



# Birches First School

## Believe, Grow, Succeed



### Remote Learning Offer February 2021.

Dear Parents,

In September 2020 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 Spring term 2021 school closure provided us with our first opportunity to put our plans into practice and then evaluate our offer.



Naturally, once our initial plan had been tried and tested, there were changes and developments that we identified and put into place. We received valuable feedback from some parents, much of which was very positive and parents and children alike received the remote learning well. We have outlined below our updated Remote Learning Offer, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

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.

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 all of our parents for the support they give their child(ren) and the school in maintaining their access to education during these very challenging times.

### **What can I expect for my child?**

Daily/weekly assignments will be set via Microsoft Teams. Assignments will go live between 7.30am and 8.30am each day and should be handed in by 7.30pm that day. Staff will provide feedback on work handed in before 7.30pm in a timely manner. Children are able to hand work in past the due date/time, however, it may not be possible to provide feedback.

### **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 Oxford Reading Owl, Numbots and TT Rockstars (Y2-4) and can access learning activities/games of own choosing on Education City, Purple Mash and My Maths

Twice weekly class check-in via Teams.

## 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)

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

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

Twice weekly class check-in via Teams.

## Early Years

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

Nursery

- Daily video – number or early language / communication / phonic activity focus.
- Daily class meeting via Teams (number or early language / communication / phonic activity focus.)

Reception

- Phonics: daily video
- Maths: daily video
- Daily class meeting via Teams (number or early language / communication focus / singing / storytime.)

Oxford Reading Owl

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

School has requested that families inform school if they do not have a suitable device on which they can access online learning. We have made a number of devices available for families to loan during the period of any school closure. Parents are required to sign a Home-School Loan Agreement prior to taking any devices off site.

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.



Protect and safeguard the  
welfare of all our children.

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