

Remote education provision: Information for parents/carers

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education if local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.

The academy staff are fully committed to ensuring all children have the very best education, at all times. During this period of closure, there are a significant number of children eligible to be in the academy, which will require all eligible staff to be working within the academy. At the same time, teaching staff will be working hard to provide all children with high-quality remote learning accessed by the academy's website and online links.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

This remote learning offer, adhering to the government guidelines, follows the Blackthorns curriculum themes. We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. The remote learning has a range of activities and tasks to support your child and might vary according to year group and curriculum framework. Whilst priority is given to core learning in reading, writing and maths, additional activities will be set to enable teaching and learning across the curriculum. MFL will continue to be set, as will activities to support music.

Class teachers will email you a weekly timetable with links to daily live lessons as well as activities for you to access throughout the day. The timetable has guidance for the lessons or instructions to access additional resources to support the learning, including:

- pre-recorded video clips by teachers
- worksheets (where required)
- Powerpoints

Most classes are using Seesaw to set and return learning. Other work can be completed in your own 'Lockdown Learning' book, or if needed, books are in a crate outside school.

The full intention of this offer is to enable all children the ability to access remote learning throughout the day, as stated by government guidelines.

There are online platforms to further support the children's learning whilst at home. These are:

- Mymaths [Y2-Y6]
- Timetable Rockstars [KS2]
- Bug club [all children]

Remote teaching and study 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:

EYFS/KS1	The academy offers more than the minimum of 3 hours remote learning activities per day, set by the government.
KS2	The academy offers more than the minimum of 4 hours remote learning activities per day, set by the government.

Accessing remote education

Each day children have access to a live session with their teacher through Microsoft Teams. This has been timetabled to avoid year group clashes across the academy. During this session teachers may be outlining the expectations for the day, facilitating discussions or teaching key inputs to support children in their work. Activities are then set for children to access remotely throughout the day. An afternoon live lesson is then timetabled on most days for children to either share work, ask questions, enjoy story time or take part in discussion. On Fridays, whole school assembly is recorded and shared with parents via email.

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:

- All children known to the academy that have limited access to a device and the internet will be contacted by the academy to work with parent/carers to form a plan of action to support remote learning for their child.
- Pupils can access any printed materials needed if they do not have online access by arrangement with class teacher.
- Parent and carers are encouraged to contact the academy if their access to devices or the internet changes during the period of self-isolation or lockdown. Parents/carers should contact the academy office:
office@blackthornsprimaryacademy.org.uk

- Year group staff will make contact with children working at home without access to devices or the internet. Children can also drop work off to the academy (blue crate outside school gate)
- The academy, with support of the university of Brighton Academies Trust, will continue to work with parents and carers to seek to provide eligible families access to devices

Who can get laptops and tablets?

Government guidance states:

“Schools will be able to order an allocation of devices for:

- *disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 who do not have access to a device and whose face-to-face education is disrupted*
- *disadvantaged children in any year group who have been advised to shield because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable*
- *disadvantaged children in any year group attending a hospital school*

Disadvantaged children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are included within this offer. However, if specialist support and equipment is required help may be available through the Family Fund.

How device allocations have been decided

Schools and colleges will receive an allocation of devices to be used to support disadvantaged children who are otherwise unable to access remote education.

Examples of this include disadvantaged children:

- *with no digital devices in their household*
- *whose only available device is a smartphone*
- *with a single device in their household that’s being shared with more than one other family member”*

Who will be delivering live lessons?

- Live lessons will be delivered by a teacher of the year group team or a member of the Senior Leadership Team and observed by a support member of staff working remotely.

What are the online safety and safeguarding measures in place for these ‘online check-in sessions’? The headlines are:

- All staff, children and parents are to adhere to the online guidance emailed to all parents and available on the academy’s website: <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1608139340/brightonacademiestrorguk/ltiqmlg7iihyu6ltnatd/bca-online-safety-policy.pdf>
- Staff will be monitoring these sessions to ensure the online safeguarding measures remain in place. When admitting children into the session, a register, for safeguarding purposes will be created.

- Key headlines to follow:
 1. **Children are to be on mute**, unless asked to share an idea or speak by the teacher.
 2. Parents and carers are to ensure that they continue monitor their child whilst accessing the live session(s).
 3. Staff will end the open the live session.
 4. Normal behavior expectations are in place as would be expected in school, including wearing appropriate clothing, not eating whilst in lesson, observing rules around language, listening and paying attention to the teacher.

How will my child be taught remotely?

The full intention of this offer is to enable all children the ability to access remote learning throughout the day, as stated by government guidelines. The academy will also offer live lessons each day to support remote learning activities.

Year Groups	Morning Live	Afternoon Live
Thinkers and Inventors	9 am - 9.30	1pm – 1.30
Explorers and Warriors	9.30 - 10	1.30 – 2
Globetrotters and Trailblazers	10 – 10.30	2.30 - 3
Ground-breakers	10.30 - 11	2pm

Any changes to this plan will be communicated by class teachers.

Teachers may use a range of activities to support learning, including lessons they have created themselves, resources from platforms we regularly use, Oak National Academy lessons, BBC Bitesize lockdown learning.

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?

The academy offers more than the minimum of hour’s remote learning activities per day, set by the government. The blended learning approaches enable children to access their remote learning throughout the day. By the nature of the age of the children at the academy, we fully appreciate that parents and carers will need to support your child to initially access this information and maintain their concentration, particularly in Early years and KS1. We sympathise that this can be tricky when trying to juggle work, other commitments, sibling remote learning and constraints during this period. We are all too aware that remote learning does not replicate the learning and wider experiences

received in the classroom on a daily basis, but staff remain on hand to support children and parents to best support the delivery and access to the daily remote learning tasks.

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

Class teachers are keeping records of children's attendance in live lessons and through this are able to monitor involvement and engagement. If there are concerns they will make contact with you to see what can be done to offer support. Teachers are also looking at the work being shared via Seesaw or other methods, as well as using User Activity links within platforms such as Bug Club.

How should I share and upload my child's work?

Most work can be shared with class teachers via Seesaw; we have also asked for children to keep a Lockdown Learning book. Our intention is that this will become a project book that will be valued by the children, and something they will keep to share with future generations as historical evidence of this unprecedented time in their lives. As such, we are expecting children to take the usual pride they have in their work, making an effort with their presentation and carefully choosing resources to write and record their learning. When all pupils can return to school we will share and celebrate these books together.

Staff at Blackthorns remain committed to be on hand to respond to emails, provide regular feedback and will complete regular welfare checks during this time. If you have any questions or are in need of support please email your child's class teacher or Mrs Neller through office@blackthornsprimaryacademy.org.uk.

What action will the academy take where engagement is a concern?

Academy staff will be regularly monitoring attendance in the academy of eligible pupils and the academy will remain in regular contact with such families. In addition, academy staff will be monitoring pupil engagement with regards to remote learning activities. This will include concerns if there is:

- Limited attendance on live lessons
- Limited engagement via the year group email account/Seesaw [aim for at least once a week]
- Limited contact and discussions with staff regarding printed off packs (for children you do not yet have internet access or access to a device).

If academy staff have concerns these will be raised with members of the Senior Leadership Team and academy staff will make contact with parents and carers of identified children to offer further support. The academy staff remain fully committed to

ensuring all children within the academy have access to high quality remote learning activities to continue to develop their knowledge and skills within the curriculum.

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

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. Academy teaching staff may provide:

- Written comments of praise
- Further challenges to extend a child's thinking linked to a particular task.
- Provide whole class comments (written, video clips or recorded voice messages)
- Verbal messages of praise
- Provide quizzes and automatic responses.
- Automatic responses from the online platforms.

We are also considering a whole school reward system to keep everyone motivated. We will update you in this once details are finalised.

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 all the remote education without support from adults at home and/or maintain sustained periods of concentration. 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:

- Pre-recorded video clips by teachers and booster session teachers (invite only)
- worksheets (where required)
- Powerpoints
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in school, remote education might not include the live lessons. All the above remaining provision will continued to be offered to all children self-isolating.