



## Remote Learning Policy for Parents/Carers

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils, parents and carers about what to expect from remote education at Brookdale Primary School.

## **1. What is the government asking schools to provide?**

Remote education should:

- Be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school.
- Include recorded videos **or** live videos
- Provide time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently.
- Provide 3 hours education a day on average for KS1 pupils.
- Provide 4 hours education a day on average for KS2 pupils.
- Teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practiced in each subject so that pupils can progress through the school's curriculum.
- Select a digital platform for remote education provision that will be used consistently across the school in order to allow interaction, assessment and feedback.
- Provide printed resources to structure learning supplemented with other forms of communication to keep pupils on track or answer questions about work.
- Have systems for checking, daily, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and work with families to rapidly identify effective solutions where engagement is a concern.
- Set meaningful and ambitious work each day in an appropriate range of subjects.
- Put in place reasonable adjustments as necessary so that vulnerable pupils and pupils with SEND can successfully access their work and contact with the school is maintained.

## **2. What has Brookdale taken into consideration when developing its remote offer?**

One of the biggest challenges parents have reported to us is balancing their own work with school work. We recognise that home circumstances may make parental support and access to devices more difficult. Remote learning must be kept as simple and as flexible as possible to make it accessible to all pupils and families.

At school, children are not working from 09:00-15:00, so expecting children to sit in front of a screen, or at a table, all day is unrealistic. Even an hour's lesson in school is broken down by teachers into manageable sections, with rest breaks encouraged.

We would recommend that families establish a routine that works for them. It may be better to do some school work earlier or later in the day which fits around parents' work commitments. The BBC are providing [primary school programming](#) each day and parents may like to use these resources whilst they undertake work commitments. Brookdale will provide up to 4 hours of work each day, but pupils and families will not be penalised if completing it all proves difficult.

**3. What should my child expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of pupils being sent home?**

A pupil's first few days 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. We will work quickly to have learning set up and this will be communicated via, email, Class Dojo and School Spider.

**4. 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. For some curriculum areas, we may direct you to online content such as the [Oak National Academy](#) or [BBC Bitesize](#).

**5. How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?**

KS1: Approximately 3 hours

KS2: Approximately 4 hours

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

Each day, the class teacher will provide the instructions for lessons and the associated resources via School Spider through the pupil login. These can be completed at a time and a pace to suit your family circumstances. Some of the learning activities planned will signpost children to high quality websites that as a school we subscribe to e.g. Mathletics.

Additional instructions and clarifications may be provided to parents via Class Dojo as and when required.

EYFS parents also have access to tapestry as part of their home learning curriculum provision.

**7. Why has Brookdale chosen these platforms?**

To make the school's remote learning accessible to all families, we want to use platforms that families are already familiar with.

Parents and pupils already use the school website and can navigate the homework pages easily.

The large majority of EYFS parents are familiar with using the Tapestry online journal.

Where appropriate, teachers will direct the pupils to pre-recorded video teaching from the [Oak National Academy](#) and [BBC Bitesize](#). These websites are on the Government's approved list of providers.

#### **8. 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:

- Where possible we will aim to provide digital resources including laptops, tablets and data cards to help remove this barrier.
- If families do not have online access, they should inform school immediately.
- A printed copy of the online materials can be prepared for pupils who do not have online access. We can provide an exercise book for recording work.
- Parents/Carers without email access may telephone the school office to discuss queries or concerns relating to remote education, 0151 677 5170
- Pupils without online access or email will be contacted by telephone to discuss pupils' progress with remote education.

#### **9. How will my child be taught remotely?**

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

- Each week, the class teacher will arrange for pupils to meet informally once a week via 'Zoom'. Parents will be sent an online invitation in advance.
- For all year groups, we use the School Spider homework pages. These pages are visible once the pupil has logged in.
- Class Dojo to contact the class teacher directly for advice and support.
- Pre-recorded videos (e.g. [Oak National Academy](#) lessons, [BBC Bitesize](#), [Khan Academy](#))
- Video/audio recordings made by teachers or teaching assistants.
- Printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- Lesson content arranged within a PowerPoint presentation.
- Textbooks and reading books pupils have at home.
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences.
- Project work and/or internet research activities (although there will not be an over-reliance on these in accordance with the government's guidance).

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

- Each day, the class teacher will provide a lesson instructions and resources for your child to complete. All lessons can be completed at a time and a pace to suit your family circumstances.
- Each lesson has an objective and links to pre-recorded videos and/or resources.
- Each day, the teacher will set work and encourage children to submit their work via School Spider or Class Dojo. Submissions could be in the form of photos and written text. Ideally, tasks should be submitted daily for monitoring purposes, however we understand that for some families this may not always be possible. We would therefore request that these tasks are completed as soon as possible thereafter.
- If three days have passed, and the teacher has not received work from your child, a member of classroom staff will make a supportive telephone call to the family to check if any help is required.
- Activities are designed to encourage your child to be as independent as possible and to work at a time that is most suitable to your family circumstances. Parents may be required to support their child's learning at home, for example to explain instructions and monitor engagement.
- Parents and pupils can contact the class teacher directly via Class Dojo.

**11. Why does Brookdale advocate pre-recorded videos over 'live' lessons?**

Brookdale is keen to ensure its remote offer does not encourage pupils to spend a long time sitting at a screen. Both the Department for Education and the Chartered College of Teaching reiterate that remote learning for primary age children should not be wholly screen-based and it is important there are times when a child is reading a book, completing a practical activity, enjoying the outdoors and getting exercise.

Brookdale has considered a range of factors concerning 'live' lessons, including logistical challenges and appropriateness in relation to the age and stage of pupils, the subjects and topics being taught and the readiness of pupils and families for using the various technologies.

Brookdale recognises that live platforms can be useful in some circumstances and we will use them as follows:

- 'Zoom Meet' Wellbeing sessions once a week for each class.
- Thumbs Up Education delivering a once a week well-being session for all the family starting after the February half-term.

Some parents may feel that frequent 'live' lessons are the best approach to remote learning because they appear to closely replicate what happens in the classroom. However, take away the classroom and the magic is lost. In the classroom, we can pose questions with ease and purpose, we can judge how work is going and where we need to change the focus or the pace. A virtual classroom is a very poor proxy for this space. What can be learned through live interaction face-to-face is very difficult to replicate online.

- In many homes there are not sufficient devices for all children to access online lessons at the same time. One laptop can't serve three children who all have 'live' lessons simultaneously.
- 'Live' lessons require devices with camera and microphone capability. It cannot be assumed that all pupils have access to these devices.
- There can be a problem with the amount of bandwidth streaming that 'live' lessons require, and this often becomes an issue when a cohort of children are trying to join 'live' lessons at the same time.
- Technical difficulties, either at school or at home, can often interrupt the pace of a 'live' lesson, inevitably leading to frustration and a lack of engagement from pupils.
- Exposing young children to regular 'live' lessons carries a safeguarding risk and would require parents to closely supervise their child's learning which may not be sustainable.
- Staff illness may make it harder to deliver 'live' lessons on a regular basis, therefore it is important that lesson materials are accessible in other formats

Pre-recorded videos, on the other hand, are accessible to all pupils. They enable pupils to access a lesson at a time that is convenient for their circumstances. It enables them to pause, rewind and revisit explanations they have struggled with.

## **12. 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 not feedback to every pupil on every submitted task. Feedback will be in the form of a 'whole class' summary each day and will acknowledge positive aspects of the submitted work and any areas of growth if appropriate. The feedback will be through School Spider or Class Dojo.
- The teacher may also provide individual feedback to a pupil as necessary via School Spider.

## **13. How will the school keep in contact with my child?**

- From week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> January, the class teacher will arrange for pupils to meet via 'Zoom'. Parents will be sent an online invitation in advance.
- Parents and pupils can contact the class teacher directly by Class Dojo for help with learning or for pastoral support. If you experience technical problems during home education, please contact your child's class teacher to see what additional support can be provided.
- Due to all staff working in school, it may not be possible to respond to a query immediately. In line with the DfE's guidance for staff wellbeing, staff will not respond to queries before 8am or after 5pm or during the weekend.
- Parents may contact the class teacher directly using Class Dojo or a phone call if they have concerns about their child's engagement with work or would like some direct support or feedback for their child.
- If parents have a safeguarding concern, please email [schooloffice@brookdale.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@brookdale.wirral.sch.uk) in the first instance for the attention of Mr Brown. All disclosures will be confidential.

## **14. Zoom meet safety rules?**

It is really important that safeguarding procedures are in place when using any technology. The following safeguarding procedures will need to be adhered to for the sake of everyone's safety and enjoyment of the session –

- Parents will receive an invitation to join the meeting via Class Dojo.
- Teachers will admit pupils into the Zoom Meet from 5 minutes before the start of the session.
- Please ensure pupils are supervised by an adult during the session.
- Please have a display name that is easily identifiable. If we are unsure who is trying to access the meeting we may have to decline access.
- Please ensure microphones are turned off when joining the session. If required during the session teachers will indicate to turn the microphones on.
- If you prefer for your child not to be seen then please disable the camera on the device.
- Please ensure any children and adults visible are appropriately dressed and the session is held in an appropriate room e.g. not a bedroom.
- Please leave the meet as soon as it finishes. Teachers will be the least to leave the session.
- Please do not share the link for the session with anyone else.

**15. How will Brookdale review its remote learning offer?**

Brookdale will audit the remote learning school offer by using the department for Education audit tool. Any changes from this audit will be put into policy and communicated to all stakeholders.

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