

Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Remote Learning

As you may be aware, schools have been asked to provide remote learning for any child who cannot attend school because of COVID19 when they are self-isolating at home. The Department for Education have set expectations for schools with regards to remote learning. This letter explains our plans for remote learning at Crossways.

Reasons why children may be self-isolating include:

- Children with symptoms themselves, self-isolating whilst awaiting test results – in this case, children may be unwell and unable to engage with their learning at home, at least initially until they feel better;
- Children who have tested positive and must stay at home and follow government guidance re self-isolating;
- Other members of the household have symptoms and are awaiting tests results. Therefore the whole household is self-isolating;
- Another member of the household has confirmed positive for Covid-19 and therefore the household is isolating for 14 days;
- NHS Test and Trace have advised the need to self-isolate;
- The class bubble is self-isolating due to a confirmed case in their class bubble.

At Crossways, we have been providing home learning for pupils who are self-isolating since the start of the academic year. We are dedicated to providing the best possible education for our pupils – whether they are learning at home or in school, and have worked really hard to develop our remote learning plan, building on the School's previous remote learning during the last lockdown. We are striving to find the most successful ways to work with families, to ensure that when children need to isolate, that they are able to continue with their learning and that, as far as possible, it is aligned to the learning happening in class.

What is the Crossways remote learning plan?

Our remote learning plan has been made with our pupils and families in mind. We believe that our strategy will work best for the children at Crossways.

On the first day of parents informing school that their child is self-isolating, we will ensure that you have access to a remote learning pack. In this instance, the class teacher will be teaching the rest of the class, so our teachers have a pre-prepared pack for you and your child to use on the first day they are absent.

From the following day, you will be provided with remote learning, which is closely aligned to the learning that is happening in class.

We are using Google Classroom to set work and also as a vehicle for communication between home and school. All children have been provided with a log in for Google Classroom and during term one all classes were set some home learning via Google Classroom in order for them to have the opportunity to practise using it and making sure they can access it from home. We hope to have already supported any families who have had any difficulties with accessing Google classroom last term, however if you do need any help, please do contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to help.

Teachers will provide a range of activities including daily maths, daily English and at least one other subject each day. Children will also be encouraged to keep up with other learning including Times Tables practise, Reading and Spellings. Please do also continue to use TT Rock Stars and Mathletics.

We will be using the Oak National Academy resources to support with providing video lessons for teaching new content. The lessons we have chosen to use are carefully selected to ensure they align with the learning in class.

How can I get help with my child's remote learning?

Please continue to use the year group email addresses to get in contact with your child's class teacher if you require any help with the remote learning. Unless the whole class is self-isolating, the teacher will be teaching the rest of their class and therefore, will only be able to respond to parents at the end of the school day.

How will my child's class teacher contact me and/or provide feedback to my child? How often might this happen?

Teachers will check Google Classroom regularly and will be asking children to submit their work via Google Classroom. Depending on the task, teachers may provide individual feedback to your child on their work – just as they would if they were marking the work in school. Not all pieces of work will need to be submitted or marked. In the event of a whole class bubble isolating, teachers will provide more regular contact to families, including a welcome each morning and overview of the day.

How much learning are children expected to do each day?

Teachers will provide a sample timetable with the remote learning. You may find it useful to stick to the suggested times so that it mirrors a school day, or you may choose different timings. It will be important that children have the opportunity to complete the remote learning set so that they are able to keep up with the learning in class.

Teachers will be monitoring children's engagement in the learning. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers if they need support with this.

What if my child is ill? Are they still expected to complete the learning?

If your child is ill, please continue to report this to the school in the usual way. Children are not expected to continue with remote learning if they are unwell and we ask that parents use their judgement on this, just as you usually would in deciding if your child is well enough to attend school.

What will I need at home?

Ideally, children will need access to a computer, laptop or tablet that has access to the internet. It would also be really useful for them to have some paper and pencils to work with.

Children will need a designated space to do their work in, preferably a quiet place where they can work without interruption.

What happens if we do not have computer access?

Families who do not have access to computers at home can be provided with paper copies of the remote learning. Please contact your child's teacher for further information.

What can we do to help?

We appreciate that if the situation arises, it 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 with accessing online materials and with staying focused with their remote learning. We ask that you help them as much as you can.

At the same time, we recognise that you may not be able to be involved in your child's learning all day. For older children, this might involve making time to discuss with them at the start of the day what learning they have been set and then reviewing how they got on later in the day and what they have learned.

Top Tips for remote learning

- encourage your child to be up, dressed and ready for the start of the school day and to keep to their timetable;
- make it clear when school starts and finishes – to separate home and school life;
- plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active.

There are already some families who accessed remote learning during term one. We would be grateful for any feedback from parents on this. If you are happy to share your thoughts, please email the school office.

As always, please do contact the school if you have any questions or if you require help with remote learning.

Yours faithfully,

The Crossways Federation Leadership Team