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## *Tall Oaks Academy Trust Remote Education*

### *Information for Parents*

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This guidance shares relevant information about how we will provide remote education. This is so that you understand what pupils should expect during periods of school closure or pupil isolation relating to coronavirus (COVID-19).

If your question isn't answered in this document or you require further information, please contact:

Mrs V Warburton (Head of Teaching and Learning) on [enquiries@talloaksacademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@talloaksacademy.co.uk)

This document should also be read in conjunction with the:

- TOAT Remote Learning policy
- TOAT Education Continuity Plan

Both documents are available on the Trust Website:

[www.talloaksacademy.co.uk](http://www.talloaksacademy.co.uk)

## **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 of our schools use either 'Seesaw' or 'Showbie' as a remote learning platform. Our staff are very used to using this and so work can be set, monitored and feedback provided as soon as there is a closure or an isolation period. This will include phonics (if appropriate), Early Bird Maths, Maths, Reading through Bug Club and Writing.

Children will also be able to access TT Rockstars and/or Numbots as they already have usernames and log on details.

## **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. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, we have to be mindful of the resources needed for Art and Design and Technology for learners at home and so will try to limit the materials for those lessons.

PE lessons may have to be adapted to suit space in gardens/rooms and some areas, e.g. gymnastics will not be taught due to lack of equipment and apparatus. This unit will be taught once the children return to school.

Some Science content, e.g. Electricity and circuits may also have to be taught once the children are back in school as children will not have the practical resources at home.

## **Remote teaching and learning 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 1	At least 3 hours of learning a day including phonics, reading, writing, maths, handwriting and a range of non-core subjects, e.g. Art, Music, History.
Key Stage 2	At least 4 hours a day including spelling, reading, writing, maths, Early Bird and a range of non-core subjects, e.g. Art, Music, Spanish, Geography.

## Accessing remote education

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

Castle Wood Academy uses Showbie online learning platform.

White's Wood and Mercer's Wood Academies use SeeSaw online learning platform.

Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize pre-recorded lessons are also used.

Dependent on the school they attend, children have access to:

- TT Rockstars
- Class Dojo
- Spelling Shed
- Bug Club (CWA and WWA)
- Numbots
- The Tall Oaks/Mercer's Wood You Tube Pages
- The school's Twitter feeds
- White's Wood and Mercer's Wood Facebook Pages

### 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 will lend laptops or iPads to pupils. Parents can contact the schools on the following numbers:

Castle Wood Academy – 01427 811516

Mercer's Wood Academy – 01427 612572

White's Wood Academy – 01427 613097

Or email: [enquiries@talloaksacademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@talloaksacademy.co.uk)

- Families who have poor or no internet connections are supported by school in a number of ways:
  - Free Vodafone data SIMs are available from the school office
  - We participate in the governments data increase scheme allowing us to apply on family's behalf to their mobile provider for a free data increase during lockdown.
  - We also support families to access free BT Wi-Fi through their 'hotspot' scheme. <https://www.businessdirect.bt.com/sectors/education/free-wi-fi/>
  - Schools have also applied for free 4G routers for certain disadvantaged families.
- Teachers always try to set work that does not require any printing of worksheets or resources. If this is the case school would provide copies of these documents for collection at School Office Reception. In addition, if children need paper and pens, the schools can provide this for children.
- Completed work is submitted through the online learning platforms of See Saw or Showbie where children will be given feedback on their learning or can be submitted via the relevant school email accounts that have been sent to parents.

## **How will my child be taught remotely?**

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

Some examples of remote teaching approaches that our schools use are:

- Pre-recorded teaching by the class teacher (online lessons)
- Recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, BBC Bitesize, TOAT staff on You Tube)
- Lessons sent via Seesaw and Showbie that do not have a video element
- Printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, e.g. Bug Club, TT Rockstars, Spelling Shed etc

## **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?**

In this section, please set out briefly:

- We expect children to access and engage with their home learning daily. The non-negotiables are: phonics, Early Bird Maths, Reading, Writing and Spelling (Speaking and Listening for MWA also). These will usually be set in the morning whilst the afternoon will be for non-core/topic learning.
- Through Showbie and SeeSaw, engagement in remote learning can be tracked and monitored. If a child is regularly not accessing learning, then a member of staff will contact you to discuss this. We will work in partnership to find solutions to this, e.g. by loaning a device, by providing internet data, by providing home learning packs or by speaking to the children.
- We understand that you might be working at home yourself and will have limited time to support your child's learning. Teachers are monitoring their online learning platforms all day, providing help, guidance and feedback. Once the children are in front of their device and logged in, they shouldn't need too much help from you.

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

In this section, please set out briefly:

- If a child has not accessed learning for 3 consecutive days or is regularly missing a day's learning, we will contact you by phone to discuss this. In the first instance this will be the class teacher but could be the Assistant Head or Head if there aren't any improvements. Of course we want to work with you on this and so if you are having difficulties, please contact us for help.

### **How will you assess my child's work and progress?**

Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

### **Showbie**

- Work is set daily for children to complete via the app. Teachers monitor work live as the children submit it throughout the school day. Teachers then mark the work two ways:
  - Written feedback (marking)
  - Voice Note
- Teachers can feedback to individual children on their submitted work or live to the whole class through the 'Class Discussion'. This feature allows teachers to type or speak to the whole class.
- The extensive use of voice notes means children for whom reading is a barrier can still access immediate and meaningful feedback about how to improve their work.
- Children who are stuck or finding the work difficult can message the teacher or leave a voice note asking for help. During the school day teachers will be monitoring these messages and notes constantly to support learning.
- All feedback is immediate and impactful, so that it enables the child to improve their work or deepen their learning.

### **Seesaw**

- Work is set daily for the children to complete via the app. Teachers monitor engagement and work that is submitted throughout the day. Teachers are able to feed back via voice note, video or written messages.
- Children who need individual support with learning can write this on their learning or contact the school via the main office. Teachers will then phone them at the earliest available opportunity to help them with their learning.
- At Mercer's Wood Academy, whole-class feedback sessions are uploaded on a Friday to address any wider misconceptions.
- At White's Wood Academy whole-class feedback may be uploaded to address common misconceptions throughout the week.
- Feedback follows the school marking and assessment policy, meaning that it is purposeful and helps address misconceptions or moves the child's understanding forward.

## **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:

- If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) then they are entitled to access learning in school. Other children with additional needs will access their learning via the same routes as all other pupils as described above. Your child's class teacher will differentiate the learning to suit your child's academic ability with tasks that they will be able to access with minimal support from an adult. If your child is still struggling to access their learning, then please contact their teacher or your child's school at the earliest opportunity so that we can support you with this.

## **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?**

When children are self-isolating we have a dedicated leader who liaises with the child's class teacher and co-ordinates the planning, high-quality learning resources and materials and distribution of the children's learning. If the rest of the class are in school, the learning will follow the curriculum they are working on in school.

Mrs V Warburton, who is the Head of Teaching and Learning and a member of the Trust Executive Leadership Team is responsible for this happening.