

St Michael's Nursery and Infant School

Home Learning Information for Parents/Carers

January 2021



What you can do to help.....

Home learning is challenging for parents and we know that it **cannot replace school** – home learning is not school! But by working together we can achieve the best possible outcomes for children during this difficult time. We kindly ask for your support so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for your child during lockdown or isolation.

Younger children in particular need support in accessing online learning. At the same time, we don't expect you to try and 'teach' your child structured lessons all day, and we don't expect parents to have the resources at home that we have in school. But by playing an active role in your child's learning the best you can it will make a huge difference – **and home learning will look different for every family.**

Our Top Tips:

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the day, and to keep to a familiar plan each day by creating and sticking to a routine that works for you and your child
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends and be realistic in your expectations – children need short bursts of activity rather than longer sessions and playtime, just like at school.
- Plan breaks for exercise into the day to help keep your child active as much as you can
- Be kind to yourself and if something isn't working, come back to it later or try it again the next day – you are doing your best!

Help us motivate your child by sending us updates and completed work for staff to comment on and let us know if you're having any difficulties with remote learning, or if you have any questions. You can contact your class teacher through Class Dojo and they will be able to offer support. They will also contact you by phone or email each week to keep in touch.

Remote education provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity to parents or carers about what to expect from remote education where national or local restrictions require the whole school (or bubbles) to remain 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?

Staff will use Class Dojo to send links to resources that support the learning that is taking place in class. This will be for core areas of learning such as maths and number work, reading and writing. Please prioritise reading with your child at home. Build in lots of everyday learning experiences, such as weighing ingredients, a nature walk, playing shops, counting objects around the house and acting out familiar stories.

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 deliver the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have had to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, music/art and DT will be adapted to allow for resources that children have access to at home and PE will focus on general health and well-being, including keeping fit and active, rather than on specific areas of the curriculum such as gymnastics or dance.

Remote teaching and learning time each day

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

We expect that remote teaching and learning will take pupils broadly the following amounts of time each day. Remember that a lot of learning in early years is through play and the tasks set by the teachers will reflect this.

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| Reception and Nursery Up to 3 hours per day in short sessions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phonics 30 minutes• Sharing a book with an adult and talking about the story 15-30mins• Number work 30 minutes• Wider curriculum activities with adult support 90 minutes to include: Outdoor play, being physically active indoors and outdoors Being creative – art/craft/baking/painting/drawing |
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| | Role play and imaginative play – dressing up, den building, pretend play |
| Year 1 & 2 (Three hours per day) Remember to build in time for rest and play between tasks/activities. | The daily learning will be made up of work that will look similar to this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths 45 minutes, to include watching an introduction and/or independent or adult supported tasks • Sharing/reading a book with an adult and talking about the story • Guided reading or comprehension/writing task 45 minutes • Physical activity 30 minutes daily is recommended, not always set by school (go for a walk or a bike ride) • Phonics 30 minutes daily • Foundation subjects 30-45 minutes a day (Science/Geography/Art/Computing etc.) • Year 2 may also have spelling, punctuation and grammar |

Accessing remote education

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

We use the following online remote education platforms: Class Dojo Purple Mash
Oxford Owl Read Write Inc. White Rose Maths Primary Stars Maths

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:

- We will provide all our children with a pack of printed activities and materials that will correspond with the daily instructions provided by teachers through Class Dojo. The pack will contain resources for 10 days and we will ask parents to collect it from school. If a parent or carer is isolating or unable to collect the pack we will arrange to deliver the pack.
- Parents who do not have access to technology can submit work by returning it to the school office when they collect their next pack. The work will be quarantined before being marked by the class teacher.
- Parents who are unable to access remote learning as they do not have access to a device can contact school for help. This may be in the form of providing a refurbished tablet or a laptop with a loan agreement for example.
- Parents who do not have access to sufficient data or an internet connection can contact school to ask for help and support in accessing top ups for data use.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a range of approaches to teach pupils remotely and these include:

- live teaching for one to one support (online lessons)
- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers and uploaded to Class Dojo)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- reading books for pupils to have at home provided by school
- websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences. These include Primary Stars Maths, White Rose Maths, Oxford Owl Ebooks & Read Write Inc.
- signposting children and parents to appropriate supplementary learning via channels such as CBBC or The Oak Academy
- Powerpoints, worksheets and other learning activities uploaded daily to Class Dojo

Engagement and feedback

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

- We expect parents to communicate with their class teacher at least weekly about their child's learning
- We expect parents to engage with home learning daily by providing examples of pupil's achievements via Class Dojo
- We expect parents to provide a routine and structure for home learning wherever possible and to ask for help if they need it

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

- Teachers and teaching assistants will monitor home learning daily and comment on children's work as it is uploaded to Class Dojo.
- Teachers will contact parents via telephone and email if their child is not engaging in home learning to offer support and to find solutions, and additional support may be required from the headteacher/ SENDCo.

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 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without additional support from school. 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:

- Provide additional help and advice from our class teachers or SENDCo.
- Provide adapted work for pupils that is based around their EHCP or health needs.
- Provide tailored resources delivered to your home and offer 121 support remotely from our experienced teaching assistants.

Please remember parents are not teachers.....if you were, we would all be out of a job! It can be really hard to put home learning in place for infant school children as they are so young and don't 'sit at a table' to work for longer periods of time like older children. But there are lots of things parents can do that make a huge difference.....

You can help your child to learn through the little things you do with them, for example:

- everyday conversations
- make-believe play
- games with numbers or letters
- reading together
- involving them in the things you are doing, such as household chores, and talking with them about it

These activities can be built into everyday life and play.

Keeping a routine

Children will feel more comfortable with a predictable routine, so try to make sure they:

- get up and go to bed at the same time each day
- have regular meal times
- turn off any electronic devices, including the television, at least an hour before bedtime
- keeping active -young children should be active for around three hours a day in total.

It's also good to get some fresh air every day. If you do not have a garden and are taking children outside to exercise, make sure you follow the rules on social distancing.

While inside, there are plenty of things you can do to keep children active, such as:

- playing hide-and-seek
- seeing who can do the most star jumps

- making an obstacle course
- playing music and having a dance-off

Television and digital devices

There are lots of ways to help your child to learn such as reading together and make-believe play. You can also use what they have watched on television or the internet to help their learning. Talk with them about what they are watching or use their favourite television characters in other games and activities. Use sites that you can trust, like CBeebies and CBBC.

Set age-appropriate parental controls on any devices young children are using and supervise their use of websites and apps.

Try sharing things your child makes with your friends and family online and encourage others to do the same. Your child might enjoy seeing things they have made on the screen or seeing what other children have done.

You can also visit 'Hungry Little Minds' for ideas of activities to do together without using a device.

Thank you for taking the time to read our guidance.

We hope the information is helpful.

We are here to help and support you and your child.

We are all in this together.