Tips for Remote Learning

How should we organise our day?

Staff post a weekly timetable on Seesaw on a Monday morning. In school, our daily timetable roughly follows the timetable given to the right, so if you want to try and follow the school day as closely as possible, the timetable here might be a good one to follow.

Please note this is just a suggestion! We are well aware that many families are juggling home learning around looking after younger siblings and/or working from home and we are not asking you to replicate the school day.

Suggested Timetable
Phonics/Reading
Short break
Writing/Maths
Basic Skills
Lunchtime
Foundation Subjects: History/Geography/PE/ Science/PSHCE/Art

Can children pick the lessons they want to access?

This is a tricky one!! Ideally children would access all lessons everyday, but we're aware that due to a multitude of reasons, this can't always be the case. If children are able to choose, they will often select the subjects they think they're best at, or the ones they enjoy most; they'll rarely choose the ones they find difficult and these are the areas where they are most at risk of falling behind. We would ask that over a week, if children are not able to complete all lessons, they at least complete work across a range of different subjects. The fact is that in school, children can't choose the lessons they access and can't choose to opt out of lessons they don't enjoy, so if this is happening, let your child's class teacher know and they can talk to your child and hopefully offer some encouragement.

Do I need to sit with my child while they work?

This will of course vary from child to child, but generally, the older the children are, the less they will need an adult to sit with them to support them with their work. We have chosen Seesaw because it allows staff to comment and support children throughout the day, so if your child is finding a task difficult, they can add a comment on Seesaw and staff can respond to support them. The videos from staff are there to teach the content and explain the tasks children need to complete, meaning that most children should be able to access them independently. Please note, they may need to watch the video or read the instructions more than once to fully understand the task.

What do I do if my child is struggling?

Firstly, use Seesaw to let your child's teacher know - they can then add additional support and guidance. It can also be helpful to take a break and move onto something else, coming back to the task later. We know home learning can be stressful and if your child is getting frustrated because they're finding a task difficult, this adds even more pressure, so letting staff know and taking a break is often the best option.

Having said this, it's also important to be aware that often when working at home, children may claim they can't do something, or may even claim they've never been taught something before, however these statements may not necessarily be true…

What if my child misses a lesson?

The lessons follow a teaching sequence and skills will build up over a week; therefore if children miss a day, it may impact their ability to access the content of their next lesson. E.g. If children are learning how to use adjectives in writing on Monday and then on Tuesday, they're using adjectives to write a paragraph, they may struggle if they haven't accessed Monday's lesson.

It is important to note that the content children are being taught at home now won't be re-taught when school re-opens to all children, therefore, wherever possible, children need to access this learning now. As explained in previous communications, we have set up our remote learning so that children are being taught the exact curriculum they would be being taught if they were at school.

My child prefers paper packs - can they have one?

Children are welcome to complete their work on paper and upload it to Seesaw. All children have been provided with an exercise book (in their emergency 4 day pack) for this very reason. We have moved away from the paper packs because we can't effectively teach the curriculum content through them. Also, because we are teaching the same curriculum as the children are accessing in school, the lessons are being planned and resourced on a weekly basis, making it very difficult to put together paper packs to run parallel with the learning going on in school.

If you're worried about screen time, encourage the children to complete their work away from the computer where they can. If they prefer, they can record the questions, or task from the screen and answer in their exercise books.

We're struggling with technology - can you help?

Let us know the problems you're having. We have already loaned devices to several families and have a small number still available. We know that sharing devices is a real challenge for home learning, so please get in touch and we will try our best to help. We can also apply through the DfE for data allowances to be increased for families in certain cases, so please let us know if you're finding things difficult.

Do I have to upload my child's work onto Seesaw?

Wherever possible - yes. Uploading work to Seesaw is the only way that staff know that children are accessing work and is the only way they can support them if they're struggling. Teachers are also using the information from Seesaw to make sure they're pitching work accurately, but can't do this if they can't see children's work. We monitor Seesaw daily to see which children are accessing their remote learning tasks and track this information in school, along with attendance in Zoom lessons.

We know from feedback from parents that children are really benefiting from the feedback from staff and there have been some lovely exchanges on Seesaw between staff and children.