



Remote education provision: information for parents at Sitwell Infant School

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to children and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education where national or local restrictions require the school to close or entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.

For details of what to expect where individual children are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to children at home

A child'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 children being sent home?

In the first few days of a school closure, we will share the planning and activities on the Class Pages on the school website. On the first full day of isolation, no online lessons will be provided. This will allow school time to plan and resource teaching for the 10 days' isolation period and will give parents/carers and children time to organise their arrangements for childcare and remote learning. During the day, you will receive a message via email. This will contain the arrangements and links to resources for the first week. Packs of work will be available for the self-isolation period if needed; please contact the school office to order these and organise collection. The planning will indicate if there are online videos for children to watch; other lessons will include independent learning tasks.

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?

Wherever possible, we will aim to teach the children broadly the same curriculum at home as if they were at school; however, we recognise that adaptations will need to be made as not all homes will have the necessary practical resources to mirror what is available in school. For example, this may apply to Science lessons where equipment is not available, or Music where instruments are not available. Similarly, our PE lessons may involve the use of websites with self-contained activities as team games or those that sports require equipment will not be possible at home. Planning and activities will be adapted to ensure all children can participate in learning from home during any isolation period of lockdown. Although we aim to differentiate work so that all children are supported and challenged with their learning, it is important to note that during home learning, the focus will be on embedding and consolidating key skills, not necessarily focusing on teaching new concepts.

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 children broadly the following number of hours each day:

EYFS	We will set work that is broadly in line with the expectations of our normal school day, which is English & Maths activities in the morning (including Phonics & Handwriting) and one further subject in the afternoon. We want children to share a book with a grown up every day if possible; if this is difficult, please aim for three times per week. We anticipate the work provided is equivalent to a minimum of 2 hours per day for children in F2 and 3 hours per day for children in Year 1 and Year 2.
Key Stage 1	

Accessing remote education

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

At the moment, all planning is made available on the Class News pages on our website here: <https://www.sitwellinfantschool.co.uk/class-news/>. Following parental feedback during lockdown, we will offer pre-recorded videos each week, alongside a weekly virtual catch-up for each class. It is felt that pre-recorded lessons give families the flexibility to organise home learning whilst also possibly working from home or dealing with other family commitments. Any videos will be shared on our Virtual Resource Centre, which you can access here: <https://sitwell-infant-school.primarysite.media/>.

We have made the decision as a school to move to Google Classroom as our online learning platform, which means that all of the videos and activities will all be available in one place. All children in school will soon be given a Google account and will be able to access their online learning through their Google Classroom stream each day. You and your child will be able to communicate directly with the class teacher through this page, for example to share completed learning or photographs of their work. This contact through Google Classroom can be shared with the whole class or messages sent privately to the class teacher. We will keep parents updated and will share key information when we are ready to launch this.

We are very conscious that some of our families may not be able to access technology or may prefer to complete the learning on paper with their children. We are able to offer parents this facility and we ask that if you require a paper copy of the planning and resources, you get in touch with the office to order and organise collection.

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 children may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those children to access remote education:

Despite not being able to access support through the government scheme, we have been able to source several devices to support our families who are not able to access the online learning. Families that indicated they did not have a device through our ICT survey have now been provided with one on loan.

If you require support with this and have not told us you do not have a device/internet, please contact the school office and we will consider your request; but please note our number of devices is very limited and that there might not be one available immediately. If you struggle with internet connectivity or device access and would prefer paper based remote learning, please contact the school office to order and organise collection.

If you are unable to access remote learning online, we will work with families on an individual basis to find a way that works for both home and school to enable you to share your child's contributions and receive feedback, which could be via a virtual meeting or by telephone.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Weekly overview sheets that outline what work is expected for each day of the week.
- Recorded teaching – this may include Oak National Academy recorded lessons, or video and audio recordings made by our teachers, which will be shared through our Video Resource Centre.
- Enrichment activities shared via the website or email, for example, Mrs Peart's Weekly Challenge, Eco-School work or active challenges.
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences. This may include Phonics Play, ICT Games, BBC Bitesize and many more.
- Class email addresses for parents to share children's learning, ask questions and keep in touch with the class teacher.
- Printed paper packs produced by teachers for those families who have problematic internet or device access and have arranged this individually with school.
- Please note your child's class teacher may be working in school on a rota, teaching a critical worker/vulnerable group bubble. This may mean that videos etc are created by another teacher in that year group.
- Once Google Classroom has been launched, the above approaches will continue to be offered through this new platform.

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?

We understand that many of our families will be juggling working from home/family commitments and remote learning. Therefore, we understand the need for flexibility in our approaches. Our teaching is therefore always pre-recorded so you can access it when convenient. We will invite all children to a live catch-up once a week to help children to stay connected with their class during their isolation period.

Although there is flexibility in our approach, we do expect that all families engage with our remote learning on a daily basis. However, as we appreciate the demands placed on families are high, we ask that contributions are sent to your child's teacher a minimum of once per week via the class email address. We want parents to share pictures of children's learning so we are able to give feedback to the children about their work.

We ask that if you require a response from your child's teacher regarding that day's work, that the message is sent by 4:30pm that day to give the teacher sufficient time to respond within appropriate working hours. We appreciate that due to your own home working patterns, you may need to communicate with staff outside of the traditional school day. We ask that you keep this communication to a minimum and respect the work life balance of our staff at this time. If a message is sent after 4:30pm it will be responded to the next working day. Please also bear in mind that during a full school closure, staff will be teaching in school on a rota so may not be able to pick messages up immediately.

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

We monitor engagement with remote learning on a daily basis. As we expect contributions once per week as a minimum, we will contact those families who have not responded after that time to check all is well at home and to identify if there is a way in which we can offer help and support going forwards.

We will contact you initially via email, but telephone calls may then be made if no contact has continued.

Emotional support is on offer from our Learning Mentor, Mrs Richmond, via the Learning Mentor email address: LearningMentor@sitwellinfantschool.co.uk. Parents/carers and children can get in touch if they require any support at all and weekly telephone calls/virtual meetings will be made available.

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:

We give feedback in the following ways:

- Following sharing of work via class emails/weekly catch-up meetings, the class teacher will give verbal/written feedback about the learning that has taken place. It is helpful to send work as it is completed rather than saving the learning and sending it all together as feedback will be given as soon as possible and can impact on the following day's learning.
- Where paper packs of resources are requested, we ask that parents return the completed learning the following week for class teachers to review the children's learning. Feedback from this will then be sent via email.
- Where possible answer sheets will be uploaded to the website/printed with the paper packs with the main resources so children can mark their own answers too. This is often a very valuable feedback tool and one we regularly use in school.

Additional support for children 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 children, for example some children 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 children in the following ways:

- In liaison with our Inclusion Manager, class teachers will provide differentiated work for children with additional needs. For children who access a bespoke curriculum, this may include suggestions for games and activities you might set up at home or a suggested timetable of activities linked to their IEP/EHCP targets. Our Inclusion Manager, Miss Griffiths, is available through the Class 5 email address – class5@sitwellinfantschool.co.uk – if parents feel they need any further support.
- Weekly telephone calls are offered to parent/carers for further support, guidance and to answer any questions.
- Referrals and liaison with external agencies will continue as needed via virtual meetings, or visits into school if children are still attending.

Remote education for self-isolating children

Where individual children 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 children 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?

Children that have to isolate during term time due to exposure to Coronavirus outside of school will be supported in the following ways:

- Children will be provided with a pack of learning which will link to the learning being taught in the classroom for their period of isolation. This will be emailed/printed off each week. Families are asked to bring children's work back into school following isolation so their learning can be celebrated with the class. Feedback can then be given by the class teacher.
- Parents are expected to stay in contact with the class teacher through the class email each week, sharing photographs and evidence of children engaging in learning. Telephone contact is offered for any parents needing guidance and support.
- Pre-recorded videos/virtual catch-up sessions are unable to take place as the class teacher will be in school teaching.