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Dear Parents and carers,

Our approach to remote learning

Aspire primary schools have been working together to build on our experiences of supporting learning at home during the Autumn term. We have been working to develop a clear strategy to support remote learning if a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate due to Coronavirus.

As we are now in a National Lockdown, we are now entering a time where the majority of children will be learning remotely. We will therefore be committed to delivering the expectations as set out in our remote learning strategy. (See below)

This lockdown is different from any previous lockdowns as all children will be expected to engage with the full curriculum being provided by the school in order that they continue to progress and do not fall behind with their learning.

It will be the responsibility of all parents to ensure that their child is actively participating in all aspects of the school day – this will be from home for the majority of the children.

Teacher's will be expected to monitor engagement and will need to report any concerns.

We appreciate that there may be a few difficulties as we start this new way of learning - we are here to help so please do ask if you are struggling. We have learnt a lot from the bubbles who had to work in this way during the Autumn term and it is our experience that once children (and parents) have had a few goes they soon get the hang of it!

If the whole school is self-isolating because of a national lockdown.

In this case, our school is planning to work with you as follows from tomorrow Wednesday 5th January 2021:

Circumstance	Remote learning
We enter another 'lockdown' with total school closure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maths lessons uploaded to Microsoft Teams, following on/mirroring the maths being covered in the classroom at that time. This may be a combination of videos, the screens shared in the classroom and resources/worksheets used in the classroom. Some/all of these will be 'handed in' to your child's class teacher on Microsoft Teams for feedback or will be marked together.• English tasks uploaded to Microsoft Teams following the sequence of learning happening in the classroom. The quantity will be dependent on age/stage of your child. Some/all of these will be 'handed in' to your child's class teacher

	<p>on Microsoft Teams for feedback. This will include spelling/phonics, grammar, writing and reading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic task(s)/ foundation subjects will be uploaded to Microsoft Teams for children to complete. Some/all of these will be 'handed in' to your child's class teacher on Microsoft Teams for feedback . This will be lessons your child would have had during this time which can be most easily adapted to remote learning. • Twice daily live meets - (staggered through the morning from 8:45am and the afternoon from 12:45pm) to explain the instructions for the day/ feedback on lessons / self-marking and possible class story. This is an important opportunity for the children to see their teacher and classmates. Please see the timetable below which should mean there are no sibling clashes. • Possible small group video learning which will look different depending on the age of the children. This may be reading sessions, maths sessions or writing sessions delivered by the class teacher or teaching assistant. The sessions could run at various times during the normal school day in small groups. The frequency of when your child's sessions will occur will be communicated by your child's class teacher via email. All sessions will be set up through 'meetings' inside your child's Microsoft Teams account. This may not be in the case for every child – particularly in the initial weeks. • 1:1 support if your child receives 1:1 support and they are isolating, a more bespoke programme of support will be set up. This may include phone calls / video chats with your child's 1:1 support. They will usually be expected to still complete the learning set on Microsoft Teams. For the majority of children requiring this level of support they are expected to be in school. • There will be an expectation that your child continues to read daily and use the digital platforms (TTRockstars, Spelling Shed etc) already set up for the class.
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Timetable for Live Meets

Group	am
Year 5	8.45- 9.05
Year 6	9.05- 9.25
Year 4	9.25- 9.45
Year 3	9.45- 10.05

Years 1 and 2	10.05- 10.25
Reception	10.25- 10.45
Group	pm
Year 5	12.45-1.05
Year 6	1.05-1.25
Year 4	1.25-1.45
Year 3	1.45-2.05
Years 1 and 2	2.05- 2.25
Reception	2.25-2.45

Expectations for the children's engagement

- It is expected that all pupils engage with remote learning, on a regular basis. School understand the pressures of home learning and appreciate that children may not be able to log in to every session. School expects to see daily engagement, whether through posts online, submission of work or attendance at live sessions unless notified otherwise by parents. This is particularly important for those children who attend school part time as often the work builds on previous learning.
- Pupils to seek help if they need it, from teachers or teaching assistants
- Alert teachers if they're not able to complete work
- Continue following the standards set by their class teacher regarding handwriting and presentation of work and for every child to work to their best ability.
- Be appropriately dressed for live meets.

Supporting children's learning

- We would recommend creating a dedicated area for your child to work on their remote education and at the start of the lesson they have access to the appropriate resources (e.g. pencil, appropriate book/log-in details to the online learning platforms).

- Establish a routine that works for your family. School expects that on-line work is not accessed/submitted at unsociable times according to the age of the child and will contact parents if older children appear to be working at inappropriate times.
- Some regular time to move, exercise, and have a break will be beneficial for your child's home learning experience.
- Having log in details for education platforms to hand will also make this process easier for your child.
- Seek help from the school if they need it
- School expects families to be respectful of staff well-being and to understand that a response to communications should not be expected outside of the hours of a reasonable working day.

Assessing work and progress

Supportive feedback may be given live or in written form on Teams to pieces of work that are submitted by children. This will be appropriate to the age and reading ability of the child. It may take the form of a whole class comment in the next live session, in the posts section of the channel or an individual comment on a single piece or verbal feedback given in a meeting. Teachers will indicate to children whether an edit is required on returned work. A short praise comment will show that the teacher considers work to be of a good, appropriate standard.

Emails

Teachers will be happy to receive any questions or feedback from parents through your child's class email address. They will aim to respond to these in a timely manner but this may not be on the same day if a message is sent after 5pm. Please can we ask that any work that needs submitting, is only uploaded on Microsoft Teams and is not sent via the class email address in order that all work is stored in the same place.

Contingency measures for ill staff

If teachers become ill, support staff will 'take over' the provision of home learning with resources being identified by other teachers and members of the senior leadership team. If several teachers are sick, we will have to revise our plans and will let you know what we can put in place as soon as possible.

Access to technology

We know that access to remote learning is a challenge for some of our families and we are working to find solutions to support you. In some families, this is due to a lack of devices, in others there are parents working from home and multiple siblings managing timetables with only one device. If you are struggling with devices you may request to borrow an iPad from school. Please email head@hollinhey.cheshire.sch.uk.

Why are school not offering live lessons throughout the day?

There are a number of problems with live streaming lessons.

Not all children have the appropriate technology to access a live activity at a certain time on certain days. In some cases other children in the household are sharing devices; sometimes devices must be shared with parents who are also working from home.

Technology and connectivity can be a problem for some staff as well as some families. From a staff perspective, some of them, like you, will be juggling their own families whilst trying to deliver learning to your children.

Our experience during lockdown has shown that children do benefit from hearing their teacher introduce new learning wherever possible and we are continuing to look at ways to make online learning – both live and pre-recorded - increasingly accessible to all.

All Aspire schools are working to tackle these challenges flexibly and constructively. We will keep you informed of new developments and would like to thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Clough

Headteacher