

MAYES PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head teacher: Ms E Davies



Monday 4th January

Dear Parents,

Remote Learning

As you may be aware, schools are required to have a remote learning plan in place so that any child who cannot attend school because of COVID-19 does not miss out on their learning.

This letter explains our plans for remote learning for children who have to self-isolate, or where local or national restrictions mean that children need to stay at home.

Our remote learning plan

Our remote learning plan has been made with our pupils and their families in mind. We believe that this strategy will work best for the children at our school.

- Children are expected to spend a similar amount of time learning at home as in school
- We have attached a suggested timetable for the Remote Learning day which demonstrates how this can be achieved for Reception children. This is a suggestion only and should be adapted to your own home situation as regards timings
- Our home learning for EYFS has been designed to ensure that children are not required to spend an extended amount of time looking at a screen as this is not what we recommend for young children. Instead, children are expected to learn through practical activities.
- Reception home learning will be provided daily on Google Classroom and Nursery home learning will be uploaded weekly to our school website
- Where work has a clear outcome, parents are asked to email a photo via the school's email address or upload it directly to Google Classroom.
- Reception parents are able to contact their child's class teacher through Google Classroom; teachers will be answering questions and providing feedback on a daily basis. Nursery parents are able to email any queries via the school email address.

What you'll need at home

We have provided a Guide to Remote Learning for parents which you can read on our website and we have attached to this letter. It has lots of great ideas including:

- How to set up a space for learning and balance the day with work and play!
- Equipment you will need: a device that can access the internet for at least part of the day to check Google Classroom for tasks and to upload work. This could be laptop; tablet or even smart phones would work.

If you are finding this tricky please do contact the school and we can see how we can support you.



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What we expect from your child

It's important that your child engages with home learning by completing the work teachers are setting. If children are not engaging with the learning, we will be phoning home to find out why. It is essential after the disruptions to children's education over the last year that all pupils work hard to catch up.

What you can do to help

We appreciate that this situation may present some challenges for you. We kindly ask for your support so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for your child during this time.

Younger children in particular may need support staying focused with their remote learning. We ask that you help them as much as you can. At the same time, we don't expect you to watch your child all day, and we wouldn't expect parents to get involved in all remote lessons in place of our teachers. But, it would be really helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning.

Please keep in touch with us and do let us know if you're having any difficulties with remote learning.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin Sanderson
Deputy Head



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Parents' Guide to Remote Learning



Learning and working at home is still a new experience for most of us.

This guide aims to help parents and families to manage this safely and productively for all.

1. Set up daily routines and expectations

It is important to keep to good habits every day. Think about a flexible routine with clear times for everything that needs doing as well as time to relax.

- Ensure your children get up, get dressed and ready to learn at a reasonable time.
- Keep normal bedtime routines, including normal rules for digital devices.
- Change things where necessary so that everyone's needs are met.
- Include relaxation, exercise and play in the day. It shouldn't be all work, work, work!
- Try not to stay up late and sleep in every day!
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See our suggested [Daily Home Learning Routine](#) for great ideas for activities and when to learn and when to play.

2. Choose a good place to learn



Your family's regular learning space for weekly homework might not work for daily home learning. Set up a place that's just for school activities if possible.

Make sure it is comfortable and free from distractions. A good internet connection is also really important when using Google Classroom.

Make sure an adult monitors online learning. Keep doors open, and practice good digital safety.

See our [e-safety guide](#) for further tips.

3. Stay in touch

Teachers will be communicating either through Google Classroom or by email.

Where home learning activities involved a clear outcome, please, please remember to submit work at the end of each lesson using 'upload work' so that the teacher can check the learning and adapt any future lessons to your child's needs. Nursery parents can submit work by emailing it to their teacher via the school office.



Ask questions and post messages on the 'Stream'. Teachers will be able to answer in private messages or more publically to the class on the 'Stream'. You may need to help your child find these when first using- please do check any messages your child is posting to ensure these are appropriate at all times. Please remember that if the teacher is teaching the rest of the class in school it may not be until the end of the day that they are able to answer your questions.

If you have problems using Google Classroom (e.g. logging on) then please do contact the school.



4. So many children so few digital devices!



For many families who may have children of different ages, and parents who may also be unexpectedly working from home more often there could be some competition for digital devices and online time.

Brothers and sisters may need to work in different rooms to avoid distraction.

Many families will need to share access to devices and schedules throughout the day so setting up a time for each child to log onto Google Classroom and check their lessons' instructions will be vital.

Reading is a fundamental learning skill and a good way to spend time off-screen or if other devices are being used. See our suggested [Daily Home Learning Routine](#) for great ideas for activities and when to learn and when to play both on-screen and off-screen.

5. Let's Get Physical!

When living and working at home, we all need some time to let off steam! Moving is vital to health, wellbeing, and readiness for learning. It's a great opportunity to exercise with online workouts, get out and walk, ride a bike, a spot of football or even hand stands in the garden! Whatever you do just enjoy being active! You may also want to think about how your children can help out more around the house with chores or other jobs. Making beds and tidying rooms is always a good start!



6. Make the most of the time you have together

Sometimes, getting ready for school can be hurried! Whilst at home, make the most of not having to rush out of the door to get to school on time. Having time to develop your child's independence is invaluable. Take a few extra minutes in the morning to encourage them to get dressed themselves. Your child could even start to brush their own hair or help make their own breakfast.

7. Take time to relax and take it easy!



Often our daily lives can be quite stressful and busy and most certainly at the moment there's a great deal of anxiety in the world. Children are often keenly aware of this so it is important to take time to relax- home learning should not become another stressful situation for children.

Take time in the day to spend time together, discover new ideas and interests, investing energy and attention in activities that often get pushed aside by everyday jobs and responsibilities. It's a good idea to slow down, find beauty, enjoy unexpected benefits, and express gratitude by helping others.

8. Monitor time on-screen and online

Remote learning does not mean staring at computer screens all day and every day. Teachers will aim to build in variety, so there is a balance between online and offline learning experiences.






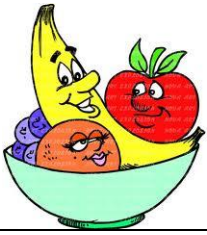




Try to find ways to prevent 'down time' from becoming just more 'screen time' such as reading, playing in the garden, helping with cooking/ baking and playing games.



A Suggested Remote Learning Schedule for Reception

This schedule is to help families plan out their day when children are learning from home. Every child and every family is different so please do adapt this to suit your own situation. It's a starting point and hopefully will give you some great ideas!

Wake up early! Do your daily chores: make the bed, tidy your room and have a tasty breakfast!

Timings	Activity
9:00-9:15	What's happening today? Check any feedback or messages on Google Classroom/ email from your teacher. Talk through what is happening today so your child knows what to do and has all the resources they need. Make sure the learning area is all set up. 
9:15-9:30	Reading Lesson Check instructions on Google Classroom 
9:30- 9:45	 Phonics Practice Why not try daily practice of specific letters or practise writing your name. Take care to form your letter correctly and ask an adult for suggestions of letters to practise.
9:45- 10:45	 Break and Snack time Cut up some fruit, make some toast or a tasty treat. Help out adults and talk about healthy choices! Enjoy playing with your favourite toys.
10:45-11:15	Maths Lesson Check instructions on Google Classroom Remember to upload at the end of the lesson. 
11:15-11:45	Additional Lesson Check instructions on Google Classroom Remember to upload at the end of the lesson. 
11:45-12:45	 Lunchtime Help prepare and enjoy your lunch.
12:45-1:30	Get Physical! Watch an exercise video or just get out in the garden or go to the park! Have fun! Try a Joe Wicks Workout: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ 

Anytime	<p>Play Play Play!</p> <p>Try to take some time to play as a family or with brothers and sisters.</p> <p>Board games, puzzles and card games are great but so is building a castle with lego or bricks!</p> <p>Do some artwork- sketching, painting or collaging- make something amazing!</p> <p>Relax by watching a great film- cartoons or a classic.</p> <p>Rock out to your favourite music or try some classical or jazz for a change- it's up to you!</p>
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