Dear Parents,

REMOTE EDUCATION

This letter is to communicate to you the updated expectations from the DfE (7/1/2021) for remote education and to set out what remote learning at Hockley Heath Academy will look like over the next few weeks. Please note that any of this is subject to change.

Schools are expected to provide a minimum amount of remote education which varies according to each Key Stage.

For Key Stage 1, the expectation is for pupils to have (on average) three hours a day.

For Key Stage 2, the expectation is for pupils to receive (on average) four hours a day.

For younger pupils, it would be less than three hours but there is no set expectation.

Provision for primary aged pupils is obviously different to secondary school provision.

**This time is to include both recorded OR live direct teaching time AND time for pupils to complete tasks independently.**

In terms of remote education provision, schools are currently being asked to:

* Teach a planned and well sequenced curriculum that builds on knowledge and skills to support pupils to progress
* Select a digital platform for the remote education provision that will be used to provide interaction, assessment and feedback
* Overcome barriers to digital access (this could be providing laptops or providing printed resources)
* Have systems for checking, *daily*, whether pupils are engaging with their work
* Set meaningful work each day in an appropriate range of subjects
* Provide frequent and clear explanations of new content delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources
* Online videos do not need to be recorded by teaching staff at the school and can be provided through, for example Oak Academy
* Provide opportunities for interactivity e.g. questioning and discussion
* Enable pupils to receive timely feedback
* Use assessment to fill gaps in knowledge
* Work with families who have pupils with SEND so that they can successfully access remote education

Below are the steps that we have taken to address this:

* Teach a planned and well sequenced curriculum that builds on knowledge and skills to support pupils to progress
* *Subject leaders and class teachers map out the curriculum provision including the gaps from where pupils were taking place in remote education from March-July 2020. They baselined pupils on return and have up to date assessment information to support planning for this term.*
* Select a digital platform for the remote education provision that will be used to provide interaction, assessment and feedback
* *Purple Mash and Teams are the platforms that we are using.*
* Overcome barriers to digital access (this could be providing laptops or providing printed resources)
* *Printed resources are available to those parents who request them. There are currently no additional laptops in school as we have not received our government allocation. Families to let us know if there is a problem with remote learning moving provision at home if there is a problem.*
* Have systems for checking, ***daily***, whether pupils are engaging with their work
* *Teachers will access the blogs every day to see whether pupils are present. They can see who has logged on to Purple Mash through the admin section. Teachers will see some pupils through TEAMs as and when they can attend. Teachers will record any pupils who they are not in regular contact with and will get in touch via email or phone call. It is therefore important that pupils check in.* ***We appreciate that this will add an extra layer of pressure to some of you who are trying to juggle home learning with work but the teachers are just doing what is being asked of them so please be respectful.***
* Set meaningful work each day in an appropriate range of subjects
* *Work on the blogs is provided daily and for a range of subjects. Work in core subjects will be differentiated and this is based on teacher judgement of the task.*
* Provide frequent and clear explanations of new content delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources
* Online videos do not need to be recorded by teaching staff at the school and can be provided through, for example Oak Academy
* *Teachers will provide a range of: online videos (Oak, White Rose), pre-recorded Power Points of them introducing new content, live ‘check ins’.*
* Provide opportunities for interactivity e.g. questioning and discussion
* *This will be through the blog and through any TEAMs sessions that pupils attend.*
* Enable pupils to receive timely feedback
* *Work uploaded onto the blog will be given feedback. Pupils need to check the responses from the teachers in case there is further work to be done following the feedback given. Feedback times will be dependant on when the work is uploaded. Teachers are in school teaching during the morning so they will not be on the blogs. Teachers will be marking uploaded work during the afternoon within their normal working hours. Any work submitted after this time will be looked at the next working day within reason.*
* Use assessment to fill gaps in knowledge
* *Teachers will assess the pupils based on the work that is uploaded and use this to inform their future planning*
* Work with families who have pupils with SEND so that they can successfully access remote education
* *Teachers and SENDCo to work with individual families to support with this*

OTHER RESOURCES

In terms of other resources that might be helpful for you at home, CBBC are offering a three-hour block of primary school programming from 9am on Monday 11th January 2021. This might provide additional support for families who do not have internet or computer access. Please just let us know if you are having to use this INSTEAD of any blogs that are being set.

PLAYSTATION AND X BOX ONE

It is possible to use both the Sony Playstation and the Microsoft Xbox One to access TEAMs.

The links below show how to do this:

<https://sway.office.com/ka0yFbKLeluli0Wf>

<https://www.tes.com/news/how-use-xbox-or-playstation-online-learning>

Or there are written instructions here:

**How to access online learning on an Xbox**

• Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot • Go to ‘my games and apps’ • Find Microsoft Edge and select. • Type in Office 365 or Google Classroom (or the name of your online learning platform) and log in as you would in school. • You can then access your work and use key packages including: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams and emails. • To move around you could use the Xbox controller or plug in a mouse.

**How to access online learning on a PlayStation**

• Plug a keyboard and mouse into the PlayStation’s USB slots (on the front). • Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (www with dots around it). • Press the PlayStation logo on the controller. • Go to the library and find options for games and applications • Go into applications and you will find the internet browser • Type in Office 365 or Google Classroom (or the name of your online learning platform) and log in as you would in school. • You can then access your work and use key packages including: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams and emails.

It is important to recognise within this that every child’s experience of learning in this way will be different. We will do our absolute best to accommodate our pupils in every way that we can. Some children are going to find it easier to access the remote learning than others and some are going to need more support. The teachers are working to provide learning that can take place in school AND at home in as blended a way as possible. This is no easy task as I am sure you can imagine. It means a significant change to how we, as teachers, usually work and is why the timings provided for KS1 and KS2 are approximate.

We cannot run a ‘one size fits all’ approach to remote education. The plans that we have in place are meeting the requirements that have been placed upon us by the DfE. We know and we understand that this is going to be a potentially very stressful time for you and we ask that you work with us in this. You are going to want to give us feedback, there are going to be some things that are frustrating or are not meeting your needs. Some of you will want more ‘live’ lessons, some of you will want less, some of you will want more work or the work set in a different way, some of you will want more differentiation. We get so many different emails and messages every single day about this because it is not straightforward, it is not easy and it is stressful.

We will continue to do all that we can here to help you, we honestly will, but we also have to be realistic about what we can set out to achieve. We cannot keep you all happy – there are too many of you – but we will endeavour to try.

Louise Porter

Interim Principal

Hockley Heath Academy