



Eastbury Farm Primary School Remote Learning Policy 2020-21

Context

This policy has been produced following a period of lockdown from 23rd March – 17th July 2020 when schools were partially closed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Having reflected on our procedures during this period, this policy has been created ready for any possible bubble closures or future lockdowns which require primary schools to partially close again.

What happened between March and July?

- From 23rd March – 29th May, only children of key workers, children with EHCPs and children with social workers came into school. Staff worked on a rota system to look after these children and worked from home on the days they were not in school.
- Children not in school were set remote learning every Friday for the following week. This was posted on a dedicated area of our website. Each week supporting resources, supporting websites and weekly guidance was published in this dedicated area and all areas of the curriculum were covered for every year group. Parents were free to choose when they carried out the remote learning and were given the option to send in examples of the children's work to the school admin email address.
- Work set and completed using Spag.com, MyMaths.co.uk, RisingStars-uk.com, TTRockstars.com and 2Simple Parent Share gave instant feedback to the Teachers who set the work.
- From 1st June – 16th July, children in Nursey, Reception, Year 1, Year 4 and Year 6 were invited back into school (along with key worker and vulnerable children). The children who chose not to return and the children in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 continued to be set remote learning via our website. All staff were back in school working their normal hours.
- On 17th July, we invited the children in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 in for the day to see their Teachers and to have some closure on the year before moving to their new year group.
- Welfare calls were made by Class Teachers and our Pastoral Teacher, followed up by re-calling vulnerable families and families requesting further support.

What have we learnt?

- Most children engaged in our remote learning.
- Some children did no remote learning at all.
- The children have returned to school happy, but many have lost key skills, such as following instructions, self-organisation and dressing for PE etc.
- Few parents chose to email in their children's work.
- Some children have been taught incorrectly and will need basic concepts re-teaching, for example handwriting, maths concepts such as place value etc.
- Our biggest challenge in terms of catch-up is Year 1 as many of these children missed out on 4 months of Reception teaching and therefore have not made the solid foundations in learning they need to be able to progress through the KS1 curriculum.
- The children's mental health and wellbeing has generally been much better than we had anticipated.

What next?

How will we support children who need to self-isolate for short periods of up to 3 days?

- For children quarantining or self-isolating for only a few days (a likely scenario is waiting for a household member's test result), if the child is well, the school office will email the parents the weekly English and Maths plans which cover the days they are missing school. The children are expected to bring their work in with them when they return to school so that the Teacher can assess learning. We would like the parents to focus on supporting Maths and English at home and the Teachers will plug gaps in foundation subjects when the children return after this relatively short period away from school. If the child is in a year group which already has remote learning posted on our website due to other children in the year group isolating for a longer period, they may access this learning too.

How will we support children whose bubble has closed due to a confirmed case within a bubble and children who are self-isolating due to a positive test or a positive test in their household?

- For children isolating for up to 10 days (depending on the last day of contact with the positive case), remote learning will be set as before on our school website and parents will be expected to submit work to the class email address each day to enable the Teacher to continue assessing learning. This can be as simple as the parent photographing the work and attaching the photo to the email. If the Teacher is well, they will be expected to reply to these emails on a daily basis to ensure daily contact is made between Teacher and pupil. Children must also bring all paper copies of their work into school with them when they return to further support teacher assessment.

How will we support children who need to self-isolate or quarantine following travel while the rest of the school is still open?

- We expect parents not to travel to countries which have quarantines imposed if it means children will miss school when they return. If a holiday is booked knowing a quarantine is in place and school will be missed, this absence will not be authorised; however, children will still be supplied with work via our school website as this period is likely to be up to 10 days.

Where will parents find the resources they need for remote learning?

- All guidance, work and resources are set via a dedicated area on our school website, which can be found by going to: www.eastburyfarm.herts.sch.uk and clicking on the 'Children' tab and then the 'Remote Learning' tab or by following this link: <https://www.eastburyfarm.herts.sch.uk/school-closure-home-learning/>
- Pre-recorded teaching videos can be found using this link: <https://eastbury-farm-primary-school.primarysite.media/>
- All work will be posted on our website by 9.00am on the first full day the children are at home, however, there may be instances when this is not possible due to short notice. In which case, the remote learning will be posted as soon as is feasibly possible (bearing in mind the Class Teacher may be in class teaching on the day they have been notified of the absence).
- We have chosen our website as our remote learning platform as it is easy to access, all resources are easy to find in a dedicated area, it is easy to navigate and parents do not require an additional log-in (parents already have to log into Spag.com, MyMaths.co.uk, RisingStars-uk.com, TTRockstars.com and 2Simple Parent Share)

If we experience another full lockdown:

What have we changed?

- When school is partially closed for longer than 10 days, the Senior Leader in each teaching team will produce pre-recorded teaching videos for each teaching phase for English and Maths lessons each day. The children in the relevant phase will need to watch the videos each day and complete the follow-up activities. As we have 3 classes per teaching phase e.g. 3x Year 5/6 classes, it will not be necessary for each Teacher to record a separate teaching video, as all children in all three classes will be accessing the same work and following the same plans. Requesting that all three Teachers record the same video for every English and Maths lesson puts unnecessary time pressure on staff who will already be juggling face to face and remote learning and triples the amount of videos being produced and uploaded each day which is unnecessary admin time too. The videos produced by the Senior Leader in each teaching phase as well as the written guidance will be done so in collaboration with the other two Teachers in the phase (assuming they are all well and able to contribute).
- Video links are also regularly shared as part of remote learning planning to support learning at home e.g. Oak Academy teaching videos and YouTube clips.
- The written planning we post on our website will be streamlined to make it easier for parents and pupils to digest
- Each class now has a dedicated email address e.g. elm@eastburyfarm.herts.sch.uk and parents will be expected to email their children's English and Maths work into this email address each day. This can be photos of the work produced, scanned work or emailed documents if they have been created on a device. Teachers will continue to get instant feedback when work is completed via Spag.com, MyMaths.co.uk, RisingStars-uk.com, TTRockstars.com and 2Simple Parent Share.
- Teachers will respond to English and Maths work sent via email to the class email address on daily basis in order to ensure daily interaction between pupil and Teacher. Teachers will not be expected to reply to emails which are sent in after 5.00pm.
- Parents who do not submit work will be called by the Teacher in a timely manner to remind them to complete and submit the remote learning.
- Children are also expected to bring their work into school with them when they return.
- A midweek online weekly meet will be set up so that Teachers and their class (both those in school and at home) can chat together once a week to discuss what is going well and what will happen next (so long as the Teacher is well).
- Our Pastoral Teacher will make phone calls to parents/children with emotional concerns and Teachers will call parents/children at their request at the end of the school day – calling all parents regularly will not be possible when Teachers are in school all day every day delivering face to face and remote teaching simultaneously.
- Parent voice carried out in November 2020 amongst parents who have experienced our new remote learning procedures due to bubble closure have reported how much better it now is due to the daily contact in place.

What have we ruled out and why?

- Live teaching: This relies too heavily on parents being able to log on at a certain time; if they are unable to log on at this time due to work commitments, they will miss the provision. Parents with multiple children will not necessarily have enough devices or rooms to allow this to happen simultaneously. Teachers are unable to deliver online teaching whilst also delivering teaching in the classroom which they will continue to do during lockdown and when children are self-isolating/quarantining. The nature of teaching in Primary schools means that Teachers are not static in the classroom, which does not lend itself to a fixed camera. Staff who are unwell will not be able to deliver live teaching. Teachers who are self-isolating do not all have the equipment to do live teaching from home. Many children and some staff in the school do not give written consent to be photographed/recorded for various personal reasons.

How will we manage any future full lockdowns?

- We will not operate a rota system unless instructed to do so. All staff will be in school working their normal hours in their usual bubbles (with the exception of critically extremely vulnerable staff who are likely to be told to self-isolate).
- Children of Critical Workers and children deemed as 'Vulnerable' will be invited into school and will attend their regular bubble which will be supported by their regular Teacher and Teaching Assistant if they are not self-isolating.
- If we have any available space in bubbles once Vulnerable and Critical Worker children have been allocated spaces, our vulnerable group will include children who we feel have significant gaps in their learning, are limited by their home environment/circumstances or have social and emotional needs which means they are at risk of not making adequate progress to catch up if they miss any more school time.
- Children who do not fall into any of the groups who should be in school must complete the remote learning posted on our website and submit English and Maths work on a daily basis to their class email account. We understand the pressure on parents working from home, so we will not dictate the time of day the work needs to be completed, but we will require it to be submitted by 5.00pm. Work submitted after 5pm will not be responded to until the following day.
- Teachers (who will also be teaching face to face all day) will assess the work sent in and reply on a daily basis as often as is possible.
- Our remote learning will be supplemented by teaching videos recorded by Senior Leaders, online clips and the videos supplied by The Oak Academy at every opportunity.