



Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I hope that you are all well and that you are all finding a way to make the remote education that is being shared with you work for **your family**. As I have said in previous communication, we know that each family is different and what works well for one family will not for another, so please know that we hold **no expectation on exactly how this is done**, but I wanted to send this letter just to clarify a few points regarding remote education. I hope that this helps.

Can I please take this opportunity to thank you all for the **incredible amount of support** and kind words that we as a team have received from you. These are extremely difficult and busy times for you all- for a variety of reasons: juggling working from home with home-learning; trying to support multiple children with home-learning; trying to balance parenting and supporting learning etc., and the fact that you have found the time to share this support means a lot. **So on behalf of the whole Manor Farm team- thank you!**

We have been absolutely astounded by the **quality of the work** that is being shared. Not only that, but also the **enthusiasm and dedication** that the children are showing in sharing their learning in a variety of ways. I am sure that the teaching staff would agree that it certainly makes the hard work that they are putting in to the planning and feedback of the remote education worth it.

How will my child access the remote education on offer?

For children in **Reception**, remote education will be shared on **Tapestry**. A story will also be shared daily on **Seesaw**. Please can all learning that the children share be uploaded on to Tapestry **only** though.

For children in **Year 1 to 4**, remote education will be shared on **Seesaw**. Access codes for Seesaw were shared with everyone in the home-learning books that were delivered to homes.

Will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

We will teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we may need to make some adaptations in some subjects.

It is important that the learning that all children complete at home is **guided by the remote education that is shared by their class teacher**. We have taken the decision that targeted learning will be **shared daily** rather than taking an approach where children are able to choose the learning that they complete. This is to ensure that all of the children access the same curriculum as each other and are able to make progress across all subjects (not just the ones they have strengths in and enjoy the most).



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We will also be sharing sessions which will promote the importance of well-being and physical activity. Please try to ensure that wherever possible your child, as well as yourselves, engage in these as these areas are such an important part of all of our lives.

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

We expect that the remote education will take pupils **broadly 3 hours** within their day. Of course, this time may well be less for our younger pupils and children are welcome to spend more time on their learning should they want to.

We equally acknowledge that being at home with your child will also provide additional opportunities beyond this time for learning e.g. cooking together, talking about things in the news, going for a walk etc.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:

- Recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- Written explanations of activities which will be shared on Seesaw or Tapestry
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences

We have taken the decision not to share “live” lessons and instead make use of pre-recorded videos. This is for a number of reasons, including: the difficulty in siblings within a household accessing these at the same time; problems around teachers not being able to give instant feedback to the work that the children complete and just how difficult it would be to cater for individual needs.

As those of you who have more than one child within the academy will undoubtedly be aware, each of the class teachers shares the remote education on offer in differing ways and they all have their own unique styles! This is because, just like when teaching in the classroom, our highly skilled staff know what works best for your children. They know what they need to do in order to engage them in the learning- whether that is an exciting “hook” in literacy or through positive and targeted instant feedback.

How will my child’s learning be assessed?

Your child’s learning will still be reviewed and assessed during this period of remote education.

Of course, we love seeing all of the learning experiences that the children are accessing whilst they are at home, but we have taken the decision that **Class Teachers will only comment on shared learning which directly links to the remote education that they have provided.** This is to reduce their workload but also so that they can focus the comments and assessments they make on the curriculum that we have designed for our academy. As always, results of student feedback will be used to inform future teaching, so please encourage your child to share their learning with their class teacher.



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Teaching staff will contact parents, **should no learning be uploaded in any 36 hour period** Monday to Friday. If you know ahead of time that there will be a reason why your child will not be able to upload any learning, please just make us aware. Thank you to those of you who have already being doing this. Please understand that in doing this, we are **trying to best support you and your child** access the remote education that we share with you.

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

We ask that children:

- "Check-in" with their Class Teacher each day by answering the daily "Check-in Question". We are using this as our "Virtual Register".
- Do their best when completing the independent learning tasks.
- Request help through See Saw if they are unsure of what to do, or how to do it
- Strive to complete and upload the tasks which are set

We ask that parents and carers:

- Ensure that their child "Checks-in" each morning with the class teacher by answering the "Check-in Question"
- Ensure that during any online meetings, or in videos or photos that are shared, their child is appropriately dressed and in a shared family space
- Help children to log on to Seesaw or Tapestry as appropriate
- Monitor children's safe access to the internet
- Report any problems accessing learning to the class teacher
- Set routines at home to support your child's education (a suggested timetable of the day has been shared but of course this may need to be adapted to work for your family).

Should you have any questions regarding remote education, or if you are having any problems accessing the remote education being shared, please do get in touch with us. We want to be able to support you in any way that we can.

Kind Regards,

Andrea Collins

Head Teacher