

Decoy Community Primary School Remote Learning and Support Offer for Nursery and Reception - Spring Term 2021

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

Now that the term is underway and we have had time to review our remote learning provision, we would like to share with you some useful information regarding how this will look in Nursery and Reception.

The learning platform being used for remote learning will be Tapestry. If you encounter any problems with this, please contact your child's class teacher. In Nursery this will be Mrs Smith or Miss Potter and in Reception it will be Mrs Fraser, Mrs Cammack or Mrs Donnai.

Your child's class teacher will upload a timetable for a typical day. This timetable closely mirrors the activities taking place in school/nursery. Each day, teachers will also upload the learning requirements and resources for each lesson. This will include a combination of tasks from across the Early Years curriculum that have been specifically chosen to develop particular skills. 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 at the relevant times 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 by 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 view the activities provided by the teacher and prepare any resources needed the day before, so that children can start their day promptly in the morning; this will allow some adults 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 being taught in school in that lesson on that particular day; this includes the work being on the same theme/topic as that being taught in the classroom/nursery, however, it might be that the activities are slightly different.

In Reception, 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 platform being used. The Nursery staff will be on site and responding to observations that you have posted. With this in mind, please bear with us if we are not able to respond as promptly as we would like to.

It would be helpful for all completed work to be uploaded to Tapestry 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 be available to respond to any aspects of 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.

Government guidance states that primary schools must:

- *Have systems for checking, at least weekly, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern.*
- *Gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks.*
- *Provide feedback, at least weekly, using "digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate".*

Teachers will give feedback via written, verbal and group feedback on Tapestry. In Reception, feedback will increasingly relate to the learning content of the work although in the early stages of the lockdown, ensuring high levels of engagement through praise and encouragement.

In Reception, 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 Read, Write, Inc.).
- During the start of the day (time to be confirmed by your child's class teachers), children in Reception 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. Unfortunately, it will not be possible for the Nursery teachers to hold a 'live meeting' but they will post video messages for the duration of the lockdown.

- For 'live' meetings, a Zoom link will be sent to parents via Tapestry. A child's own camera can be turned off from home if this is parental preference.

We have every intention of starting these meetings from Wednesday 20th January and your child's teachers will communicate with you about this.

NB: We kindly ask that parents support their child to log on to their meeting and then supervise their child(ren) for the duration of the live meeting. 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 includes those families who have a number of children accessing devices at similar times), 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.
- Each day, a member of the Early Years Team will record themselves reading a story. This will be published on Tapestry by 6pm so that you may use it as a bedtime story if you wish. The great thing about this is that the Reception children will be able to see the familiar faces of some of the Nursery staff again and the Nursery children will be able to see some of the staff who work in Reception – this will help to support the transition to school next academic year. Please also note that it is extremely important for children to hear stories more than once so feel free to revisit any stories as many times as you would like to.
- Reception children will be contacted via telephone at least once, on a fortnightly basis, 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. This 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.**

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 Reception children may 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 is returned.

Support for parents

Supporting children with home learning is a challenge for many parents. Parents will have support from teachers via daily Zoom meetings 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 by responding to constructive comments in your feedback. Once again, we have been overwhelmed by your positivity towards school and our staff at Decoy and First Steps Nursery 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 at 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.