

The Aldgate School: information about our remote education



This document is designed to help us share relevant information with you about our remote education offer.

Spring 2021

Our Vision

Our vision is that Every member of our school community will develop a questioning approach to faith, grounded in the principles of Christian hope, which prompts everyone to seize every opportunity for growth, to look beyond themselves and lovingly serve their community and the wider world.

Faith, hope and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love.

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 where national or 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 document

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

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

As we have had a number of bubbles burst and periods of remote learning, we are able to turn around the remote education on the Google Classroom quite quickly now. In the event that it takes a little longer to arrange then please use the information below to support you.

Your child will have brought home a folder of documents and activities that are age appropriate that they can be having a go at in the first day or so if necessary. In this folder is also a blank timetable that you can be completing with your child to help them plan and navigate through each day.

Your child has access to the following online resources that they can use immediately to support their learning:

- Google Classroom (Reception to Y6)
- Mathletics (Y1 to Y6)
- Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS)
- Duolingo (Y1 to Y6)

Your child should also have at least 1 reading book at home. Usually they will have a reading book that is at their individual reading level and they will have a library book.

Your child's school diary has a number of activities, facts and vocabulary in them to learn. They could be accessing these as revision.

Children in Year 3 and above should have their stringed instrument at home that they can be practising. Music that the children are learning is available on the Vamoosh Youtube Channel.

If your child is in the Early Years then you will have access to a number of these resources however activities that involve mark making, counting, spotting things and describing them and helping to develop independence skills are all a good start.

Our school website (including Casskids), Youtube channel and Twitter feed have a number of learning activities and stories for all ages that your child can be having a go at.

If you require resources at home such as; pens / pencils, paper, books, technology or internet then let the school know straight away and we can arrange for you to pick the necessary equipment up from school. If you are unable to get to school we may be able to arrange alternative ways to get the required resources to you.

If you would like further guidance in these instances then your child's class teacher or the school can be contacted to give you more support.

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?

In the case of simultaneously running remote learning and keyworker or vulnerable children provision in school, yes. We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations to timetables and in some subjects. For example, we may need to do subjects such as food technology or PE on different days in order for all of the children in the school to remain safely distanced.

The way that lessons are delivered will be via Google Classroom for all children.

We will cover all of the subjects over time although there may be some weeks where a single subject isn't covered. This is most likely to be the case when project based learning is taking place.

Remote teaching and study time each day

How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?

The Department for Education has set minimum expectations for the amount of remote learning that is expected to take place daily. Our planning exceeds this guidance as some children work at a different pace to others and what is too much for one family is not enough for another. We ask that you do what you can, that you do a bit every day and that wherever possible you do a minimum of maths and English daily:

Key Stage	Minimum Expectations from the DfE
EYFS	3 hours
Key Stage 1	3 hours
Key Stage 2	4 hours

Accessing remote education

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

Most of our remote learning is done via Google Classrooms. The teachers will upload planning, assignments and videos here in order for children to access and complete.

Occasionally we may use a video that is posted on our school's Youtube channel or elsewhere on the internet. In these instances the links will be shared with your children via the Google Classroom.

For Children in Reception to Year 3 we have access to the Oxford Owl electronic books to support emerging and developing readers.

For children in Year 3 and above we use the Accelerated Reader programme for reading. Children can access this from home.

Other platforms we use include:

- Mathletics
- Duolingo
- TTRS
- Zoom

Usernames and passwords are in the front of your child's homework diaries. For Zoom, we will publish the meeting links in advance of the sessions.

We may use workbooks such as the GCP reading comprehension or SpaG books. Your child's class teacher may ask that workbooks or new reading books are collected from school as required.

In some circumstances, such as in the Early Years, staff may put together active learning packs for your child to be using at home (rather than relying on technology). These will be available for collection from the school office.

You are able to use the school library to change books as often as you need, as long as you inform the school before you come (so that we can ensure access and resources are available for you).

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 enough online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

- If you don't have access to technology at home for your child or children to engage with their remote learning then please contact the school. We have a number of devices that we are able to loan out on a needs basis. Please contact the headteacher or the office in order to be put on the waiting list for one of these devices – you can do this via email or by phoning school. If we offer you the loan of a device you will be required to sign a loan agreement form before you can take it home.
- If you have limited or no internet connection then you may wish to contact the school – via phone or email to request support. We have a number of SIM cards with data and we have a number of hot spot access passes that we may be able to allocate you with. If the concern is about the amount of data you are using due to remote learning then you may wish to contact your internet provider – most of the providers are offering additional data free of charge for families with children who are remote learning currently.
- If printed materials are required then you may inform the school (by phone or email) and we will print out the necessary items for you to collect at a pre arranged time.
- Work can be submitted to teachers by dropping completed exercises into school or by posting learning. If the issue is with consistent internet access rather than no internet then you may wish to email completed learning to the class teacher.
- There may be some instances where children are eligible for a place in school if we have exhausted other options. If you think this may be your child then contact the office or the Headteacher via email or phone.

School email address: office@thealdgateschool.org

School phone number: 02072831147

Some examples of our remote teaching approaches: we use a combination of the following

- Pre recorded teaching by teachers in our school
- Resources made available on the Google classroom
- Printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- Textbooks and reading books pupils have at home
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences
- Long-term project work and/or internet research activities (as per the schools full opening guidance, schools are expected to avoid an over-reliance on these approaches)
- Live Zoom sessions
- Assignments and discussions on Google classroom
- Parents, carers and pupils are able to email the classteacher throughout the day for support and to ask questions as needed.

Wherever possible teaching and learning opportunities will be delivered by the class teacher, however when members of staff are unwell or they are needed in school due to high numbers or another emergency, we will ensure that your child continues to receive remote instruction at home although this may be from different members of staff within the school. In the highly unlikely event that we are unable to deliver this remote learning using staff within the school we would be in touch with you to let you know our plans to ensure continued learning opportunities for your child.

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?

- We expect that all children have a go at the learning each day.
- We expect that children will try their best at the learning and will let us know, via the Google classroom if they are finding something difficult and want extra help.
- We expect parents to support their child with a consistent daily routine.
- We expect parents to let the school know if their child is struggling with the remote learning or experiencing any wellbeing or mental health issues.
- We expect parents to let the school know if their child is unwell and not able to do the set learning for the day.
- We expect parents to support their children to have the right equipment and resources in a safe space for them to carry out their remote learning.
- We expect parents to contact the school if they need any support with getting hold of necessary resources.
- We expect parents to know if their children are doing the remote learning and to offer praise and encouragement at the relevant points and support and advice if needed.
- We don't expect parents to do all of the work for their children.
- We don't expect parents to be the teacher.
- We don't expect remote learning to be completed at the expense of family wellbeing and mental health.
- We know that many parents have full time jobs that they are juggling with supporting their child's home learning – which can be particularly challenging when a child is younger or requires additional support. We expect that these parents have a go at supporting some learning each day and remain in regular contact with the child's classteacher.
- We expect that parents have a basic awareness of internet safety and support their children to use technology appropriately.

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

- Staff in your child's class will be able to check how well your child is engaging with their home learning through their activity and interaction on the Google classroom.
- Staff in your child's class will know who has attended live Zoom sessions and who has handed in any assignments.
- Staff will inform the leadership team if they have concerns about a child's engagement. The staff member may call parents to discuss ways to support this.
- The office may contact parents and carers to check wellbeing of a child if there hasn't been much engagement or interaction during the week.
- A member of the leadership team may call the parents and speak to them about their child's engagement. They may ask to speak with the child to get to the root of the problem.
- If there is difficulty making contact then a member of staff may carry out a home visit to check wellbeing and explore possible ways of re engaging a family.
- Persistent refusal to engage may lead to intervention from the Education Welfare Officer of the local authority or Early Help services.

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

Feedback can take many forms and does not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

- Whole class feedback might be given in a subject such as English when a teacher has looked at many submissions of the children's learning and then put together a document and pre recorded a session about how to edit and improve on specific features.
- Group feedback might be given during live Zoom sessions.
- Google quizzes
- Peer marking overseen by the staff member
- By the children checking their answers with the textbook and feeding back to the teacher on their mistakes
- By using success criteria that children can evaluate their own work and decide on next steps
- By giving direct feedback on the assignments handed in.
- By sending an email.
- By making a phonecall if necessary
- It is important that children receive regular feedback, in order to remain motivated and engaged and in order to be able to make progress with their learning.
- Children should be engaged with daily.

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:

- We may invite your child to come into school for a part of the week.
- We may offer additionally differentiated work for your child to complete.
- We may offer additional check ins with your child.
- We may offer live intervention sessions with your child.
- We may offer targeted online programs such as Nessy.
- We know that technology is not always the best method for learning for some children and we will take this into consideration when planning for children with additional needs.
- We may suggest an order of learning for you to focus on – for example doing maths and English first.
- We may send additional resources such as visuals and timetables that you can be using at home.

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?

In the event that your child is isolating, you will be able to access the weekly planning overview on the school website and your child will be able to complete their home learning on the Google Classroom. Your child will receive feedback and some engagement from staff in school however it might not be your child's class teacher.

You may be invited to collect resources from school to supplement your child's isolation learning.

If you require additional support for your child's isolation learning then please contact the school and we will support you where we can.