

MAYES PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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 and a minimum of 3 hours by the Department for Education.
- We have attached a suggested timetable for the Remote Learning day which demonstrates how this can be achieved. This is a suggestion only and should be adapted to your own home situation as regards timings or how your children will access electronic devices.
- All remote learning will be provided as PowerPoint slides on Google Classroom so that children can access these at a time convenient to you. All work should be completed in the school's Homework books provided to your child.
- The timetable and PowerPoints will also provide recommended educational games, websites and videos to support your child's learning when at home- please make good use of these. Times Tables Rock Stars is a particular favourite!
- Teachers will be in contact with children through Google Classroom- answering questions and providing feedback on a daily basis. Any questions? Please do ask.

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 quiet space for learning and balance the day into 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.

- Every child should have a Mayes Park Homework book to complete their homework in when offline. If not pencil and paper will also do the job!



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What we expect from your child

It's important that your child engages with home learning so they complete the work teachers are setting online and upload it so it can be checked before the next piece of work is set.

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 in accessing online materials and 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 by asking them about their day and what they've learned.

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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Parent's 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 quiet and comfortable but 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 mainly be communicating through Google Classroom.

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.

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. Help students 'own' their learning

No one expects parents to be full-time teachers or educational experts. Please provide support and encouragement, and expect your children to do their part. Struggling is allowed and encouraged! Don't help so much that you are doing the work for them! Becoming independent takes lots of practice.

Message the teacher on Google Classroom with questions - they will be able to provide help where needed.

5. Talk about the Learning

In the morning, you might want to ask:

- What subjects do you have today?
- How will you spend your time?
- Is there anything you need to do your work?
- What can I do to help?

At the end of the day you might ask:

- How far did you get in your learning today?
- What did you discover? What was tricky?
- What could we do to make tomorrow better?



These conversations will help older children to think about and process instructions from their teachers and helps them organise themselves.

Younger children will need more support to help them understand the learning and read or understand instructions.

6. 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.

7. 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



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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!

8. 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.

9. 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.



10. Connect safely with friends, and be kind

Your older children may wish to maintain contact with friends through social media and other online technologies.



Please remember to monitor your child's social media use.

Remind your child to be polite, respectful and appropriate in their messages, and to follow school guidelines.

Report unkindness and other problems so that everyone maintains healthy relationships and positive interactions.

Please see the school's [e-safety guide](#).



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A Suggested Remote Learning Schedule

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
8:15	What's happening today? Check any marking feedback or messages on Google Classroom from your teacher. Talk through what is happening today so your child knows what to do and has all the resources they need: pencil, homework book, paper, devices etc. Make sure the learning area is all set up. 
8:30-9:30	Reading Lesson Check instructions on Google Classroom Remember to photograph your learning from your Homework book and upload at the end of the lesson.
9:30- 9:45	 Handwriting Practice Why not try daily practice of specific letters, words or passage. This helps to keep skills sharp and handwriting neat. Choose your own or ask an adult for suggestions.
9:45-10:45	English Writing Lesson Check instructions on Google Classroom Remember to upload at the end of the lesson. 
10:45- 11:15	 Snack time Cut up some fruit, make some toast or a tasty treat. Help out adults and talk about healthy choices! Keep up with world events by spending a few minutes watching Newsround and have a chat about it after. https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround
11:15-11:30	Maths games Try these online games! Choose the right level to challenge yourself. Check with your teacher if there are any games just right for you. https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/42783 (Times Table Rock stars) https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button https://www.purplemash.com/ https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?Subject=16 https://www.mathplayground.com/math-games.html https://www.mathsisfun.com/games/ 
11:30-12:30	Maths Lesson Check instructions on Google Classroom Remember to upload at the end of the lesson. 

12:30-1:30	 Lunchtime Enjoy your lunch and maybe spend some time outside.
1:30-2:00	Quiet Reading Quiet reading of a new or favourite book is a great activity that builds a love of reading for life! https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/ https://www.storynory.com/ https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/ Don't forget to clarify any unknown words using: https://www.collinsdictionary.com/ 
2:00-2:30	Get Physical! Watch an exercise video, try to keep up the school's daily mile challenge or just get out in the garden! Have fun! Try a Joe Wicks Workout: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaXW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ 
2:30-3:30	Topic Lesson Check instructions on Google Classroom Remember to upload at the end of the lesson. 
Anytime	Share a story We all love to listen to a story- also try Youtube they have some great story tellers https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/ https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/audio-stories/zh3t2sg https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/storyteller-videos/
4:00	Learning catch up How did it all go today? Any challenges? How did you overcome them? What might help next time?
Anytime	Play Play Play! Try to take some time off screen to play as a family or with brothers and sisters. Board games, puzzles and card games are great but so is building a castle with lego or bricks! Do some artwork- sketching, painting or collaging- make something amazing! Relax by watching a great film- cartoons or a classic. Rock out to your favourite music or try some classical or jazz for a change- it's up to you! 