

Malmesbury CE Primary School

Remote Education: Information for Parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents and 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 document.

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?

For the first day or two of a bubble closure, the school will refer parents and carers to the links on our home learning webpage. This page contains links to many of the best online education resources available, chosen by our staff to match our approach and curriculum. It is a stop-gap while staff prepare learning suitable for their classes.

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?

- Yes. We teach the broadly same curriculum remotely as we do in school. The way in which it is delivered will need to be different in some ways, but the content will be the same as those children in school, so that when your child returns to school, they will be able to join back in with everyone else.
- We have needed to make adaptations in some subjects. Many of the resources we have in school are not available at home, so teachers have to think carefully about how best to deliver subjects.
- In some cases, the curriculum will be reordered in order to make home learning easier. This may be due to the complexity of the topic or that resourcing the topic at home maybe too difficult.

Remote teaching and study time each day

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

Each day children will have, as a minimum, learning intended to take 1 hour in English, 1 hour in maths and 1 hour in other subjects. In practice, the amount of learning available is likely to exceed this, but we are conscious of the difficulties which home learning places on parents, so we ask you to try to achieve the minimum.

Older children will be capable of longer periods of independent study and are likely to have extended tasks set by their teachers.

Accessing remote education

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

The school's remote learning platform is Edmodo. Each child has their own account. It allows assignments to be posted and submitted and feedback to be given. It also enables interaction and feedback between pupils and multiple staff. Teachers have created a number of tutorials on how to use Edmodo, all available on the school website. Most children are familiar with the platform from the first lockdown and also because it has been used for home learning since September 2020.

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 and iPads have been lent to a number of families. Parents or carers must sign a user agreement, and the devices can be obtained from school. Please contact us if you need a device on admin@malmesbury-pri.wilts.sch.uk or by telephoning the school on 01666 823514. If neither of these is possible, come to the school.
- If your data allowance is restricting your access, we can request help from a government scheme which will pay for your data allowance to be increased. If you do not have any form of internet connection, we can obtain an access point for your home, which will be free. Please contact us.
- If online access is not possible where you live (e.g. a rural location) or if it is unsuitable for other reasons, please contact us to discuss this. Some pupils have printed resources. These can be delivered and collected weekly by staff.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Children are being taught remotely by accessing the Edmodo platform.

- Assignments are posted on Edmodo daily. They are generally uploaded by around 8pm the night before so that parents can get a sight of them before the coming day. We upload daily so that children are not tempted to rush ahead with their learning.
- Assignments are often in Powerpoint format, which allows voice and video recordings to be added by teachers where appropriate. Powerpoint readers can be downloaded free for all internet devices.
- Video files may be uploaded separately. Short clips can be placed directly on Edmodo. Longer videos, such as assemblies, are generally uploaded to our YouTube channel and the links are posted on Edmodo.
- Live interactive circle time sessions to support pupil wellbeing
- Links to recorded explanations may be included, particularly White Rose maths resources and the Oak National Academy lessons. Other selected websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas will also be linked.
- Printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- Textbooks and reading books pupils have at home – while at home all parents and carers are invited to collect their child's books from school.

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?

- Pupils are expected to engage daily with assignments. It is good for children to have regular work times and a fixed schedule, as they would in school. However, we understand that timings may need to be flexible around parents' work commitments and other children in the home. Please engage with staff through Edmodo messaging and we will be glad to support you.
- Children's learning will need parental support. However, often the best thing you can do is to encourage children to be independent and to persevere with tasks. Good learners get stuck and then they get unstuck – often by themselves. Look back through children's books to see the things they have been capable of in school. Try to expect similar standards.

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

- Staff will aim to provide daily feedback to pupils. Teachers and teaching assistants will be involved in this. Please bear in mind that a significant proportion of staff are engaged in teaching in-school, and that, like you, staff may be juggling their own illness or family commitments, so the frequency of feedback may vary.
- If we have concerns parents will be contacted first through Edmodo messaging. This may be followed up with telephone calls if necessary.

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:

- Pupils are asked to submit assignments on the Edmodo platform.
- Teachers and teaching assistants can then view the assignment and provide feedback.
- During tasks, messages can be sent to teachers by pupils asking for further help. Pupils can also message each other about a task.
- Children should receive feedback in some form on all assignments submitted.
- For those working on paper worksheets, these will be collected weekly by staff. Assistance can still be obtained through Edmodo if required.
- Each class teacher also has an email address in the format `teachername@malmesbury-pri.wilts.sch.uk`. These have been shared with parents so that information can be exchanged outside the Edmodo platform if necessary.

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 other ways. Your child's teacher and our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator will work with you to identify the right approach for your child and to provide work which is suitable for their needs.

Younger children will also need differing approaches. This will include shorter tasks and more verbal and video explanation from their teachers. There may also be additional printed resources sent 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?

In this situation it is unlikely that school staff will be available to offer feedback throughout the day. However, they will still monitor what children do and respond.

Learning materials will attempt to mirror what is being done in school, especially after the first few days of isolation, so that your child does not miss out and can join in with learning easily when they return. Assignments will be set on Edmodo as described above, however these will not contain teacher video's and audio.