

S^t JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



22nd Jan 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Hope you are all keeping safe and well. We have done a few tweaks to home learning lessons this week and will continue to do so. We have not yet been advised if schools will re-open after half term, so we will continue to plan for both scenarios.

Key stage 2 will now start adding work through the child's portfolios, to enable children to send a photo or video of the work completed. KS1 children are familiar with this.

If you are unsure how to do this there is a link below and I will add this to the school Dojo page.

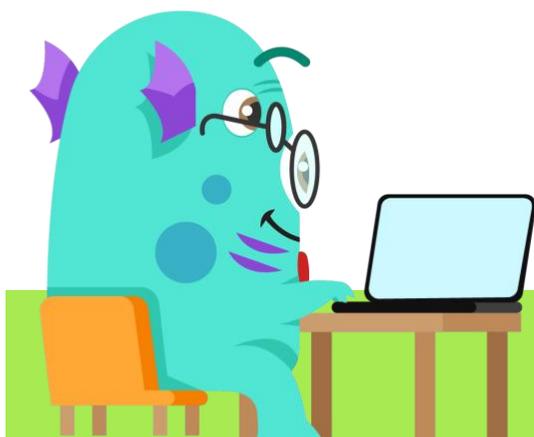
We have been checking up on children not engaging with home school learning and Mrs Glossop has been making calls. There is an expectation this time round that children partake in home school learning. Ofsted and the DFE are asking schools to take registers and record who is not engaging. See below under Remote learning questions and answers the minimum requirement of hours your child should be doing each day.

Best wishes,

Mrs Briggs

This week's newsletter includes:

- Remote learning questions and answers –exam updates
- Dojo Refresher completing your work
- Free School meal update
- Zoom meetings



Remote Learning Questions and Answers

Can my child go to school – or not?

Schools remain largely closed – but they are **open for children of critical workers and for children and young people classed as ‘vulnerable’**. This includes alternative provision (AP) and SEND schools.

Children and young people with **at least one parent who is a critical worker** can go to school if required. But ‘critical worker’ doesn’t just mean an NHS nurse on the Covid-19 frontline. It also includes parents working in many aspects of health and social care, education and childcare, key public services, local and national government, food (from production to retail), utilities, transport, and more.

It sounds vague, but with so many categories, you may qualify even if you think you don’t. Check the [Department for Education’s advice](#) or speak to your school for clarification.

Be aware, you cannot simply send your child but must instead speak to your school to confirm a place. It is **not compulsory for your child to attend school** if you or a partner is a critical worker.

There are also [many definitions](#) of a ‘vulnerable child or young person’. speak with your school to clarify these if you think your child falls under this category

If you are struggling to access technology, you can **ask your school for the loan of a device**

What if my family doesn’t have enough devices or laptops for remote education?

State-funded schools have a duty to deliver remote education effectively – and that includes **loans of school laptops or devices if required**. The government says it has provided 560,000 out of an additional 1 million devices available.

Parents cannot directly apply for devices from the government but schools are able to apply for additional tech to support pupils and students who are without. The scheme is devised for Years 3 to 11 (ages 7-16), but infant schools (Reception to Year 2, ages 4-6) are not currently able to apply. However, some primary schools may still independently choose to loan additional devices to KS1 pupils.

If your child doesn’t have access, you can **make a request to your school for a loan**. If this is not possible, you can apply for your child to attend face-to-face education in school (see above) until it is.

What if we don’t have broadband connection or enough mobile data for remote learning?

Broadband and mobile data is not cheap and you are entitled to support with internet access for your child’s education during lockdown. [Two schemes are available](#), and your child could qualify for one of them if they are not in face-to-face education, you don’t have fixed broadband at home, and you cannot afford additional data.

The first scheme provides **temporary data increases for mobile devices during this period on some networks** – including EE, O2, Sky Mobile, SMARTY, Tesco Mobile, Three, Virgin Mobile and Vodafone.

It’s available for children in Years 3 to 11 (ages 7 to 16), but the request needs to be made by the school, rather than the parent – so if you think you might qualify, speak to your child’s school.

For children in Years 3 to 13 (ages 7 to 18), schools can alternatively apply for **4G wireless routers**, and parents should again speak to their school if they have the need.

Aside from that, some data providers have also made it free to access educational sites – such as [BBC Bitesize](#) for EE, BT Mobile and PlusNet Mobile customers. Check with your provider.

MORE HELP: Explore Parent Zone’s lockdown hub of advice and resources to support parenting during the pandemic

Why does my child have so much work to do – and do they have to do it all?

Many parents have noticed an increase in the amount of daily school work for their child. The government has issued schools with a [minimum amount of remote learning per day](#), depending on a child’s age. For children

in Key Stage 1 (*Years 1-2, ages 5-7*) this is 3 hours. For Key Stage 2 (*Years 3-5, ages 7-11*) it is 4 hours. For Key Stages 3 and 4 (*Years 7-11, ages 11-16*) it is 5 hours.

Schools are required to provide enough to fill this daily – but different parents may find their child manages different amounts, based on their circumstances. How much learning your child must complete depends on their school but the **expectation is that they will attempt to complete some**. Speak to your school if this is proving difficult.

What's happening with exams?

There will also be **no SAT exams for primary children in Years 2 and 6** – and these will be replaced by teacher assessments. For **vocational qualifications (VTQs) where exams are due to be cancelled** the government is currently seeking consultation on the best way to assess grades. Students, parents, teachers and school leaders can **[share their views here](#)**.

When can my child go back to school?

This is the big question for many families. As it stands, **most children in education will be required to learn remotely until February half-term** (15-19 February 2021 for most English schools). However, this is a provisional date based on the current Covid-19 situation and is under review as the situation develops. You should **stay in contact with school communications** for more information as it comes.

Dojo refresher

- When completing work, it is preferable that children log in using their own account so that teachers can see that your child has seen today's learning. If you need support to do this please message your child's class teacher.
- Children should be completing their work in their home learning book or worksheet or on screen. They should start each lesson with the date and the subject e.g. 19.1.21 Maths
- It is a legal requirement that children complete their remote learning, teachers need to see evidence of this learning, you can do this by:
 - Each day the class teacher will provide an overview of that days learning with a welcome video and links
 - These links can also be found under the child's portfolio. It is here that the children can reply with a photo of their work, a video message or can type their response to that specific task
 - Class teachers will then respond.
 - *Tutorial link for how to upload photos and videos*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnfJDONJvCY&list=PLIChyVOpASG2PUX2w1uF_OXZ6r1SnM6vd&index=4
 - *There are also tutorial videos on YouTube, here is the*
<https://www.youtube.com/c/classdojo/playlists>

Free School Meal – Food Parcels/Vouchers

We will continue to provide food parcels next week, these will be available to collect on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th January between 12 and 1pm. If you declined the offer when Mrs Glossop called you, you can change your mind, just let school know.

If your child is in school, then you are not entitled to food parcels or a voucher as they will receive a dinner during school hours.

We hope to be in a position to offer vouchers for the last two weeks of this half term, however if you would rather receive a food parcel then let school know.

Zoom Meetings

In what are unprecedented times, Covid-19 has presented many challenges to individuals and organisations. Whilst having to adjust to the situation, it is important that we continue to follow safeguarding procedures to ensure the safety and protection of all, but in particular those who are vulnerable or at risk. Everyone in school has a responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children.

Online platforms and new technologies offer tremendous opportunities to reach, communicate and engage with children during times of self-isolation. The use of technology and social media platforms has the potential to transform the way in which we can communicate and continue with some forms of learning at this difficult time. Keeping everyone safe whilst using these platforms is essential.

All platforms that bring people together have the potential to present a risk to users, especially children, and adults at risk, or who are otherwise vulnerable. As users of these platforms, we have a responsibility to ensure that our communications are as secure and private as they can be.

Class Sessions

Keeping children in contact with school helps keep them motivated and engaged in their learning. Class teachers will set up short catch up sessions via Zoom each week to celebrate work over the week as well as running quizzes and competitions. School will use Zoom as its selected online platform. Parents/carers will be informed that the school is using Zoom to work with children at home and given information how to download the application and any key issues they need to be aware of. Parents/carers will be informed that an audio recording of whole class Zoom sessions will be made. Staff will open the Zoom meeting with a shared screen with a message that this meeting is being recorded along with the Zoom rules.

1 to 1 Sessions

The school will continue to deliver phonics and Speech and Language interventions in short 1 to 1 sessions for children who are working at home. 1 to 1 sessions will also be offered to children who the school has identified need additional support. These will be delivered in school by a member of staff and will be audio recorded. Parents/carers consent must be given for these sessions.

If you have been offered 1:1 intervention, **it is important that you let school know as soon as possible if your child will not be attending the session that day**, as these are timetabled, and the time spent waiting to see if you are attending could be used elsewhere helping other children.

Instructions

Setting up the meeting

Staff will:

- Communicate via a school account
- Send a randomly generated link by dojo to parent/carer to invite them to a meeting

Conducting the meeting

Staff will:

- Set up a 'waiting room' so that the staff member/meeting host chooses when to admit people and can restrict entry to only those who are invited
- Lock the meeting once it has started
- Be positioned in front of an appropriate or neutral background
- Remind children of the rules for Zoom and that any inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated
- Explain how to re-join if the internet fails

- Mute children on arrival and ask them to hold their hand up if they want to speak
- Not use 'breakout rooms' but maintain a single, adult led group
- Report anything of concern via Dojo to safeguarding leads

Children will follow the school Zoom Rules;

- Behave on Zoom as you would in school
- Put your hand up if you want to speak
- Don't use the chat function
- Leave the meeting when told to do so by the class teacher

Parents and carers will;

- Ensure that while their child is on Zoom that they are in a place visible to others within the household and not within bedrooms or other closed spaces.
- Not participate in a meeting.

