

Gather, Grow, Go - The Parable of the Mustard Seed
(Matthew 13: 31-32)

Remote learning information for parents

January 2021

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.

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

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils 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?

Parents should assist their child(ren) to log in to Google Classroom. In the first day or two, the work is likely to be links to learning resources such as TT Rockstars, BBC Bitesize, Oak National Academy, White Rose, Numbots, and Purple Mash, as opposed to specific work tasks. The school will arrange to provide printed copies of sheets where access to Google Classroom is not possible.

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?

Remote learning will be of a high quality, and will align as closely as possible with in-school provision and curriculum learning. Wherever possible, the class teachers will set work across all areas of the curriculum, including English, Spelling/Phonics, Maths, Physical Exercise and Topic. However, we will need to make adaptations in some subjects. For example, the practical elements of subjects such as science, art, drama, music and PE will be limited.

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 around three to four hours each day.

Accessing remote education

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

Your child will access their learning via Google Classroom. Log-in details and a user guide have been provided to all pupils. Technical support is available if help is required to access this via emailing tech@stjohns-canterbury.kent.sch.uk

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:

The school has surveyed parents to ascertain current levels of access to devices and internet provision. We have access to a small number of devices provided by the Department for Education and other suppliers, and these will be allocated to pupils with the greatest need, as per national guidelines on this matter. The school may also be able to assist families with internet connections on a case by case basis, depending on provision available.

For those pupils for whom it is not possible to access work online, the school will endeavour to make a space available for the child to attend school (working within the restrictions of lockdown/isolating and the priorities outlined by government), or will provide weekly printed packs of work. Completed work should be submitted to the school when the new work pack is given to parents/carers.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Each class will have a daily live check-in with their class teacher and class mates to register for the day. These meetings provide opportunities for teachers to greet their class and briefly talk to the children about what they'll be doing that day.

A timetable is available on Google Classroom to outline the work set for each day, and all resources are available via Google Classroom.

Printed packs of worksheets will be available where specifically requested by parents due to having no access to Google Classroom, and by arrangement with the school office

Children also have access to Times Tables Rockstars ,which they are encouraged to access daily.

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 believe in every child's right to an education. Therefore, daily online attendance, or daily engagement if not able to access online learning, is required. However, we understand that some families are sharing devices and therefore times for online completion of work throughout the day are flexible. We will be monitoring attendance/engagement of pupils and will contact you in the case where pupils are not regularly logging in and/or submitting work.

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

For those children able to access Google Classroom, we will be taking a register each morning. Teachers will set assignments and work that needs to be submitted, and submission levels of all children, whether online or using paper copies, will be regularly monitored. Parents can contact teachers via the year group emails if they need clarification or further support regarding their child's learning.

Should the school have concerns about engagement, we will contact you by phone to discuss how we can work together to improve your child's engagement levels.

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:

Teachers will ask pupils to submit their work via Google Classroom, or if not possible by returning their completed paper packs/ workbooks each week. Teaching staff will mark work and provide feedback as closely as possible to how they would in a normal teaching week. Google Classroom also has the facility to set quizzes, which will automatically give a score to children. If a score is of concern, the teacher will ensure they provide more detailed feedback to the pupil. In addition to feedback on Google Classroom, teachers will use Marvellous Me to award badges to pupils.

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 some 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:

Where possible, teachers will provide differentiated work that is appropriate for each pupil, taking into account any individual needs. Some small group intervention work will also take place where appropriate. The school SENCO can be contacted via the school office for support and advice regarding individual concerns.

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?

Parents must contact the school to advise them of the period of self-isolation. The teacher will then be able to support with specific lesson resources through use of Google Classroom, or by providing a printed pack of work. The class teacher will call the family of an isolating pupil at least once during the school week to discuss and support learning. Feedback may also be given during this conversation.