

Remote Education & Learning at Home Information

January 2021

Completed by: Staff at Barndale House

# Learning at home provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents/carers about what to expect from remote education where national or local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home or you have chosen that your young person will be safest at home .

As a school we know it is incredibly hard to replicate the classroom at home. We are also very aware that the needs of pupils and each home environment will be entirely unique. As such we want to ensure we are providing a model that can be entirely unique, bespoke and flexible to your own personal circumstances.

## The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

### Priorities

As a staff we have agreed the most important areas you can support your child at home are:

* Helping your child understand what is happening (links attached)
* Keep routines- morning, bed times and meal times (visual timetables available)
* Allocate a space in the house for work- a table/desk, pen/pencil etc ideally free from distractions
* Have fun and support wellbeing- encourage play, cooking, board games, craft, toys and role play
* Avoid- long periods in front of the TV or using digital devices, especially games consoles
* Spend time together as a family

### How should I start learning at home?

The most important part is establishing the new routine

* Use a timetable to agree what parts you will do when in the day
  + E.g. first- an enjoyable activity, then- a core skill (reading, writing or maths) then project activities
  + Remember to include regular breaks
* Where you can include rewards- once you have completed this you can have a star/treat/time to do…
* Be involved- enjoy doing it with them. Share what new bits you are learning as part of it

### What we expect from learning at home

Whilst we recognise that all circumstances are different. We expect that parents/carers will try to:

* Setup and maintain routines
* Stay in regular contact with school-which ever way works best for you
* Ensure that pupils will be available to talk to staff during school hours
* Share any work, photos, activities completed are shared with school
* Feedback on what is going well and any challenges you are facing
* Let schools know what resources you need to engage with activities

### How can I help my child do the same that children in school are doing?

**Most importantly- we don’t expect learning at home to look identical to learning in school!**

What we will provide you with:

* A suggested daily/weekly timetable which covers our 7 key areas of learning
  + Communication, wellbeing, numeracy, reading & writing, understanding of the world, PE and therapy
  + A choice of either an online or a physical task- we have tried to think carefully about what you will have at home to make it as simple as possible
* A pack of materials you can use and/or links and email attachments (whatever works best for you)
* An email address to directly contact the class E.g.class1@barndalehouse.northumberland.sch.uk
* Telephone support (this will generally be when we don’t have pupils in school)
* Resource support- if you need materials for learning we will try our best and get these to you
* Continued support from our therapists who will send materials or do virtual sessions

## What about the EHCP (Education, Health & Care Plan) targets?

The class team all have a copy of the EHCP targets so they can ensure that what we are giving you at home matches with those targets. On some occasions this may be really difficult due to the resources required but in most cases we will have a solution. Our therapists will also continue to work in whatever way possible to make sure that we continue to make progress against the targets.

**What we can’t offer…**

As we still have a large proportion of our pupils in school our staff team will be working directly with them. So what we won’t be able to offer is:

* Live lessons (the class teacher delivering a lesson to children working at home)
* Telephone support through the day
* Instant email support

**Live Learning**

As you will have seen, schools across the country have managed to move their curriculum entirely online with it being delivered live. We know that our students would find this incredibly difficult as:

* They are not familiar or confident with accessing the internet independently
* They have not used digital learning platforms for learning before
* They struggle to relate learning/school based tasks to the home environment
* Many relate their devices to specific APPs, games, youtube or other online activities
* Seeing their friends, class and staff online is an unusual concept to them
* Technology is not reliable, dependable or for many, accessible in the home environment

### How long should I spend with my child each day on learning at home?

We know that whilst your child is at home you will be doing loads together and all of those activities can also be seen as part of the learning time. So although we will offer enough for the following hours please don’t feel you need to work this as a rule. Use a blend of activities you are doing with school activities to work towards the hours.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class 1: up to 3hrs | Class 2: up to 3hrs | Class 3: up to 4hrs | Class 4: up to 4hrs | Class 5: up to 4hrs |

### How will I be contacted?

Each class teacher will remain in regular contact with you, through your preferred method (e-mail, video call or phone call). During this discussion the class teacher will:

* Review what is working well and what progress has been made
* Discuss any challenges or difficulties
* Offer suggestions or strategies
* Support you and your family and signpost to additional services
* Speak with your child (if they want/are able to)

The school office will also be available to support with:

* Free school meal vouchers or food parcels

One of the school leaders will call if you have any safeguarding or emergency situations

### What resources will I need to do learning at home?

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

**Paper/Resource Based Learning**

What you need:

* Stationery
  + Pens and pencils
  + Coloured pencils
  + Scissors and glue stick
  + Paper and ruler
  + Craft materials
* Text books (supplied by school)
* Reading books (home or school)
* Worksheets (supplied by school)
* Ingredients (can be supplied)

In all cases we will try and minimise what you need at home, or try and think of activities using common resources around the house. Please let school know if you need anything.

**Digital Based Learning**

What you will need:

* A device that can access the internet
  + Mobile phone
  + Tablet
  + Laptop- windows, chrome or apple
  + Games console- xbox or play station
* Googlemeet app on phone/tablet or laptop if you/your child would like face to face feedback/check ins

For any recorded teaching or digital resources your class teacher will send specific links or video attachments to make it easier to access.

If you are struggling with electronic devices- either use of availability or internet then please contact school so we can assist in anyway possible.

**and**

**/or**

## Feedback on progress

### How will my childs’ teacher check what my child is doing at home?

During term time schools are still expected to check children are learning. We won’t use this to make a judgement but see how we can support you more. We will do this by:

* Regular email updates- where you can share what your child has done
* As part of our phone calls home
* During any face to face visits- school or home
* Update from any therapists that are working with your child

### How will the teacher assess my child’s work and progress?

Teachers will review all work completed at home. This is to ensure we can see how your child is progressing and adapt the learning we are giving you at home.

Teachers will feedback to you and your child through verbal comments- as we do in school. We may send you comments which you can share with them. Teachers will share what your child has done well but also any support for improvements. Teachers may also give certificates, awards and gold coins for work completed at home.

What we will use to assess learning at home:

* Completed worksheets shared with school
* Photographs and videos shared with us
* Evidence from any online learning platforms
* Comments from yourself or your child
* Quizzes/challenges set by the teacher

## Additional support for you and your child/family

We recognise that some pupils 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 whichever way we can.

Like we would at any other time, please get in touch with any difficulties, challenges or if things are particularly tough. You will not be alone and we are genuine in our offer to help you and your family during this really difficult time.

Where possible staff will try and visit you and your child at home. This can be to deliver resources, get an update and feedback or collect work that has been completed. Staff will let you know when this will be and who will be coming.