



"Inspiring Excellence"

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Home Learning Letter

Dear Parents,

Before your panic at the title of this letter, don't worry, we're not closing the school!

We do, however, want to ensure we have a high quality offer for home learning to tackle a variety of contingencies – most obviously in cases where a bubble or class is sent home for a time, or where children are required to self-isolate for a prolonged period. Children have lost so much learning time already, so we want to mitigate any further time out.

We have therefore pulled together our school's '[Home Learning Protocol](#)' – available on our website. This gives details about how we will support your children's learning in different scenarios or 'tiers'. **Please access this if your child is off school.** Please note that, especially for younger pupils, parents will need to help children to access the learning being sent or provided.

Tiers

- *Tier 1 – short term absence:* this is an absence of 1-4 days, e.g. whilst anyone in the household has symptoms and are awaiting a test.
- *Tier 2 – medium term absence:* this is an absence of 5-14 days, e.g. whilst self-isolating following instructions by test and trace / following a positive test for anyone in household.
- *Tier 3 – lockdown / school or class closure:* this is for a more prolonged absence where a bubble or, indeed, the whole school is required to go into isolation.

Links

Tier 1 absences are just a few days, and learning provided for this will largely be through children accessing material which is already available to them online. Tiers 2 and 3 will have more 'targeted' activities, alongside or within the online platforms. The key links for this are below:

- [Reading Eggs](#) – online reading programme with a library of e-books, spelling, grammar, phonics and comprehension games. *You will already have login details for this platform.*
- [Phonics Videos](#) – these are DfE approved online lessons following the Letters and Sounds scheme we use in school for Reception, Y1 and Y2. Specific lessons will be set at Tier 2 and 3. *Login details not required – open access.*
- [Oak Academy](#) – these are DfE approved online lessons following the national curriculum. Specific lessons will be set at Tiers 2 and 3. At Tier 1, parents are encouraged to help children find relevant lessons that follow the children's interest. *Login details not required – open access.*
- [IDL Numeracy](#) – an online maths programme for Y1-6. *You will already have login details for this platform.*
- [Times Tables Rockstars](#) – online times tables rapid recall programme for children in Y3-6. *You will already have login details for this platform.*
- [White Rose Home Learning](#) – online video lessons, following the same scheme of learning we use in school. Specific lessons will be set at Tiers 2 and 3. At Tier 1, parents are encouraged to help children find relevant lessons that follow the children's interest. *Login details not required – open access.*

Microsoft Teams

For all children in Y1-6, Home Learning will be managed through the use of Microsoft Teams. Children in Y4-6 used this last term during lockdown and it proved a highly effective method for sharing work, assignments, communications etc. We have now expanded the use of Teams to Key Stage 1.

We will send a [Parents' Guide to Teams](#) and a [Top Tips](#) sheet which talk you through how to set this up. The RAF use Teams so the platform should be familiar to many of you. Every child will have a username and password for their Teams (Microsoft 365) account (if you have not yet received this, you will soon).

Please note, SeeSaw will continue to be used *in school*, but will *not* be the platform used for parental communication or delivery of home learning if this is required.

Parental Involvement

Obviously, younger pupils will need this to be entirely managed by parents – we aren't anticipating 5 year-olds sitting behind a laptop, logging in to Teams, reading up on tasks, navigating the platform and uploading their work to the teachers! Older pupils, during the last lockdown, managed Teams with great independence – but we still encourage parental involvement wherever possible, especially to support engagement with the tasks and the learning, and to provide some instant feedback.

We strongly encourage all parents to ensure that they are 'set up' with Teams as soon as possible so that, in the event of a sudden lock-down / self-isolation / bubble closure etc., we can move seamlessly to home learning.

Teams 'Chat'

We have unlocked the 'individual chat' feature of Teams. This means that parents (or pupils) can communicate directly with the teacher, rather than publicly through the chat channel. This will be particularly useful in cases where one or two pupils are self-isolating at Tier 2.

This also means children can chat to one another via private message – this is a benefit at Tier 3 if a class bubble is sent home as pupils can continue to socialise, rather than becoming isolated from one another.

However, we are also aware of the potential for this platform to be misused, so we encourage parents to monitor children's online communications on Teams, just as we stress the importance of this if children are engaged in any online chat (via X-box, texting etc.). If you become aware of any misuse, please take a screenshot and share it with school as soon as possible.

Access to Technology

One of the biggest advantages of Microsoft Teams is that it works across any device – Apple, Android, Tablets, Phones or PCs. It is probably easiest and most user-friendly on PC (laptop / desktop), but many of our children found using it on tablets effective last term.

If, however, a parent finds themselves in need of access to technology to support home learning, particularly in Y1-6 (EYFS tends not to require computers and is more 'hands on'), please contact the school office. We have set up a small number of laptops which we are able to lend out if needed to support access to home learning.

Final thoughts

It is unusual for a school to put so much time and effort into developing plans that we hope we will never use – however, obviously this is the case with our Home Learning Protocols. We do have to be realistic though, and acknowledge that the potential for this to be required will be with us for a long time yet.

Thank you to all parents who have already been so supportive in keeping pupils off whilst awaiting tests etc. I hope and trust that the plans attached will support you in ensuring your children can continue to learn even in the midst of time away from school.

As always, if you have any questions, please do get in touch.

With best regards,



Rob Campbell