



# Brunswick Park Primary School

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*Learning for living through respect, support and challenge*

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## TO ALL PARENTS AND CARERS

8 January 2021

## REMOTE LEARNING FAQS

Dear Parents and Carers

During this time of National Lockdown, as you know, most children are not coming to school and are learning remotely at home. There are some key differences between the lockdown in the Spring of 2020 and this one. This time, as a result of a new law passed in October 2020, schools must provide learning at home for their pupils that meets these expectations:

### **Remote education**

*When teaching pupils remotely, we expect schools to:*

- *set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects*
- *set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, **and as a minimum:***
  - *primary: 3 hours a day, on average, across the school cohort*
  - *secondary: 4 hours a day, with more for pupils working towards formal qualifications this year*
- *provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos*
- *have systems for checking, at least weekly, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern*
- *gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks, and provide feedback, at least weekly, using digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate*
- *enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding*

From these expectations it is clear how challenging it is for parents and carers to manage learning at home. They ask that for a minimum time on average of 3 hours per day for most primary-aged children, children are engaged actively in learning, which means that they are likely to need the supervision of a parent or carer who also has their own work to do. This letter is designed to answer your questions about remote education:



**How can I access remote learning for my child?**

At Brunswick remote learning is provided through Google Classroom. It can be accessed on Smartphones, tablets, laptops, chrome books, desktop PCs and X-Box and PlayStation consoles. Though desktop computers may not have a camera and microphone, children can still access the Classroom using them.

**I don't have any of these devices. What can I do?**

If you do not have access to any devices at all, please contact the Deputy Head Teacher Thomas Moudiotis via the School Office.

**I don't have access to the Internet and I don't have enough data on my phone.**

Please contact the School Office. We have a small number of free 30G data-only Vodaphone SIM cards available.

**There is only one device at home and I need it for my work. What can I do?**

This is tricky. Most parents in this situation are are timetabling their work around their child's learning. School can support by providing paper work packs for children to use when they cannot access your device. Please contact Thomas Moudiotis via the School Office.

**There is only one device at home, but I have more than one child. How do I manage?**

Again, sharing can be a challenge. School can support with paper work packs so each child can have equal access to the device you have. Please contact Thomas Moudiotis via the School Office.

**For families with no or limited access to devices or the Internet**, the BBC has just announced that from Monday 11 January it is making lots of extra educational content available to help you keep up with learning during lockdown. CBBC, BBC Two, BBC iPlayer and BBC Red Button will all be offering content for pupils including daily lessons which will be made available online too. From Monday 11 January the CBBC channel will have a three-hour block of primary school programmes from 9.00am. This will include programmes from BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily as well as Our School, Celebrity Supply Teacher, Horrible Histories and Operation Ouch.

**I have an old device at home that nobody uses. Can I donate it to the school?**

No. Instead, please donate it to the BBC's *Make a Difference Give a Laptop* campaign. There is more information about this on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5SqHJMTKZx5sYhlltXJvB1Q/give-a-laptop>.

**I've mislaid/forgotten my child's passwords and login details. How can I get them back?**

Please contact the School Office where staff will be able to help you.

**My child finds it difficult to concentrate at home.**

If you can, break tasks up into smaller chunks and allow for regular breaks. Give small targets followed by praise, e.g. 'In 5 minutes I think you can ....' Leave them for 5 minutes whilst they work on their own, then praise them for their efforts. It is hard for children to learn in a place where they usually play or relax, and it will take them time to adjust to learning at home. Praise them when they get it right; try to ignore it when they don't.



## **Why isn't my child's teacher teaching lessons every day on Zoom or Teams?**

The government's expectation is that we *provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos*. This means variety: paper copies of resources, Google Docs, presentations, videos and messaging as well as direct teaching. Children should not sit in front of screens for long periods of time as it is bad for them. They should do plenty of activities that use different skills, including reading and listening. We make sure there are regular opportunities for you and your children to engage with teachers directly via Google Classroom.

## **My child has SEND and finds using Google Classroom difficult. Can s/he use something else?**

We offer paper work packs of home learning as an alternative to Google Classroom. If you feel your child needs one, please contact Caroline Campion via the School Office, who will help you.

## **Because children must be taught the curriculum, Brunswick has made timetables for the children to follow that provide their core teaching and a variety of other learning. Do they have to stick exactly to their timetable?**

No. The timetables are a guide, and reflect what happens during the school day. If you have to switch things around to fit your circumstances, that's fine. You can work flexibly around your commitments and when your child is ready to learn. If you do not get through everything on the timetable every day, talk to your child's teacher during the Google Classroom Meetings, and remember the government's minimum expectation of 3 hours per day **on average** (less for EYFS; more for KS2). If you have concerns, let us know and we will do our best to help you.

In summary, remote education is challenging to manage at home, but as time goes on it *will* get easier. Our strategy at Brunswick Park is to begin whole school remote education this week by supporting families to access Google Classroom and their children's Google Classroom Meetings and to communicate with their children's teachers via email and the Classroom, then increase gradually the amount of direct remote teaching. (Please remember that there is no government or legal requirement for it and no obligation for teachers to do it, though I know the majority of our teachers will.)

I am pleased to report that this week most parents, carers and children have had success and that we have been offering support to those in difficulty. As parents, carers and children become used to the routine and the expectations of learning at home, the variety of learning opportunities will increase. Chantelle Hughes has already produced videos for the children that have gone down very well. **If you are having difficulty with remote learning, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance**, then contact the School Office where staff will direct your enquiry to the right person to help you. Juggling time, responsibilities and resources is not easy. I wish you luck!

Yours sincerely

Susannah Bellingham  
Head Teacher

