



St Osyth C of E Primary School

A member of the Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust

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Remote Learning

Our remote learning falls into three categories:

1. For individual children who have to self-isolate.
2. For bubbles that have to isolate.
3. For the whole school during a national lockdown.

Our remote learning for children who have to isolate.

During normal term time, not when the school has been forced to close to the vast majority of children, work packs will be provided by class staff. These packs will be distributed via email, in hard copy or both mediums. The curriculum will match, as far as is practicable, that which other children are doing in school. When children completed each piece of work set this may be returned to school in hard copy or electronically.

Our remote learning for bubbles that have to isolate.

During normal term time, not when the school has been forced to close to the vast majority of children, a phase virtual school will be put in place. This will, as much as possible, mirror physical school. It is not possible for our phase virtual school to exactly mirror that of our physical school because of various practicalities. Where we can not set up a phase virtual school from the first day of a bubble isolating then we may provide home learning packs for the first few days. These home learning packs will operate as set out above for individual children isolating.

Our remote learning for the whole school during a national lockdown.

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) below provide lots of information about our virtual school. Further information and support can be found at our YouTube video -

What are the main ideas and aims of St Osyth Virtual School?

1. To provide children with the best primary education that is possible during this national lockdown.
2. To support the well-being of children.
3. To support children, staff and families being as safe as they can be.

Essentially, we are moving as much of our school online as we can.

What live and recorded lessons will be available for children?

The attached timetable gives you all the lessons available for your child. As a minimum, we are giving your child:

1. 5 English lessons each week – one a day.
2. 5 maths lessons each week – one a day.
3. 5 fitness sessions each week – one a day.
4. 2 topic lessons each week
5. 1 science lesson each week
6. 1 RE lesson each week
7. 1 skills based PE lesson each week



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8. 1 Relationship, Health and Sex Education (RHSE) lesson each week.
9. 1 computing lesson each week
10. Intervention groups.

When you look at the timetable you will see that with the live lessons, and the learning activities that your children will be set to do outside of the live lessons, we are giving every child a full timetable of learning, very much as if they were on site.

How long will each lesson last?

On our virtual school timetable, you will see that no live lesson will last for more than 30 minutes. When the live lesson, or recorded lesson, ends this is not the end of the actual lesson. This is because children will be given independent learning activities to do as the second part of the lesson.

How is it best to use the timetable?

The timetable enables children and parents and carers to see all the lessons that we are providing. Ideally, children will be able to attend every live lesson. However, we know that may not be possible because of the need to share devices at home. To help with the sharing of devices we are limiting our live lessons to a maximum of 30 minutes. Please use the timetable to enable children to attend at least one live lesson each day. To do this, you may want to talk to your children and mark on the timetable which will be there live lessons and which ones will be there recorded lessons

How will children access the live lessons?

Every child in school has their own Microsoft (MS) Teams account. When they log in to their MS Teams account they will see invites to their lessons.

How will the school support children that may not be able to attend all the live lessons?

If children cannot attend a live lesson, for example, if they are sharing a single device with siblings, then they can access the lesson later – we are recording all our live lessons. Like for live lessons, recorded ones are accessed through MS Teams.

How long will the lessons last?

Lessons on MS Teams will last 10 to 30 minutes, depending on the age of the children and what they are being taught. In most MS Teams lessons, children will then be given activities to do before their next lesson.

How will the children access any written work/activities set in the live and recorded lessons?

This will be via Purple Mash. Purple Mash is a very child-friendly online learning platform. It has learning activities that children can do and it enables:

1. Staff to upload work for children to complete.
2. Children to complete worksheets etc online.
3. Children to return their completed work to staff.
4. Staff to provide children with feedback on their work.

Again, we will make sure that children have the details to log on to their account and we will send home guidance about how to use Purple Mash – some of this guidance will be links to video guides.

My child has not used MS Teams before so how will they/I know what to do?

We have sent home two guides. One is about how to access MS Teams and one is about how to access live lessons.

Why are we using MS Teams for live and recorded lessons?

MS Teams is a safe and secure environment for the children. It also works well with the other systems that we have in school.

Why are we having the St Osyth Virtual School instead of just emailing home remote learning?

The St Osyth Virtual School is going to provide your child with better learning and better well being than would be possible by just emailing home remote learning tasks.

1. It provides all children with a clear structure and routine.

2. Children will be able to interact, live, with their teachers, support staff and each other – using MS Teams.
3. Teachers, and support staff, will be able to assess children’s learning during the live sessions.
4. Teachers, and support staff, will be able to assess children’s learning through the tasks completed on Purple Mash.
5. Children will get timely feedback on their learning, through live lessons and through Purple Mash.
6. Children with specific needs can be better supported.
7. Children will be able to learn with greater independence – better for them and better for parents and carers.
8. The use of YouTube for PE lessons and video messages are effective ways to engage children and to help them access PE and to see the senior leaders of their school.

Why have we decided to run our virtual school in the way being outlined?

We have learnt from our experiences from last time – applying what worked well and identifying what we can do better. To take two examples:

1. We know that the PE lessons worked very well last time, thank you Mr C, so we are having them again – but even better.
2. We know that children and families struggled to have routines that supported good learning. The timetable, live lessons and our ‘Get Ready’ supports children and parents to deal with this matter.

We have also invested time, money and training, in technology.

What is our ‘Get Ready’

Our **Get Ready is a mnemonic that supports children through what they need to do to engage well in our virtual school.** Parents and carers may also want to help their children Get Ready for virtual school by giving children rewards for each step of Get Ready or when all steps have been completed. Such rewards can be simple ones, such as smiley faces or larger ones – for example, children having the food of their choice on a Friday evening if they have completed ‘Get Ready’ for all five days in the week.

Which lessons do children have to attend?

Children must attend at least one live lesson each day. This is important for children feeling involved with the lessons and seeing their teachers and friends. It is also important because it is a key way for teachers to see how well the children are learning, if they need extra support or challenge and for them to give children feedback on their learning.

How can I help my child as they attend St Osyth Virtual School?

School staff will be providing great lessons and learning activities. Children, however, will only learn well by attending the lessons and doing the activities they are given. They need help with both of these parts of virtual schooling. Our ‘St Osyth Virtual School learning rules’ provides information about how to do this. Children are used to us having rules when they physically attend school. Please help your children understand the rules of virtual school. Thank you.

What happens if there are problems with technology?

Almost certainly there will be problems with technology – at home and in school. If this happens, we will persevere until we can find the best possible solutions. Virtual school is new to all of us – children, parents/carers and staff. It will be nothing short of a miracle if the technology that all staff and children will be using always works perfectly.

If you have specific issues, such as logging in, or finding a particular learning activity in Purple Mash, then please email your child’s teacher. See our ‘Communication Protocol During School Closure’ document.

We will be introducing drop off/pick up boxes for those children that have lots of problems accessing the online learning. These boxes will have paper copies of the learning tasks. More information about these will be provided next week.

How will the school support families that have no access to the internet or that have no devices on which to access the internet?

We know that some families may have issues with accessing the technology needed to support their child/ren attending our virtual school. Therefore:

1. Parents should contact us if they have such challenges.
2. We have provided advice and guidance for parents; see our YouTube channel and the other documents here on our website.
3. We will support as many families as we can with:
 - a. Access to the internet. This maybe via WiFi or tethering to a mobile phone.
 - b. Extending data allowance if tethering to a mobile phone is used.
 - c. Devices such as laptops.
4. Where children are still unable to access our virtual school, we will provide remote learning packs and offer to have such children in school – staffing and risk assessment allowing.

How will children with SEND be supported?

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:

1. Parents should contact us if they have questions or queries if they have a child with SEND whom they think may not be able to access our virtual school.
2. Within our virtual school provision as much additional support, as possible, will be provided for children with SEND. For example, small group and individual teaching will be provided. Also, where we group children in prior attaining groups for teaching, such as for phonics, then this will continue.

How will children be supported to be safe when online?

In our virtual school we will use MS Teams and Purple Mash because these are safe and enclosed learning environments. We will also provide children and parents with advice and guidance on how to stay safe online.

Parents and carers have a vital role in supporting their children to be safe online. There is good advice and guidance for parents and carers on the thinkuknow website - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

How will St Osyth Virtual School be monitored and evaluated?

We have systems in place to monitor and evaluate our virtual school, in a similar way to our usual school. In the same way that we ask parents and carers for feedback about our usual school, we will also be asking children and parents/carers for feedback about our virtual school.

What are the other school guidance is available to parents and carers?

Parents and carers are welcome to contact the school by telephone and email. Parents and carers have been provided with, and should use the below:

1. Virtual School Timetable
2. Our Virtual School Rules
3. Get Ready

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Carter-Tufnell
(Headteacher)