



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



Updated Remote Learning offer.

Dear Parents,

We writing to you to outline our updated offer for remote learning. In September we published our initial Remote Learning offer on our website so that we were prepared and parents informed should a bubble closure be necessary. Having successfully navigated the Autumn term without any closures, the current school closure has provided us with our first opportunity to put our plans into practice and evaluate our offer.

Naturally, now that we have tried and tested our plan, there are changes and developments that we have identified and are putting into place. We have also received feedback from some parents over the last week. We are pleased that much of this feedback has been very positive and parents and children alike have received the remote learning well. Of course, we have also received some suggestions / requests from parents. Whilst we continue to endeavour to meet the needs of all of our families, we must accept that there is not a 'one size fits all' approach to remote learning. Some parents may feel a little overwhelmed by the work set and others may be seeking more.

The government have placed clear expectations upon schools regarding their home learning offer which we are required to follow.

Remote learning should reflect the content, progression and coverage of our usual school curriculum wherever possible.

The guidance also lays out expectations for daily learning time.

In Key Stage One – 3 hours daily

In Key Stage Two – 4 hours daily

The timings above include engagement with any learning tasks, for example, reading, online tasks and games set, teaching videos and follow up work and class 'check-ins'.

We do not expect children to be sitting and working formally for long periods or blocks of time such as this. As you'll appreciate, the school day is broken up into shorter sessions with breaks in between to play, be sociable, have assembly and eat and drink! Children will need breaks from their work, just as they would in school. In fact, their learning and outcomes are likely to be better with breaks to ensure their focus and concentration is refreshed!

Guidance outlines that schools should provide either recorded OR live teaching sessions and work/tasks for children to complete independently. We appreciate that children have different levels of independence and some children may require some adult support to complete tasks.

At Birches we have taken the decision to provide pre-recorded teaching videos (either staff led or using government recommended resources such as National Oak Academy) rather than live lessons.

We feel that pre-recorded sessions will give children the same level of input but also offer flexibility for parents to be able to access the lesson at a time that suits them and their child/circumstances.

As a school we also have to manage the capacity for staff in school to provide lessons and support children online who are at home, as well as delivering to those children that are in school.

We hope that having pre-recorded sessions will help both children and parents engage with their home learning tasks in a way and time that suits them.

Remote Learning for our youngest children presents a particular challenge. Much of their learning is play-based and relies on adult direction and/or interaction. The guidance does not specify a time or amount for Early Years children but acknowledges that solely digital methods of learning are unlikely to be appropriate. Our offer intends to blend digital lessons/activities with play-based activity suggestions they can enjoy.

We are in the process of finalising our 'Teams' set up and hope to start rolling this out in the next week or so. This will enable us to further develop our online interactions with the children at home. We look forward to sharing further information with you in due course.

We are also pleased to inform you that we will soon have access to the full library of ebooks on Oxford Owl to support your child in their reading. Again, details to follow.

Please be reassured – we do understand that many of our parents are trying to juggle home learning support for their child(ren) with childcare demands of other children as well as working from home. We do not underestimate the challenges that this situation places upon families. As explained, we are required to provide remote learning in line with the government expectation – we ask that parents support their child to access their remote learning in the way that **best suits their needs, working patterns and family situation**.

We thank you for the support you are giving your child and the school in maintaining their access to education during these very challenging times.

We would also like to place on record our thanks to the teaching team for their continuous and tireless efforts in providing our children with the very best provision and support in these circumstances.

Please find below are updated Remote Learning offer -

What can I expect for my child?

Year 3 & 4

English: daily video (including spelling and SPAG/handwriting introduction)

Maths: daily video

Reading; daily comprehension task

Broad and Balanced Curriculum: daily task – e.g. Geography, History, Science, RE, PSHE, Computing (PowerPoint / explanation / task)

Tasks may be set on Purple Mash, Education City, My Maths

Children have access to Numbots and TT Rockstars (Y2-4) and can access learning activities/games of own choosing on Education City, Purple Mash and My Maths

Coming soon – ‘Team chat’ and Oxford Reading Owl

Year 1 & 2

English: daily video

Maths: daily video

Reading; daily comprehension task

Phonics: daily video / a weekly spelling rule may be set in Year 2

Broad and Balanced Curriculum: daily task – e.g. Geography, History, Science, RE, PSHE, Computing (PowerPoint / explanation / task)

Coming soon – ‘Team chat’ and Oxford Reading Owl

Tasks may be set on Purple Mash, Education City, My Maths

Children have access to Numbots and TT Rockstars (Y2-4) and can access learning activities/games of own choosing on Education City, Purple Mash and My Maths

Early Years

Nursery

- Daily early language / communication / phonic activity video
- Daily number activity video

Reception

- Phonics: daily video
- Maths: daily video

Storytime / Singing time – daily pre-recorded or via Teams

Weekly play-based grid with activities to complete which support the 7 areas of learning

Coming soon – ‘Team chat’ and Oxford Reading Owl

Children who are attending school currently access the same Remote Learning offer as the children working at home.

A checklist for virtual learning can be found at the end of this letter.

Printing



We do not want parents to feel they are expected or required to print out resources or worksheets in order for work to be completed. Where printable tasks are sent, please do not worry.

Your child can write their answers into their home learning book, use drawings etc. Alternatively, if using a laptop, children could use the 'Snipping Tool' to snip the worksheet then copy and paste it into a new document. They could then add text boxes over the sheet to show their answers. If using an iPad or iPhone, you could take a screenshot of the worksheet then select 'edit' and 'mark up' This will give you the option to write over the sheet and add your answers in before saving the image. If parents do however have a printer at home and would like to do so you are more than welcome to print off what you need. If any parents are still experiencing issues with this, please get in touch.



Safeguarding and Welfare.

As always, we are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all our children.

During the school closure, should you have any concerns or require support in any way, please contact;

Miss Varricchione (Designated Safeguarding Lead) by emailing headteacher@birches.staffs.sch.uk

Alternatively you can contact;

Staffordshire First Response by clicking [here](#)

or by phone; **08001313126**








Opening times: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm

Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Out of hours;

Outside of the hours above, on weekends or bank holidays, please contact the **Emergency Duty Team** by phoning **0345 604 2886**

Virtual Learning Checklist

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Wake up bright and early read to start the day✓ Enjoy a nice, healthy breakfast
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Create a quiet place to work✓ You may like to wear headphones to block out noise and help you concentrate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Work in a well-lit room with the curtains open to let in light✓ Make sure there is plenty of fresh air
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Sit comfortably, ready to work✓ Good posture for working
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Look through the work your teacher has set and plan your day✓ Make sure you give yourself time for breaks and off-screen activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Celebrate your work – share it with someone at home. You can also email your class teacher who will give you some feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Let your class teacher know how you are getting on and ask if you or your grown-up need anything explained.