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# THE VALLEY SCHOOL

## REMOTE EDUCATION PROVISION: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

FEBRUARY 2021

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This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education if 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**

Your child will be follow the same curriculum that is being followed in school, which will include all core subjects, English, Maths and Science as well as Humanities and a range of practical subjects. Work will be set on a regular basis and ready for your child to access via Google Classroom at the time identified on their timetable.

### **What should my child expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of pupils being sent home?**

Your child will initially receive a pre-prepared 'buffer pack' of appropriate work which will enable us to ensure that you have the technology available to access the full programme of remote learning.

### **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. This will include a full programme of lessons in all of the subjects that pupils are currently following.

All lessons will be delivered through Google Classroom. We have provided support on the website showing you how to access this.

Families will be sent a copy of the timetable identifying whether the lessons will be live via Google Meet, recorded or identify when set work can be assessed on Google Classroom.

## **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:

- Pupils will be set work which should take them around 5 hours per day to complete.

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

We are delivering all of our learning through the Google Classroom platform and Google Meet. Pupils will be familiar using this platform as many of the lessons which were delivered in the autumn term were delivered using Google Classroom to help pupils to become familiar with the features of this platform. This blended approach was adopted to support pupil's ability to engage in remote learning in the case of individual isolation or additional lockdowns.

### **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:

- We have and will continue to work closely with parents to understand what digital access is available at home. Where this has been an issue we have a limited number Chromebooks which have been, or will be, loaned to those who have identified that they do not have adequate access.
- If a Chromebook is loaned then the responsible adult will need to sign and return the user agreement provided. Once the child returns to school, or if the equipment is not being used anymore then arrangements will need to be made with the tutor for its safe return to school.
- We are currently looking into how parents can be helped out with internet access if they do not have an appropriate broadband connection, details will follow once available.
- Google Classroom can be accessed on a wide range of technology that you may already have at home including Laptops, tablets, phones or even on an Xbox or PlayStation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9HaCNKgAak>



Right click on the icon and select 'open hyperlink' for instructions

- On the rare occasion that pupils cannot access the online learning platform, hard copies of work are provided, however this would be arranged on an individual basis. Issues such as this need to be raised with the pupil's form tutor. We would like to minimise delivery and collection of paperwork in order to minimise contact.
- Weekly packs will be delivered to and collected from pupils that do not have access. Feedback is given via the phone once the work has been quarantined and the teacher has had an opportunity to mark and review the work.

## How will my child be taught remotely?



Google Classroom

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

Our remote learning model has been planned to replicate our school day as closely as possible delivering a well sequenced curriculum through a range of live lessons, recorded learning and set tasks.

There will be a breadth of topics for pupils to learn, with each year group delivering learning according to the individual needs of the pupils within each group, as we normally do in school.

In all years the learning will cover all core subjects, English, Maths and Science. The delivery of other subjects will depend on current curriculum followed in each year group and will include a range of physical, artistic and creative activities

To prepare them, pupils will be issued with a timetable of learning for the week which will identify which lessons will be Live and which can be accessed at other times. They will need to attend live lessons punctually.

Each day pupils will have the opportunity to meet online with a member of staff from their year group to discuss any issues arising.

All work that has been set and links to live google meet, recorded lessons and resources will be available through Google Classroom. Pupils will know how to access Google Classroom however there is support on our website to show how to use this platform. In particular Mr Bradshaw's how to video guide 'How to access your work' provides a step by step guide to logging on and finding

out what work has been set. Right click the link below to the school website <https://thevalley.herts.sch.uk/home-learning> here you will find all resources to support you and your child.

## Engagement

### **What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?**

- If parents chose to keep their children at home during a period of lockdown we expect all pupils to engage in their remote learning through the Google Classroom platform in the same way that they are expected to engage in their learning in school, returning completed learning through Google Classroom.
- If a pupil is not able to attend a timetabled live lesson, it is expected they will complete and return the work for the lesson, which will be available on Google Classroom.
- We understand that parents are not teachers and do not expect you to attempt to take on this role.
- Parents can help to support the learning by –
  - Encouraging children to engage in their learning – encourage them to show you their work and praise them where appropriate.
  - Making sure that children are up, fed and ready to learn.
  - That a quiet and organised space to learn is available for at least part of the day.
  - Encourage active breaks
  - Check in with children to monitor use of screen time.

### **Code of conduct during live lessons**

#### **Pupils**

- Pupils should be dressed appropriately for live lessons – not pyjamas.
- Pupils should be in a quiet space (not in bed) without disturbance where possible.
- Pupils should ensure that they have equipment ready for the lesson.
- Pupils should only use appropriate language when going live.

## **Parents**

- Parents do not need to be online with their children as the staff are there for them
- Please ensure that when your child is online that you or anyone that may appear in the background of a live lesson are dressed appropriately.
- Please be aware what others can see at the other end of the camera.
- Keep background noise to a minimum and language appropriate.

## **How will my child receive feedback on their work**

- Staff will provide feedback on work throughout the week.
- Work will be marked and feedback will be provided either in written form or via an audio attachment.
- Verbal feedback can also be provided during live lessons.

## **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. Pupils will expect regular feedback on their learning through the following approaches:

- Verbal feedback during live lessons
- Written feedback on work that has been submitted
- Verbal feedback on submitted work
- Recorded audio file
- Immediate feedback from results of quizzes

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

- We have a number of systems in place to check if your child is engaging in their work and recording systems are now in place to assess engagement on a daily basis.
- Attendance to live lessons, contact through Google Classroom or Class DoJo, the submission of work or telephone conversations are all ways that engagement will be monitored.
- Valley School staff will be in regular contact with parents and children to support remote learning and any issues raised will be discussed during these times.

- From these discussions teaching staff will have a greater understanding of any difficulties your child is experiencing and adapt the learning in an attempt to increase engagement.
- If a child is struggling to engage in the remote learning and they engage in safe behaviours then they can always attend school again.

## **Remote education for self-isolating pupils**

### **If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?**

If a child is well and self-isolating at home the expectation is that they will follow the learning that other pupils are taking part in in school.

In years 7-8 work will be set by their tutor reflecting the learning that is taking place in school. They will be encouraged to take part in core lessons via Google Meet, however if this is not possible then work will be set on Google Classroom. Other Subject specialists such as PE, DT, Art and Performing Arts will set appropriate work on Google Classroom which will include live and recorded teaching and learning tasks.

In years 9, 10, and 11 where pupils are taught by a wider range of teaching staff work will be set on Google Classroom to reflect the learning taking place at school as closely as practical and possible.