

## **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?**

All our remote learning is managed through our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Firefly. Your child will be able to access the learning resources provided by their teacher through the blended learning pages.

### **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.
- Weekly remote learning work will be set on Firefly in advance.
- Our bespoke blended learning pages offer an online curriculum that supports your child in accessing learning from home which mirrors what will happen in lessons for most subjects.
- Provision of some lesson via Microsoft Teams.
- Access to a bank of subject-specific learning resources such as Oak National Academy via Firefly to provide additional work.

## 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:

Key Stage 3, 4 & 5	In line with government expectation, we will provide approximately 5 hours of remote learning a day.
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## Accessing remote education

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

At Ripley St Thomas we use Firefly as our gateway learning platform to all resources. Teachers will upload lesson activities and tasks to Firefly. This will include access to high quality resources such as some live lessons, audio recorded PowerPoints, access to videos and links to other online resources such as from Oak National Academy. In the event of a full school closure, students are likely to receive more live lessons, in-line with their school timetables.

### 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:

- An audit of access to IT was carried out in the Summer term and consequently we have distributed laptops and provided internet access through mobile routers and dongles. The government is currently offering a data allowance scheme for families who do not have fixed broadband at home and information about this scheme can be found on our website.
- If your circumstances have changed and you are struggling to support your child in accessing remote learning and submitting work online, or you need access to printed materials please contact the school via Parentline.

## How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- At KS3, KS4 & KS5 Live Lessons (Microsoft Teams) will be delivered regularly.
- To support the live lessons each subject will set a Firefly task providing a detailed overview of the work expected to be completed by your child in the week.
- As part of the blended learning provided by departments, some subjects may provide links to Oak National Academy lessons where these complement the curriculum offer. These lessons are pre-recorded and allow pupils to work through content and activity at their own pace. Oak National Academy lessons are available for both KS3 and KS4 for most subjects.
- Some Year groups have been provided with CGP workbooks in core and foundation subjects, teachers may direct your child to use these at prescribed points, however, we also encourage your child to work independently through these books to supplement their studies.
- If you are having difficulty accessing resources online or if your circumstances have changed, hard copies of workbooks and worksheets can be provided upon request.
- For this academic year we have invested in online textbooks to support learning in a range of subjects.

## **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?**

- The expectation at Ripley is that your child will engage with remote education on a daily basis. Wherever possible, we encourage all pupils to follow their usual timetable each day using the Firefly planner.
- Live lessons will be scheduled in line with your child's timetable and pupils will be expected to log on to these live lessons.
- The live lessons will be scheduled in advance and pupils will be able to check dates and times for their lessons for each subject on their weekly Firefly task and in their Office365 calendar. A recording of the live lesson will be available for them to view on their Teams page.
- We recognise the difficulties that parents will have in supporting their child's learning during the day alongside work commitments.
- We appreciate your support in ensuring your child follows the set routines of the school timetable, that you ensure that your child completes and uploads the tasks set and that they attend live lessons that are scheduled or if this is not possible, access the recorded lessons after the event.

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

- Teachers will monitor pupil engagement on a weekly or fortnightly basis dependent on the subject. In addition, Pastoral Leaders and SLT will monitor the engagement across the whole curriculum.
- Firefly tasks will be used to monitor pupil engagement via work submitted.
- Teachers will also monitor work submitted via other online tools such as Seneca Learning, Bedrock Learning, Educake, GCSPod and Hegarty Maths where appropriate.
- Non-completion of assessed work will be logged by individual teachers on Synergy.
- The Pastoral team will monitor Synergy and respond to individual concerns from subject teachers and contact parents where appropriate.
- Parents Evenings will continue to follow the school calendar and will be held virtually using the SchoolCloud software.

## **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:

- Your child will be set assessed pieces of work either weekly or fortnightly on Firefly.
- The number of assessed pieces of work will be dependent on the type of subject and allocated curriculum time.
- Feedback will be provided for these assessed pieces of work in a variety of ways dependent on the nature of the task set.
- Completed work can be uploaded on to Firefly for marking.
- To support ubiquitous learning, a pupil may take a picture of a hand-written piece of work from their book and upload this as an image using a mobile device.
- Firefly offers the teacher the ability to correct the work that is set and provide written feedback and assessed grades. Your child may also be asked to resubmit work once corrected by their teacher.

## **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:
- Wellbeing and support drop-ins organised through Microsoft TEAMS.
- Contact and support is also facilitated through phone calls (it is recognised that some pupils prefer different forms of contact).
- Welfare calls from Learning support staff to those pupils with an EHCP and their families are made every week.
- Immersive reader (audio) available to support literacy issues on Firefly.
- Preparation of daily timetable for pupils to direct what work is set and needs to be completed. This is to support organisation.
- Teaching assistants attend live lessons and prepare notes and prompts. These are used at the remote drop-ins with pupils.
- An app has been made available to enable pupils with Irlens to personalise their device screens.
- SENCO and learning support manager continue to attend meetings to support families and pupils e.g. reviews.
- Specialised staff continue to offer support virtually to pupils and families e.g., ASC teacher.
- On site drop-ins available to help catch up and/remediate problems.

## 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?**

Dependent on the number of pupils self-isolating within the class some live lessons may be offered.

All departments at every key stage will ensure that resources used in lessons will be available electronically for your child to either edit online or download and complete.

Our Firefly blended learning page ensures that pupils who are self-isolating are able to closely follow the curriculum in the majority of subjects. This means that your child will continue to be taught a planned and well-sequenced curriculum with meaningful and ambitious work set for the week in all their subjects, at every key stage.

Your child will also receive assessed tasks that complements their learning.