



Almond Hill Junior School

Remote education provision: information for parents

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.

For details of what to expect where individual pupils are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

A pupil's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching.

What should my child expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of pupils being sent home?

Children will be able to access remote learning via TEAMS on the second day of being sent home. On the first day, children should focus on reading and time tables and can access a bank of provision via the website such as BBC Bitesize.

Following the first few days of remote education, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

- We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, in PE and DT where children may not have access to the same equipment at home as they do in school.

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:

Primary school-aged pupils	Approximately four hours a day. One hour of Maths, English and another subject. There will be additional daily opportunities for engaging with learning such as reading and times tables practice.
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Accessing remote education

How will my child access any online remote education you are providing?

Microsoft TEAMS – this is the same way in which weekly home learning has been allocated Autumn 2020. If you need any further help, contact your year group email or the admin email for passwords.

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:

- Some children may be issued a lap-top by the government. There are criteria for these and a member of staff will contact you if you meet these.
- We are happy to provide paper resources for learning for those parents who have informed us that either access to the internet or devices makes online learning difficult and the class teacher will contact you in this instance to organise access to resources and feedback.
- In the event of school closure or self-isolation parents/pupils can expect to be contacted by the class teacher as a minimum. The SENCO, SLT and support staff will also make contact if this is necessary and supportive.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:

Some examples of remote teaching approaches:

- Weekly 'live' class assemblies with class teachers
- Weekly 'live' whole school assemblies with the Headteacher and deputy Headteacher
- Daily 'live' check in sessions with a member of the year group team
- Recorded teaching - e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers – these are most likely to be PowerPoints with voice-overs from the year group team
- Printed paper packs produced by teachers - e.g. workbooks, worksheets – these will be provided for those families for whom online learning is difficult
- Longer-term project work and/or internet research activities where absence is longer term and/or children need further extension tasks

We have **no plans** to be using live teaching/online lessons for specific lessons. This is for two reasons. Firstly, there are safeguarding and staffing implications and safeguarding remains our highest priority. Secondly, some national research and our school survey have suggested that online lessons can add to the stress of learning at home especially in families where devices have to be shared.

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?

In this section, please set out briefly:

- Pupils are expected to engage with the learning on a daily basis
- Pupils and families will receive a timetable for the week every Monday via TEAMS – we are working towards putting a link for live sessions onto this timetable or using the child's TEAMS calendar facility so parents and children can join with ease but predict this may be harder than it sounds and it is a work in progress.
- We understand that learning at home can present a range of barriers and would ask that parents communicate these to us as early as possible and we will endeavour to help in any way that we can to make learning more accessible and enjoyable for children – and parents!

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

- Teachers and support staff will be regularly checking whether your child is engaging with their learning
- You can expect to hear from the class teacher every week either on TEAMS through assignment feedback or by phone. Some children will need more support or challenge and this will be arranged as necessary.

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. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

- Feedback will be provided in a variety of ways both online via TEAMS or email and by telephone call. The frequency of this feedback will depend on a number of factors such as the demands upon the whole school as it responds to changes in operation as directed by the government and the needs of your child.
- Support is available either by emailing the year group email or ringing the school. Please be aware that it may take a few days to reply to a phone call depending upon staffing.
- In the event of an ongoing concern, we would always rather know so please contact admin@almondhill.herts.sch.uk Your concern will then be forwarded to a member of the senior leadership team to address.
- If your child has a special educational need then please email Mrs Birchall (SENCO) directly iep@almondhill.herts.sch.uk

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 remote education without support from adults at home. 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:

- Provision for children with special educational needs is overseen by our SENCO Mrs Birchall. She can be contacted on iep@almondhill.herts.sch.uk
- Your child will receive the learning for the year group and in addition to this any resources that will help them meet their individual education plan targets.
- There is some additional provision for children that may need tasks to be broken down more simply and this is called 'group work'.
- All children with 'academic' targets will receive some additional tuition
- You will receive regular phone calls/TEAMS calls from a combination of the class teacher, support staff and the SENCO

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in school, how remote education is provided will likely differ from the approach for whole groups. This is due to the challenges of teaching pupils both at home and in school.

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

- You will receive PowerPoints with direct teaching for Maths, English and foundation subjects (one foundation subject a day) via TEAMS
- Paper copies can be requested via the year group email if more convenient
- This will be sent on the second day of self—isolation
- Contact can be maintained through the year group email