

Finstall First School 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 if 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 page.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

A pupil's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching.

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

As we are, understandably, experiencing higher absence rates, the staff will be placing work in the online Year Group Home Learning folders on a weekly basis. The work provided will be activities that can easily be completed at home if children feel well enough. This work will be taken from the curriculum being completed in School during the same week so that it is current but it will mainly be work that is self-explanatory as it will not come with detailed explanations. This is only aimed at children who are absent for short periods of time. Should individual children be off School for longer periods of time, Class Teachers will send home a more tailored pack of work for them to complete if they feel up to it. Any work completed at home should be brought back into School when the children return. In addition, they would also be able to send work in electronically, including some assessed pieces. Feedback would be provided for all work returned but more detailed feedback would be given following receipt of assessed pieces. We hope that this will help to maintain the children's learning during such absences and prevent them from falling behind their class-mates.

We have provided every pupil with an exercise book, which we would like them to keep at home. We would like them to use this book to complete work in should they ever be absent from School or should we have to close a Class bubble for reasons related to Covid-19. They should not use this book for weekly homework tasks. Hopefully, they will not be required to use the book but, should we have to close a bubble at any point, we wanted to ensure that all of the children had a book in which they could complete the work that would be set. In the event of wider, longer-term School closures, additional exercise books will be provided.

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?

We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, we have adapted the curriculum in subjects such as PE and Music so that the activities are accessible to children both at home and at School – some team games would be difficult within the home environment and not all parents would have access to musical instruments.

Remote teaching and study time each day

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

We expect that remote education (**including remote teaching and independent work**) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

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

Accessing remote education

How will my child access any online remote education you are providing and what will generally be provided?

The children's work will be placed in the Year Group's Home Learning Folders, within Office 365's One Drive. Parents have been provided with a link to this. There will be a weekly folder, containing the work to be completed each day. As this system struggled to cope with the number of videos posted by staff, explaining the work set, the accompanying videos can now be found on each Year Group's YouTube Channel.

Each day, there will be at least two videos (one for English and one for Maths) containing direct teaching and explanations from Class Teachers. Some children, especially in younger year groups may have a Phonics video session instead of, or as well as, an English video. There will be follow up work set for children to complete, independently, after each of these sessions. In addition, children should be reading each day and additional tasks may well be set on software such as Education City, Times Table Rock Stars, Maths Frame, Purple Mash, etc. Work will also be set each day from the Foundation subjects, so that the children are provided with a broad, balanced curriculum. As the children in Reception follow the EYFS curriculum, their work will not be under the same subject headings. However, the work will be set daily in the same way, covering the wide range of curriculum areas.

Some children may have been identified as requiring targeted support (e.g. through the Catch-up Premium or because they have SEND) and these may receive some short Live Learning sessions each week through Zoom.

Each afternoon, the children will have the opportunity to join a Class Zoom session, which can be used for the following:

- to provide feedback to children about the work they have returned
- to go over anything again that the children found difficult
- to provide the children with opportunities to share and discuss their work
- to provide pastoral support
- to play games to assist with socialization
- to read a story or discuss a topic
- to provide some time for the children to chat

They will join this from a link that will be sent to each child's parents.

We will also be trialing some whole class Live Learning sessions to assess their effectiveness.

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

- In some cases, we may be able to issue or lend laptops or tablets to pupils
- In some cases, we may be able to issue or lend devices that enable an internet connection (for example, routers or dongles)
- In some cases, if it is more appropriate, we will provide your child(ren) with access to printed materials and we can arrange alternative ways for you to submit work to their teachers (if you do not have online access)

For more information on any of the points above, please contact the School Office either by telephone (01527 872938) or e-mail (office@finstallfirst.co.uk). Alternatively, you could contact your child's Class Teacher, through the Class e-mail address.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- recorded teaching (e.g. mostly video / audio recordings made by teachers, supplemented with some lessons from external sources such as Oak National Academy, BBC Bite-size, etc.) – at least two videos / day, focusing on English and Maths
- live teaching (online lessons) – mainly short sessions for small, targeted groups of pupils (e.g. SEND pupils, Pupil Premium pupils, Catch-up Premium – Phonics, Maths, etc.)
- resources that can be printed or completed online as independent tasks to supplement recorded teaching – an overview, containing detailed explanations in writing will also be provided
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets) for children unable to access online resources
- e- books pupils can access online through School subscriptions
- reading books can be made available to the small number of families who are unable to access online resources
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences (E.g. Education City, Purple Mash, Maths Frame, Times Table Rock-Stars, etc.)
- Daily Live Zoom meetings for each class (see above)

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?

Wherever possible, we expect:

- All of our pupils to engage with remote education
- Parents to provide support with the setting of routines to support their child's education. Parents shouldn't have to be by their children's side throughout the remote learning although younger children may require a little more support from parents to help them to stay on task.
- Parents to communicate with staff if they, or their child(ren) are experiencing any problems with the home learning or if they require any other support.

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

We understand that it is not always easy for parents or children to engage with home learning, especially whilst parents may have to manage a multitude of other responsibilities at the same time. We will check pupils' engagement with home learning daily. Should we notice that your child has not returned any work for 3 – 4 successive days, we will contact you, by e-mail or telephone, to ascertain why, with a view to offering support with this.

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

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

Staff will endeavour to provide brief feedback whenever they receive work from children or are shown work by children. We understand how this can really support children's engagement with home learning.

In addition, each week, the children will be asked to submit at least two pieces of work (e.g. one in English and one in Maths) for assessment purposes. This will usually follow a series of lessons on a particular topic. Instructions will be provided with regard to how to upload / return the work requested.

Staff will mark this work thoroughly, which will enable them to assess the level of understanding of individual pupils and provide specific feedback, which will help children to know what they did well and what they need to do next to improve further.

To assist with engagement, socialisation and to provide further opportunities for feedback, all Class Teachers will also be available for about 20 minutes / day for a Class Zoom meeting with any children who wish to join.

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:

The remote education provided should be designed to provide accessibility for all pupils. Children with SEND will be provided with work that is adapted or differentiated to meet their needs and allow them independent access to the work. Some pupils with SEND will also have access to targeted live learning, delivered to small groups through Zoom.

Feedback we have received from parents suggests that the recorded videos of Class Teachers delivering the learning have really helped to improve levels of engagement amongst our pupils and have helped to provide better access to the learning for younger pupils and pupils who generally find work more difficult than others.

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?

If a child is not in School because they are self-isolating, they will initially be able to access work that is placed in the online Year Group Home Learning folders on a weekly basis. The work provided will be activities that can easily be completed at home if children feel well enough. This work will be taken from the curriculum being completed in School during the same week so that it is current but it will mainly be work that is self-explanatory as it will not come with detailed explanations. This is only aimed at children who are absent for short periods of time. Should individual children be off School for longer periods of time, Class Teachers will send home a more tailored pack of work for them to complete if they feel up to it. Any work completed at home should be brought back into School when the children return. In addition, they would also be able to send work in electronically, including some assessed pieces. Feedback would be provided for all work returned but more detailed feedback would be given following receipt of assessed pieces.