

Dear Parent/Carer,

These uncertain times have resulted in a number of changes to our way of life, be it to the way we work, the way we enjoy time with friends and loved ones or how we ensure children get the best possible experience in school.

In regards to your child's education, at times we may need to take an approach of your child completing their learning from home. We appreciate your support at this time where you will be playing a much more pivotal role in maintaining your child on the path of obtaining a good education; rest assured that West St Leonards will be on hand to guide you and your child along the way until such a time that the school can welcome them back once again but in the meantime please review the guidance below to understand how the distance learning will need to be adhered to at this time.

### **The initial stages of acquiring the learning for your child**

On the first day of any isolation or closure period, guidance is sent out to parents electronically to explain the process of setting up an effective learning space for the children, suggest activities for fitness and wellbeing and also to provide the necessary links to the upcoming learning. All learning is provided through the West St Leonards learning page which is hosted by the University of Brighton Academies Trust. This is found at:

<https://www.brightonacademiustrust.org.uk/home-learning/west-st-leonards-home-learning>

Learning is organised by year group and separated into the terms and weeks of the academic year so far and is provided digitally through Microsoft Sway, allowing for easy access to all teaching videos and resources prepared by the West St Leonards teachers. Some lessons may provide links to other learning or video sites to support the content of the lesson but all inputs and tasks are provided by the class teacher.

Learning for each day will be prepared in advance, taking into account the progress of children from previous lesson to ensure learning remains continuous and relevant to the stage that children are at. Where further provision may be required for certain children, additional questioning and tasks will be provided to ensure progression across the class/year group.

From the second day of being at home, learning will be uploaded by the teacher with content equivalent to the government requirements for KS1 and KS2 (shown below):

EYFS and Key Stage 1	At least 3 hours per day (daily writing, phonics and maths with reading and wider curriculum activities across the week)
Key Stage 2	At least 4 hours per day (daily writing and maths with reading and wider curriculum activities across the week)



The content of the learning provided for children at home is of an identical quality to what is provided in school and this is from the very first learning episode provided. Essentially, we provide the same curriculum with the same dedication using the class teachers that know your child best. However, where lessons would conventionally be an hour long in school, we understand that the learning will take longer at home to allow children to digest the information to the level required to access the task. This will result in each day's learning being equal to the allocated time specified above.

They will be adaptations to the lessons in comparison to what is delivered in the classroom but this is to allow children further time to problem solving independently in the absence of the talk partner they would have in class to support their thinking. Amendments may also be required to the pace with which learning is delivered as we look to ensure the basics of the learning are reiterated upon with the distance learning to help children have the tools at hand to access the tasks with increased independence.

Where teachers do not have the benefit of seeing the progress of each individual whilst they progress through a task as they would do in a classroom, regular assessment opportunities are provided across the course of the week through quizzes which are fed back immediately to the teacher to support next steps in the learning and ensure that the teacher's expertise in assessing the progress is still able to be maximised.

Should there be a need to use alternate means of remote learning for some reason (e.g. staff provision being low across the academy due to illness) then Oak Academy resources will be used to support the variety of learning provided for particular year groups.

**What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?**

- It is the expectation that children access each lesson as a means to maintain a consistent approach that matches the timetable at school.
- Lessons provided through each Sway presentation are delivered in such a way that the learning can be as independent as possible. Nevertheless, the age of the child will obviously play a part in how much support they may need during a task itself.
- Learning videos provided by teachers will provide regularly opportunities for reflection and children to work independently around challenges set by the teacher. These tasks would benefit from a talk partner or someone to discuss ideas with in order to allow children to consider their ideas further. We would appreciate it if parents and carers would support children in this where possible so to allow children to reflect on the learning and build the capacity to be more independent in the learning for tasks that will appear later in the lesson.
- For the return of work, this will need to be scanned or photographed before being sent back to the teacher via the class email account. We would require parents and carers to support with this as it requires sending information across the internet through means that children of primary school age will not have access to (i.e. email addresses).
- As the child is learning at home, we will be contacting families on a regular basis across the week to discuss the learning and how the child is engaging.



- Engagement in the learning is monitored daily by teachers who record the amount of work returned. Work that is returned will also receive feedback to provide the child with comments around their strengths and next step.
- Any concerns around the learning will be communicated during the next phone call home by the teacher. If the teacher feels it necessary to contact earlier, they will call the parent or carer that day.

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

- Completed work is to scanned or photographed and sent back to school via the class email addresses for the teacher to review and support future lessons. More information around the return of work would be provided in the guidance document send out on the first day of the child being at home.
- Where the task requires children to complete an online quiz, this information is sent immediately back to the teacher to show that the child has completed the task.

#### **How will you work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?**

- Children who have received reading intervention support from Mrs Braime or our reading intervention TAs either this year or last year will be provided with daily opportunities across the week to read with a familiar adult from West St Leonards. This will involve children reading from a particular set of books to provide further foundations in building reading capacity. These may be physical books or ones found on Bug Club depending on the age or reading ability of the child.
- Children in the Doves class – Each child is contacted on Monday and the home learning is described to the adult and a call back the next day is arranged to complete an agreed piece of work. Each child completes a piece of work daily over a video call with a TA. The call lasts approx 15 minutes to maximise the child's attention needs. The teacher rings once a fortnight to speak to the parent about physio or any other needs on the EHCP and to ensure all is okay. Children who have a social worker are contacted weekly by the Deputy DSL and fortnightly via video call.

#### **If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access remote education?**

Laptops will be provided as per the allocation from the Department for Education. Security checks on the devices and firewalls will be uploaded by IT technicians prior to these being given to families. Requests are to be made directly to the office email account or can be made when teachers complete their regular phone calls to the children to support the learning.

Dongles and additional data SIMS are also available for families to support their child's learning. These are requested in a similar fashion to the laptops.

Where necessary, printed copies of work can be provided and collected from school.



The systems set up by the school to return completed work allow for this to happen from any device. Further information around this can be found in the parent guidance sent out on the first day of a child being at home.

**If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?**

Children who are self isolating will be provided with curriculum appropriate work much like the work outlined above. As the child remains off school for an increased period of time, teachers may recommend alternate digital resources on top of the ones sent from the school as the child will not be accessing the learning in class at the same rate as children in school. Therefore, such sites as the Oak Academy will be suggested, with lessons recommended by the class teacher, to allow for key curriculum skills to be revisited in preparation for the self isolation period to be over and the child to benefit once again from the expertise of the class teacher on the school site.

Monitoring of work is to be completed by the teacher during the phone calls that will be completed over the course of the self isolation period. The first call will be after 3 days to allow the family to arrange the household for a period of self isolation and for the child to complete work set by the teacher from the first day of self isolation. Work is still to be scanned in or photographed as per the guidelines above.

We hope that this has given you a comprehensive overview of the distance learning children will be completing at this time. We look forwards to having the children return to West St Leonards as soon as possible and thank you for your continued support in your child's learning. If you do have any further questions however then please contact us on [office@wslprimaryacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@wslprimaryacademy.org.uk) or your child's class email address.