



14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

### **Spring Information Letter 6 - DFE What should remote education look like?**

The DFE sent a link to schools for parents covering some FAQs regarding remote education. Here are some of the questions answered:

#### **What can I expect remote education to look like?**

Schools will be expected to continue remote education until February half-term at the earliest. We will continue to support schools and teachers as they use new technology and teaching methods to ensure children are able to stay motivated and engaged with their learning whilst outside the classroom.

When being taught remotely, your child's school is expected to set meaningful and ambitious work each day in several different subjects. Schools are expected to provide as a minimum:

- 3 hours a day for Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2 when pupils are aged between 5 and 7)
- 4 hours a day for KS2 (years 3 - 6 when children are aged between 7 and 11)

Those hours include both direct teaching and time for pupils to complete tasks or assignments independently.

#### **Our family does not have access to a laptop and/or the internet, can my child still learn remotely?**

Yes – we are continuing to work with teachers and staff to ensure schools and colleges are able to overcome barriers of digital access. Schools and colleges may also provide their own laptops, or consider different forms of remote education such as printed resources or textbooks, supplemented with other forms of communication to keep pupils and students on track or answer questions about work.

#### **Will my child's school provide us with a laptop for my child's remote learning needs?**

Schools across the country are allocated a certain number of laptops based on need – the allocation is intended to enable the school to support disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 who do not already have access to a device.

Schools can order laptops through our service on GOV.UK, and are then responsible for lending them to children to enable them to learn remotely. Parents and carers should talk to their child's school about the remote learning they are offering. NJK is in the process of applying for these devices.



**What else is the department doing to help my child catch up on the education they may have missed during the pandemic?**

In June 2020 the Prime Minister and Education Secretary announced a £1bn catch-up package to directly tackle the impact of lost teaching time on children in England. The package includes the catch-up premium, a one of grant (£650m) which will be shared across state primary and secondary schools over the 2020/21 academic year. We used some of this catch-up funding last term to boost the pupils' progress. We will do the same on return to school.

Following a staff meeting this evening, the NJK team have also come up with some FAQs regarding remote learning:

**If my child has missed a day should I carry straight on with the next day's lesson?**

No, please look back at what was set the day before as the lessons planned are sequential. You do not have to complete the missing day's work but just ensure that you and your child are aware of any necessary information or resources needed to complete the next task.

**I am finding that there is too much work-what should I do?**

Focus on completing the Maths and English each day. If there is a project or make and do activity that is too time-consuming just share the accompanying powerpoint or background information with your child. Some of the projects might be good to complete as a family at the weekend.

**I am a key worker so my child attends school-what should I do regarding remote education?**

Your child will complete the tasks set on line for the days they attend school. If they are at home, please log onto Seesaw and complete the tasks for that day.

**My child has been assigned some worship activities to do-do they have to complete these?**

As a church school, we are keen to offer collective worship that can be enjoyed at home, as we would have done at school. These are optional and/or could be viewed at another time that is more convenient.



Finally, as you know we responded quickly to the Government announcement of this 3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown with work on offer from day one. Our aim is to attempt to build on the sense of connection between school and home and to reduce the risk of the children losing what they have learnt in the last term. We are refining our systems weekly and I am ensuring that staff are able to undertake valuable training each week in order to do so. They absolutely want to do the best for our pupils and I know you do too. However, here are a few things to bear in mind...

- The first and most important outcome of this situation is that we all survive this pandemic! (physically and mentally)
- The majority of our children caught up on their missed learning last term – so we can catch them up again.
- There is more to child development than academic attainment and improving ones knowledge.

These statements are not an excuse for us all **not** to help children continue their learning over lockdown. However, we need to strike a balance for us all. The remote learning is there to support you and your children to learn at home whilst we get this virus under control, so if you do not complete every task or your child is not enjoying them, or they do not fit with your work / home learning schedule then please do not worry. If you need the children to engage in BBC lessons for a day or so, or work on Education City or TT Rockstars or you all need to go for a walk during the day, we completely understand.

Also, there might be problems that arise with the technology so if you can't log on or there is a sound or video problem etc then please just log off. Allow your child time to review yesterday's work or read a favourite book. Add comments to Seesaw. The staff are responding to feedback daily, as they are keen to know what is working well. Please be aware that if a staff member is teaching all day there might be a delay in their response to you. As ever, both the teachers and teaching assistants are going above and beyond to offer the best possible provision for our pupils. Can we please remind you that correspondence concerning school attendance should be directed to the school office, not through messages on Seesaw.

I thank you for your understanding and patience – we are all learning at the moment and as always: Please stay safe and look after yourselves.

Kind regards

Mrs J Dean  
Headteacher