

Decoy Community Primary School Remote Learning and Support Offer for KS1 and KS2 - Spring Term 2021

DfE guidance on remote learning: *The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and will include both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. The amount of remote education provided should be, as a minimum:*

- *Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children*
- *Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day*

This document outlines how Decoy Community Primary School will provide remote learning, access to devices and support for parents.

Now that the term is underway and we have had time to review our remote learning provision, we would like to share with you regarding how this will look at Decoy Community Primary School.

Two learning platforms are being used for remote learning across school. KS1 are using Tapestry whilst KS2 are using Google Classroom. If you encounter any problems with this, please contact your child's class teacher.

Each week, a timetable will be uploaded for the week showing the lessons planned. This timetable will closely mirror the timetable of that which is taking place in school for critical workers'/vulnerable children. Each day, teachers will also upload the learning requirements and resources for each lesson. This may include teacher/adult led videos, PowerPoint presentations, online links, worksheets, activities, physical exercise etc. We suggest that, where possible, children try and start their school day at the usual time and finish at the usual time, taking breaks/lunchbreaks and following the general timetable of the day. This should help them to keep to a routine and provide structure to their day. We do appreciate however, that this is not always feasible in every household and it may suit some families to do things in a slightly different order or at a slightly different time to that which is suggested.

As of next week (week beginning Monday 18th January), we will be piloting a new approach to the time at which work will be uploaded for each day. This will involve teachers uploading lessons so that they are available at 6pm on the day before it is required. Parental feedback has suggested that by having work further in advance, parents/carers will be able to download resources provided by the teacher and print off work the day before, so that children can start their day promptly in the morning; this will also allow parents/carers to begin their working day promptly without waiting for tasks to be uploaded. We hope that this change is helpful.

Daily teaching and tasks will mirror, as closely as possible, the learning which is taking place in school on that particular day; this includes the work being on the same theme/topic as that being taught in the classroom. For example, if the children in school are learning about Roman mosaics and creating their own, the children carrying out remote learning at home may carry out an activity relating to Roman mosaics if

possible but if not, their work would be closely related to the same topic e.g. Romans for history or an art activity as part of the children's art curriculum.

During each week, one teacher from your child's year group will be in school teaching the critical workers'/vulnerable children whilst the other teacher's time will be dedicated to remote learning and responding to any difficulties that may arise during the day via the learning platforms being used. It would be helpful for all completed work to be uploaded to the learning platforms as soon as it is completed in order to give the teachers time to look over this work and respond as necessary.

Teachers who are working from home will endeavour to respond to queries regarding remote learning between the times of 9:00am – 3:30pm each day; they will obviously take time for breaks/lunch during this time. This will mean that (after 3:30pm) they will carry out additional tasks related to their general teaching commitments.

NB: Work can still be submitted after 3:30pm each day.

Teachers will give feedback via written, verbal and group feedback using Google Meet and Tapestry. Feedback will increasingly relate to the learning content of the work although in the early stages of the lockdown, a focus will be ensuring high levels of engagement through praise and encouragement.

Teachers will monitor pupils' level of engagement. They will follow up any concerns with parents in the first instance and then pass these onto the Senior Leadership Team, if necessary, so that we can ensure that we are doing everything we can to support your child/ren.

At Decoy, since the initial lockdown, we have listened carefully to feedback from children, parents and staff at school as well as liaising with other schools and keeping up-to-date with government guidance. As a result of this, we would like to share with you some of the changes which we will be putting into place for next week.

- We have planned for a greater number of face-to-face teacher interactions with children. This includes recorded adult-led teaching videos (either by staff at school or by respected online providers such as Oak Academy, BBC, SPARX, Read, Write, Inc.).
- During the start of the day (time to be confirmed by your child's class teachers), children in each year group will be invited to a 'live' meeting with their teacher. This meeting may also involve the children who are in school that day although they will not be seen on screen at this time. The purpose of the meeting is to allow teachers to keep in contact with the children in their class and have an opportunity to go through the teaching and learning tasks for the day and give a clear starting point to the day's remote learning.
- For 'live' meetings in KS1, a Zoom link will be sent to parents via Tapestry. KS2's 'live' meetings will take place through Google Meet; the link for this will be available through Google Classroom. A child's own camera can be turned off from home if this is parental preference.

NB: We will shortly be sending out a consent form for parents/carers of children in KS2, to give permission for their child to be part of these meetings. Children whose parents /carers have not provided permission should ensure their child/ren know that they should not join the 'live' meet-up; they will however, be able to access the recording, which will be uploaded shortly after the meeting. If we can get a prompt response to this form for enough children from each

class in KS2, we have every intention of **starting these meetings from Wednesday 20th January**; your child's teachers will communicate with you about this. **For children in KS1, parents/carers will need to log their child onto the meeting and supervise their child during the 'live' meet.** It is assumed that if you join the 'live' meeting, you have consented for your child to be part of it and are happy for the meeting to be recorded so that it can be uploaded for other children, who were not able to attend the meeting, to watch at a later time.

ANY RECORDED MEETINGS MUST NOT BE UPLOADED ONTO ANY OTHER SITES OR SHARED VIA SOCIAL MEDIA OR SHARED WITH ANY OTHER PARTIES – thank you.

- For those children/families who may be unable to make the 'live' meetings at the allocated times (this may include those families who have a number of children), as previously stated, we will record the meetings so that they can be made available for children to watch at another more convenient time for them. Again, for KS2, permission for the meetings to be recorded will be part of the consent form and further details with regard to this will be provided as part of the communication alongside the form.
- Each day, teachers will upload a recording of approximately ten minutes, reading a section of their class book or a story. This recording will be shared with the children at home and will also be heard by the children in school.
- Reading slots will also be included in the timetable so that each child has an opportunity to read each day. For some year groups, this will be up to 30 minutes of reading (often independent for our older children and more fluent readers).
- Children will be contacted via telephone, at least once a fortnight, by their child's class teacher unless they have been in school during each two-week period. This will allow the chance for children to have a private interaction (with parents/carers of the child also present) with their child's class teacher which can help with children's feeling of belonging to school, their motivation to work and their overall general well-being alongside other positive benefits. Some families may have received phone calls already but this contact will be starting officially next week so please expect to receive at least one call during each fortnight from then. **NB: When teachers call, please be aware that this will often be a withheld number (NO CALLER ID) if they are not calling from school.**
- Each week on a Monday, beginning Monday 25th January, a Headteacher's assembly will be uploaded to your child's learning platform for children to watch at home. On Friday each week, Mr Lee will hold a Celebration Assembly, which will also be uploaded onto your child's learning platform; for this assembly, individual children will be recognised for their efforts both in school and through remote learning at home.

At school, we have been in contact with many families to ensure that they are able to access our remote learning provision and hope that our support with this has been helpful. We have recently purchased a number of devices which will hopefully make life much easier for our families who have experienced some difficulties. A form will be sent out so that families can let us know if they would like to be considered for a device loan.

Finally, some children will need work packs to be printed by us, here at school, so they can access the learning. We have arrangements in place for these to be collected on a weekly basis at which time previously completed work can also be returned.

Support for parents

Supporting children with home learning is a challenge for many parents. Parents will have support from teachers via daily Google Meets for children and have email access to those teachers providing home learning. Where we know that parents are struggling for whatever reason, staff will be able to connect with parents and give advice on structuring the learning day, managing expectations and exploring ways of providing motivators for children.

Thank you for your patience whilst you have waited for further updates from us. We strive to keep improving our practice and responding to constructive comments in your feedback. Once again, we have been overwhelmed by your positivity towards school and our staff at Decoy and your recognition that we are trying our very best during extremely challenging times. We would like to thank you for all that you are doing to support your children and us a school during what is also a very challenging time for many families once more.

A summary version of information about our Remote Learning and Support offer will be posted on our website www.decoyschool.co.uk by 25th January 2021.