



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.

Thank you for your support whilst we are continuing with *remote learning*, once again. There have been some changes since the lock down in March 2020. This document will help you understand what is expected this time and how we can help you.

We realise that the circumstances we all find ourselves in will affect our families in a number of ways. In our planning and expectations, we are aware of the need for flexibility from all sides:

- Parents may be trying to work from home so access to technology for a family may be limited;
- Parents may have two or more children trying to access technology;
- Teachers may be trying to manage their home situation and possibly learning of their own children;
- Systems may not always function as they should.

We understand this and have aimed to create *remote learning* that recognises this. Please let us know if you are experiencing difficulty of any kind (either contact the class teacher via Seesaw or email or phone the School Office info@blowers.dudley.sch.uk / (01384 818490).

Thank you for your continued support.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home?

Since the first lockdown in March 2020, the School has worked hard to ensure that pupils can be taught remotely to a high standard.

What learning will my child be expected to do?

Your child will be set daily remote learning to complete which is appropriately tailored to the needs of your child. This means each class has been sub-divided into ability groups to ensure that the most able and those with SEND receive the most appropriate, tailored work.

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

Work will be available from the first day of school closure or a child's isolation. All children will be provided with exercise books to complete work in. Work will always be set using the school's online platform, Seesaw. Children's password details are in their learning journals.

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. We have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, websites such as Oak Academy will be used for foundation subjects and in some instances, mathematics. The Oak Academy lessons are in-line with our teaching ethos – they encourage the use of retrieval practice, explicit teaching with high quality modelling, and the use of deliberate practice. The School will also incorporate special events and celebrations such as Black History Month, Internet Safety Day, World Book Day to enhance and enrich our broad and balanced curriculum.

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

Work will be set via the School's Remote learning Platform <https://app.seesaw.me/#!/login>

All children have been provided with logon details. They can also be found in the children's Learning Journals. Hard copies will also be made available by the school upon request. Termly overviews of the curriculum are available on the website for each year group. Learning will be available for your child right away.

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. If a child does not have access to a computer/laptop and/or the internet, the School will provide your child with a device or the school can provide paper packs of learning.

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:

Early Years Foundation Stage	2.5 hours a day
Key Stage 1	3 hours a day
Key Stage 2	4 hours a day

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Work will be set via the School's remote learning Platform – Seesaw <https://app.seesaw.me/#!/login>. All children have been provided with logon details. They can also be found in the children's Learning Journals.

For families that are unable to access remote learning, packs will be printed and delivered. **Please notify the school if this applies to your family.**

Some of these lessons will have links to videos and other support materials. Children will be directed by the class teacher and expected to complete the following each day:

- 1 maths lesson
- 1 writing lesson
- 1 reading session (Book Talk)
- Daily phonics Nursery –Year 2
- 1 or 2 other curriculum lessons for example history, geography
- Children are still expected to read 3 times per week and record this in their Learning Journals. Bug Club books are available online. Lockdown is a great opportunity for children to complete their challenges which are available in their learning journals. Badges are available for collection on return to school!

Some examples of remote teaching approaches we use:

- recorded teaching (video lessons uploaded to Seesaw)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- reading books pupils have at home commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences(e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, Bitesize)

Younger children, may need adult support to access Seesaw and submit their work.

Parents/carers are asked to encourage their children to establish a strong sense of routine as if they were at school. This means completing work during 'the school day' 9-3 p.m. It is so important that the children have some down time, take daily physical activity and take regular breaks.

How will my child's teacher see my child's work?

Using Seesaw children are able to submit their work electronically or by working in an exercise book and submitting an image. Teachers are always looking out for pupils eligible for the weekly 'Very Impressive Pupil' award which is announced on both Seesaw and in the School's weekly newsletter.

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

In the event of any form of isolation and loss of learning caused by Coronavirus, parents must understand that engagement in home learning is expected and we make provision available and accessible to all. As learning can be accessed remotely, if a child is experiencing no or mild symptoms, it is expected that they engage with all or some of the learning at home. However, if under normal circumstances the child would be too ill to attend school, then it is the responsibility of parents/carers to decide the extent to which their child engages with remote learning. As far as possible, teachers will ensure that children can access work independently. Parents can help their child by ensuring access remote education, providing them with a timetable, reinforcing positive attitudes to learning and, if possible, a quiet area to concentrate.

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

Daily registers are maintained and engagement is monitored by the class teacher. SLT will monitor engagement throughout the week. In the first instance, any concerns regarding a child's engagement, will result in a call from the class teacher to discuss any barriers to their learning. If this is a recurring problem, phone calls from a senior leader will be made. If making contact is not possible, a home visit may be conducted. If SLT are unable to contact parents/carers, safeguarding referrals maybe made.

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

It is important to note that the teachers at Blowers Green are available to provide ongoing support and feedback throughout the school day. 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:

- Using Seesaw, when a teacher is happy with the work completed, they will **approve** it so that it can be seen in the child's journal. If a piece of work needs editing or completing, the teacher will send back a **draft** for a child to work on.
- Teachers will mark work daily
- Teachers will provide written comments throughout the week. This will not be on every piece of work but will acknowledge that it has been received and seen by approving a piece of work as well as using the "like" button
- As in the classroom, staff have a good understanding of gaps in pupil's learning and these are addressed through the range of activities daily, for each ability group.

What if we have a problem accessing work?

Please phone the school office or email your child's teacher in the first instance who may be able to rectify this. A lined book for English and any task that requires writing, a squared book for maths and basic stationery have also been provided. You may collect further stationery from school, when required but please phone the school office first to ensure that this can be done safely, in accordance with COVID rules.

How will my child set their work out in the books?

All work needs to be completed with the same high expectations that we have in school. Each day, you need to send an image of your child's work that is completed in an exercise book to their teacher via Seesaw.

If using lined books for English or other lessons, children are encouraged to write the long date at the top of the page, underlined with a ruler, miss a line and then write the subject and lesson title. e.g. English - Reading: features of newspaper report.

Children will need to write as neatly as they can using the pencil provided.

Your child should re-read sentences to make sure that they make sense and that they have used the correct punctuation in the right place.

For maths lessons, please encourage your child to write the short date at the top of the page of the sheets or pages you use e.g. 02.09.2020 and underline with a ruler, then miss a line and write the title of the first slide on the video, e.g. Prime numbers to 100

Some activities may not need to be written down and may require a photograph of the learning.

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, 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:

- Children with an EHCP or those who are vulnerable, will be invited in to school to complete their learning under the guidance of school staff.
- If the child does not engage in home learning activities, the school will make contact with the family to discuss obstacles and create a support plan. The school will make contact with families of pupils with additional needs to discuss any appropriate support that they may require.
- Any child with an EHCP will have daily contact from a teacher or TA to support their learning needs and work appropriate to their ability will be provided.
- As with all good safeguarding practice, if the school feels the need, appropriate agencies will be contacted to support families.

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?

Work will be set via the Schools Remote learning Platform –Seesaw <https://app.seesaw.me/#/login>
All children have been provided with logon details. They can also be found in the children's Learning Journals. Hard copies will also be made available by the school upon request. Termly overviews of the curriculum are available on the website for each year group. Learning will be available for your child on the first day of absence. Links to online resources that will support your child's learning will be included in the weekly plan.

The School's Learning Platform allows the class teacher to provide immediate feedback for work submitted. When returning to school, pupils are welcome to bring any further work that they have completed, to share with their class teacher.

Who can I contact for help with school work?

Your child's teacher is contactable via Seesaw or the class email:

Y6 yearsix@blowers.dudley.sch.uk

Y5 yearfive@blowers.dudley.sch.uk

Y4 yearfour@blowers.dudley.sch.uk

Y3 yearthree@blowers.dudley.sch.uk

Y2 yeartwo@blowers.dudley.sch.uk

Y1 yearonw@blowers.dudley.sch.uk

Reception reception@blowers.dudley.sch.uk

Nursery nursery@blowers.dudley.sch.uk

Responses will be during the school day or as soon as is possible.

What should I do with the work?

Please keep any work completed by your children, that is not on Seesaw in a safe place and return it with them when they next return to school.

Is the work optional?

The work cannot be considered optional. It will be part of our current class work and so considered compulsory, and the completion of it is classed as attendance. Home learning is essential unless your child is too ill to engage and the school should be informed of this. The work your child is required to

complete will be differentiated and set to their learning group accordingly. Every day, the class teacher will complete a 'virtual register'. Please ensure that your child has submitted work on the day to gain their engagement mark.

Engagement levels will also be monitored using the criteria below –

- High: fully engaged with all work set, completed and submitted for all sessions
- Medium: most of the work has been completed work set for most sessions.
- Low: some engagement and work completed for some sessions.
- None - zero engagement in distance learning; in this instance, phone calls will be made in 24 hours to parents/carers to discuss. If engagement continues to be a concern, senior leaders will be informed.

Please email your child's teacher if you are finding any difficulties with the tasks.

What happens if my child is ill?

If your child is unwell and unable to do the work, then please phone school to let us know, just as you would if they were not attending school. If you suspect that your child has COVID symptoms, please ensure that you get a COVID test for them as soon as possible and phone the school office.

What if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

Please phone the school office as soon as you know. If your child is asymptomatic, they may continue to access the work. Should they become unwell, please let the school office know so that they can also ensure that you can access medical support if required.

What pastoral support and support for families is the school providing?

Parents and children receive a phone call, at least weekly, from their class teacher to check on their wellbeing and to ensure that they are accessing the work with ease. If a teacher is unable to contact a household, the School DSL will also attempt a phone call. If this is not possible a welfare check, in the form of a socially distanced home visit, will take place.

If a child is struggling with their remote learning, support phone calls are made. Video calling is also used to support any technical issues. The School may invite targeted children to attend some face-to-face teaching sessions, to boost children's confidence, catch-up on lost learning or support with technical issues.

The health and well-being of our school community is very important to us. We understand the pressures on all families during this current time and the mental health of both our children and parents/carers is very important to us. The School is always here to support all of our families either directly, or signposting families to networks or agencies – you are not alone.