



Thursday 8th October, 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

The information that follows is a detailed account of our plans so far so you are fully informed. Of course, no plan ever survives contact with the enemy (Covid-19!) and so, as and when we do make any amendments, we will update you accordingly. All the information about our remote Learning Strategy can be found on our school website <https://www.stoswaldsschool.co.uk/childrens-zone/remote-learning/>

Quick Summary!

For those of you that just want the main headlines;

- **For individual pupils isolating at home**, while school is open, we will provide the timetable of the week on Google Classrooms identifying the work that needs to be completed on this day. EYFS teachers will detail activities and learning on their website. Remember Learning in EYFS and year 1 looks very different to the learning in the other year groups.
- **For whole classes, bubbles and schools isolating**, we are providing teacher-taught lessons in the form of lecture (pre-recorded lessons), and feedback (through Google Classrooms)
- **We are implementing this as soon as possible**; you should all have received your Google Classroom Log in and passwords and been able to log on. During the October half term Homework will be set via the Google Classroom Platform.
- **You can help by making sure you have access to the internet and a device per child in your house** or letting school know if this isn't the case – this situation will be going on for a while and having the right tools for the job are essential!

We have had to think carefully and make significant changes to enable our school to have an effective remote learning policy. There will be a short period of time before everything is up and running, and staff and pupils are trained. This training will be ongoing as we want to ensure that we continue to find and use some excellent resources to support your children both in and out of school, now and in the future.

We also believe that by providing learning in this manner, we can satisfy all the remote learning requirements from the government and maintain staff work/ life balances.

We will survey parents in the coming weeks asking for feedback, once things are up and running, and we look forward to hopefully never having to use either the 'Remote Learning' provision at all!

Full Explanation

Context – Why are we making these changes

Alongside the government expectations which are laid out in the guidance for the full reopening of schools, we are really keen to make sure that the good work done to fill any gaps created by lockdown is not lost. For this reason, we are keen to employ remote learning strategies that recap and consolidate core learning to make sure that pupils are ready to move forward when they return to school.

One of the key things we have tried to take into account is the changing nature of our situation and it is essential that we are prepared for a desirable return to normality but also further disruption. We have selected technology rich solutions because they provide schools and pupils with an increased ability to communicate and learn. We understand this might not be everyone's preferred strategy but this style of solution should work for the vast majority of families and we will work to support families where issues exist.

Internet and technology access

The activities pupils will complete will be in the real world (on paper!) as well as online. However, considering that this situation may well remain a reality for the foreseeable future, we need to be able to do this electronically. The use of technology will also allow remote learning to be responsive and will connect school and home much more readily.

We are training staff and pupils in the use of these resources in school and creating helpful videos for parents to follow when supporting their children at home. The resources are very user friendly and shouldn't need much support at all when in use.; (eg) White Rose maths Videos, SPAG.com, BBC bitesize

We have made sure that the resources we have selected will all run on a variety of devices so the overwhelming majority of laptops and tablets will be fine.

Schools have already asked for information about internet access and technology at home but we will need to make sure that this barrier is removed for all pupils. We have made many adjustments in school to support this and are more than happy to support families do that too.

Why aren't we live streaming lessons?

Primary school classrooms are complex places and there are many elements of classroom life which are not appropriate for sharing; safeguarding, professional freedom and professional dignity are a few examples of where potential difficulties with live streaming of lessons may lie. We have debated this issue at length and the reality of streaming a lesson is not as simple as a teacher standing and delivering information to pupils who sit quietly receiving the information. Teaching involves encouragement, behaviour management, highlighting pupils who have done well, making jokes, going off-task, pupils commenting on their home life, safeguarding issues, bees flying through the window, snow falling, children being ill and many other things! We genuinely believe that our teachers do a great job in the classroom but staff are understandably nervous about being watched from living rooms and the potentially difficult circumstances that could occur. There are huge

complexities in the many environmental factors that exist and considerations stretch far beyond the individual teacher or child.

At the same time not everything in a classroom will fit with what parents believe should happen and/ or could happen. Having parents virtually logged into lessons throughout the day will undoubtedly create differences of opinions and potentially open up further discussions about how we do our job. The problem with education, which is known as a 'wicked problem' is that there is no single solution to getting it right, all of society is involved and everyone (quite rightly) has an opinion.

Learning for individual pupils isolating at home

The solution we have designed meets government requirements by utilising intelligent software to assess, set a learning pathway and then adapt to the pupils' needs as they use it. We have also located and arranged for high-quality online teaching videos to provide new content to pupils, linked to their current learning in school as much as possible.

There is a difficulty when a small number of pupils are at home, require access to remote learning, while their teacher is still teaching a class full-time in school. Primary schools do not have spare teachers and classes are taught full time. This means there is no additional capacity for teachers to 'teach' pupils at home whilst they are teaching pupils in school. Currently the school day has additional pressures placed upon teachers' time due to additional lunch and break duties for their bubble. With this in mind, we have devised a comprehensive plan which aims to support children's learning during enforced periods of absence:

Details

- The school will provide a curriculum covering the isolation period (10-15 days) which will support the pupils' remote learning. Software will provide challenging activities for pupils, automatically tailored to an appropriate level.
- Following the close of the register, office staff will send an 'always-on learning message' to all pupils who are self-isolating due to Covid. This message will link to the website where the Always-on plan is hosted.
- Teachers will provide two timeslots per week, for 15-minute Microsoft Teams catch-ups. The purpose of these are to check well-being and check progress on the 'always-on' learning activities.
- Teachers will check pupil activity on Google Classrooms, coaching pupils in their learning where appropriate and providing feedback

Resources

The activities have a range of ways of learning. These include: using software, writing, exercising and drawing. Pupils will therefore need some key resources to help them access learning, namely;

- An internet connection
- A device large enough to use learning software on and take photos and videos with
- Paper – lined and plain (their Remote Learning Log)

- Pens, pencils and colouring equipment
- Scissors

Teacher/ Pupil Check-ins

We will have live check-in sessions with smaller groups of pupils on Microsoft Teams or Google Meet. This will make sure pupils understand their learning, get some feedback on what their work is telling their teacher, as well as giving them opportunities for face to face conversations and connection to school. These will be twice weekly and at consistent times so everyone knows when to log on.

'Remote learning' offer for bubble and school closures

The solution we have designed is a mixture of learning specific teacher input and intelligent software used to assess, set a learning pathway and then adapt to the pupils' needs as they use it. Teachers will feedback to the whole class and individuals via Seesaw and the remote learning offer will be aligned with the curriculum that would normally be taught in school.

For teacher input, teachers will select the most appropriate method to explain new concepts and new learning. This may include videos or pre-record slides with a voice over. This will provide the knowledge that pupils are to acquire and apply. Teachers will check for understanding using sessions on Seesaw and Microsoft Teams and hold Teacher/ Pupil check-ins weekly.

Details

- By 9am each morning the class teacher will submit a list of the day's activities and resources on Seesaw
- Activities will be a blend of practicing skills and introducing new knowledge
- Each activity will have a timescale for how long we expect your child to work on it - this will be roughly equivalent to what they would do in class
- Each activity will have clear instructions on how to complete it
- Pre-recorded explanatory videos may be used to support learning and introduce new concepts and knowledge. This will be either high-quality online teaching videos or made by the teacher
- Where teachers are creating video content, they will film their slides taking account of safety protocols
- Teachers will set times and send repeating TEAMS invites for groups of up to 1/3 of the class to meet with the teacher during the school day (Monday to Wednesday). These meetings are to check well-being, provide any further explanation of tasks and correct any misconceptions/ errors.
- Further Teams meetings may be held during the school day on (Thursday and Friday) with invited groups as required (i.e. a group of children who are stuck on something). Teams calls will be a maximum of 30 minutes.

An example timetable is below, although these will be adapted by individual schools. The timetable will be posted each day and each section will have clear explanations pupils should be able to get going straight away.

