issued as soon as possible. Collection of these devices will be from the School Office and a signed loan agreement is required before a device can be issued. In the case of school receiving a request when no device is available, we will issue one as soon as we have a device available. In the event of us receiving more requests for devices than we have available, a number of factors will be taken into consideration when determining how devices will be allocated. These factors will include, but are not limited to, whether a child (ren) has an EHCP, is Pupil Premium or classified as vulnerable.

Any dongles (a device to enable an internet connection) that are received from the Government, will also be available for parents/children/families to request. The same process as above should be followed and dongles will be allocated in line with the above criteria.

In the event of a device or dongle not being available to parents/children/families who do not have their own device or internet access, a printed pack will be provided by school. Requests for a printed pack of learning materials should be addressed to a child's class teacher. Once it has been confirmed that this request has been accepted, printed packs will be available for collection from the School Office on a Monday between 10am and 2pm. In order to receive this pack, completed work from previous weeks must be returned to school before a new set of materials is issued. This will enable work completed on printed materials to be looked at by a member of school staff.

Only in exceptional circumstances will a printed pack be available to those parents/children/families who have access to Seesaw. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Children in every class have access to a live Zoom session with their class teacher on a daily basis. Information regarding the time of - and access to - these sessions will be provided through ParentMail and the school's Facebook page. Any parents/children/families who do not have this information can call the School Office who will be able to provide this. During these sessions, children are given the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have regarding their online learning. In addition, this is an opportunity for children to interact with their peers and members of staff from their class.

We use a programme called Loom to enable teachers to record video lesson inputs for the children in their class. These videos – predominantly for Literacy, Topic, Science and R.E. lessons – can be accessed through children's class pages on Seesaw.

In addition to this, we use a number of other resources for recorded teaching. In Numeracy, each class will have a daily video posted on Seesaw which has been produced by White Rose Maths. This is in line with the curriculum that we ordinarily follow in school. We also use recorded teaching videos from The Oak National Academy, as and when appropriate to our curriculum.

Occasionally, teachers may direct children to videos or resources through commercial websites such as YouTube. These links will be provided through Seesaw and teachers will have checked the suitability of these resources before suggesting them to children.

Children are also directed to access 'MyOn', which provides online access to a vast array of books suitable for all ages and interests. Logon details have been provided to parents/children/families but these can be requested from the School Office (0161 2734654) if needed.

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?

All children are expected to access and respond to all lessons set for their class on a daily basis. This will usually comprise of five lessons, all of which are compulsory. In addition, where possible, children should access the daily live session with their class teacher. Children should not simply select which lessons they would most like to complete – all learning needs to be undertaken and responded to. On a case-by-case basis, class teachers may agree with parents/carers/families that a reduced number of lessons should be completed by a child (ren).

As ever, we are enormously grateful for the support of parents/carers and families with their child (ren)'s online learning. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that children are given the opportunity to access their online education. In order to do this, support should be given by parents/carers/families to establish a routine in which children are able to succeed in completing their remote education tasks.

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

Class teachers complete a register on a daily basis which keeps track of each lesson that each child in a particular class is completing. Comments/concerns will be added to the register regarding specific children. Where concerns about engagement or quality of online learning are identified, the following processes will take place:

Teachers will make phone calls to parents/children/families where engagement with online learning has been identified as a concern. In the first instance, a child's class teacher will make contact to offer support if needed. If engagement does not improve, the concern will be escalated to a member of the school's Family Team who will continue to make contact either via a phone call or via a home visit. If the concern still remains, a member of the school's Senior Management Team will make contact as necessary. This process is primarily intended to be supportive but also strives to ensure that a child is accessing the online education to which they are legally entitled.

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:

Every piece of work that a child completes online will either be 'liked' by a member of staff to acknowledge its completion or a comment will be left in response to a completed task. In line with the school marking policy, comments will be left where appropriate. These will either be written or via voice note – both of which will be through Seesaw in response to a child's individual piece of work. A comment will always be left if a piece of work would be assessed as 'red', meaning that it requires editing, looking at again or if further support is needed.

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:

All children with an EHCP have been offered a place in school in our FAB provision, thus ensuring that these children are supported in an appropriate and effective environment. Tailored printed resource packs which are appropriate for an individual child have been produced for any children identified as needing SEND support. This is the case for children in all year groups across school.

Children with a 1:1 Teaching Assistant are being supported remotely and Zoom sessions can be arranged as requested/needed.

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?

Remote online learning in a number of subjects will be available on the first day of a child's absence due to self-isolation. Available learning will be in Foundation Subjects such as Science, Topic, P.E., R.E. etc. Numeracy and Literacy lessons will be available online from the second day of a child's absence due to self-isolation.

An initial phone call will be made to the self-isolator on the second day of absence to explain that all work is now available online via Seesaw for the remainder of the 10-day isolation period. Teachers will be providing work on a daily basis at 9am and this will be checked at the end of the day – as much as possible, it is expected that work is completed so that children do not fall behind.

On the second day of online learning, Numeracy and Literacy lessons may be generic recap lessons if time does not allow for mirrored lessons to be set. From the third day of online learning onwards, these lessons will be aligned with in-class learning. Other subjects, such as Science, Topic, R.E. etc., will be linked – where possible – to the content currently being taught in school but will not replicate exactly what is being taught in class.