

Remote Education Provision: Information for parents

Dear Parent/Carers,

This information is intended to provide clarity-answers for you and your children, our pupils.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

As we enter our third national lockdown, we continue to adapt our Home Learning Package to support our pupils to continue their education. As a school we have improved our learning offer: we will be providing an opportunity for pupils to access remote digital learning where they have access to appropriate IT equipment and we have chosen Microsoft Teams as our platform. We have provided IT equipment where possible for pupils to use at home.

What should my child expect from our improved remote education?

All families receive regular contact from their child's teacher. Teachers and parents/carers have negotiated the best way to do this. Some families have requested several phone calls per week, whereas others prefer less frequent support and some prefer to use email as their chosen medium.

Upper School Pupils

The remote digital learning is set for our upper school pupils and then we will continue to provide the school's curriculum and prepare pupils for exam pathways. The Digital Remote Learning provides that much needed face-to-face teaching time as well as providing a range of bespoke resources created by our teachers for our curriculum. The Cooking teacher has provided recorded cooking demonstrations for pupils to follow. All pupils have been provided with a laptop to use at home. Pupils follow the academic curriculum in the mornings and have the opportunity to receive 1:1 support with their social, emotional and mental health needs in the afternoons from our staff. Pupils who are onsite participate in Duke of Edinburgh award activities in the afternoons.

Middle School Pupils

For the pupils who are being educated onsite our academic curriculum continues to be taught. For our middle school pupils learning from home there is the opportunity to join a live lesson with their teacher and their peers who are onsite. Our middle school teachers are recording lessons and our pupils are able to access the learning with Microsoft Teams. All middle school teachers provide support for learning. The home learning paper pack is also an option. We have provided data packs and some laptops to pupils who need them at home. We are also offering resources to support our pupils' emotional needs with Thrive resources as well as speech and language resources.

Lower School Pupils

All our lower school pupils will follow our academic curriculum. Our lower school teachers will continue to provide teaching resources on our Home Learning section of the school website as well as delivering a Home Learning paper pack of resources and activities. Our lower school teachers have created timetables to support all our pupils and parents and have built in time to discuss and give feedback to support learning. We are also offering resources to support our pupils' emotional needs with Thrive resources as well as speech and language resources.

How long should our children be working at home ?

Lower School

The recommended time spent for our lower school pupils is three hours. It helps to have a routine and the teachers have provided a timetable to follow which provides a balance between the key subjects English (sounds, reading and writing), Maths and other subjects, including Thrive activities.

Middle School

The recommended time spent for our middle school pupils is four hours. It helps to have a routine and the teachers have provided a timetable to follow which provides a balance between the key subjects English (sounds, reading and writing), Maths, science and other subjects, including Thrive activities. The Home Learning webpage recommends educational websites and apps. We also recommend the Oak National Academy's virtual library and the remote lessons provided by BBC Bitesize.

Upper School

The recommended learning time for our pupils in the upper school is 5 hours. It is very important to maintain the commitment to their exam pathways and future examination coursework. There are five lessons each day of 45 minutes: 3.75 hours. There is time allocated for pupils to complete the assignments set by their subject teacher. We also have recommended educational websites as well as BBC Bitesize remote learning lessons as an extra source of learning. As a school we have also allocated timetabled slots to support our pupils with coursework as well as emotional support.

Commitment to delivering Home Learning packs

As a school we remain committed to providing a Home Learning pack to every pupil regardless of remote learning options. The home learning pack will support a pupil if they have to self-isolate from school. We will continue to provide stationery and learning resources with more available on request. Our school transport team will deliver the weekly Learning packs and collect the completed packs. It is vital that all packs are returned to school even if the pack is not completely finished.

Assessment

The completed packs will be distributed to the class or subject teacher and each teacher will be able to record progress within our assessment tracker. During the phone calls home, teachers will feedback on the progress made by the pupil and offer support for a learning objective if needed.

Access to the remote learning

Currently, Elms school has provided 63 laptops to different families to support off site digital remote learning through Microsoft teams as well as offering 4G Wireless Routers. We have informed all parent/carers of the availability of Additional Data Packs on mobile devices from key providers: *EE, 3, Smarty, Virgin, Tesco, O2 and Sky*. There are different 'How to guides' on the schools' home learning area of the website. All our teachers continually check to ensure there are no problems with technology and access key areas of the school website. Any difficult to answer concerns are referred to the school's network manager. If the government provides any more resources, the Head teacher will continue to update our families through our school Facebook page and a letter to every family.

Our teachers are committed to keeping your child safe and other children safe during the digital remote learning sessions. Our teachers will remind pupils of the acceptable rules. There is a PowerPoint resource on our home learning page so you can support your child follow the Digital Remote Learning Rules.

We are working together in partnership to ensure that your child has the best education we can offer in these difficult times. We have high expectations and expect our pupils to join in and complete their learning. Most of the pupils who are working from home are engaging well with our offer and we are taking steps to ensure that all pupils either engage in learning or attend the school site.

We are thankful for your support and appreciate your positive comments. We continue to encourage any feedback to help us improve the educational offer for your child either through your child’s class teacher or the school office for a subject teacher.

Keep Safe!

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provide at home?