

13th January 2021 – by email

Dear parents and carers,

Please find below our plans for remote learning. The details of the plan are on a separate document that is attached to this email.

We aim to deliver a **high-quality curriculum** so that pupils know more and remember more. In order to achieve this, we want the **program to be as simple as possible so that children can access the resources**. We think the majority KS2 children should eventually be able to access resources independently. This is likely to be more of a challenge for children in KS1. At Moor Hall we use only one platform per class. EYFS and Y1 will use Tapestry and parents can communicate via email. Y2 and KS2 will use MS Teams and school email accounts.

The program will focus on the basics. The key learning blocks of reading, writing and mathematics will be at the core of the work that we do. Children will be able to listen to their teachers in English, interact with the White Rose Maths and also have the time to access support if they are stuck with their work. In some cases we will run intervention groups where children may need a little bit of additional support. On- line resources can help greatly with securing understanding through practice of basic skills of spelling and mental mathematics. Children should access these resources regularly.

Feedback is crucial. Staff need the time to be able to provide feedback. This can be done through work being sent back to school via email or face to face discussion during sessions. We are looking at setting assignments via Teams using Teams Assignments and this will help improve the efficiency of feedback. Information about this will be sent soon. Some feedback can be given via some of the software that is used and we do encourage children to self-mark their work where possible.

It is essential that we all remain in contact. The contact can be through live sessions, email and also seeing the teacher on a recorded session can help ensure that there is a link with home and school.

We use a blended approach of live lessons, recorded lessons and work that has been posted. OFSTED rightly say that *live lessons aren't always best*. We will use high quality externally approved lessons from the English Hub, White Rose Maths and the Oak Academy. These are taught by experts in their field. Children must have time away from computers to carry out tasks and have 'brain breaks' during the day for their own mental health and wellbeing. We will send work and tasks that will help with this. Please use any opportunity that you can find for fresh air if you are at home.

Finally, live sessions shouldn't be long. They will grow in length as children get older but a long session can be counterproductive and affect concentration. Furthermore, it is better for a child if they are able to experience different learning approaches, apart from screen time, in order to help sustain concentration.

It is harder to engage children remotely than in the classroom; we all understand that there are distractions at home and parents have other commitments that can make this stressful. This is why it is crucial that teachers have the time to look at work that is submitted and then provide support and advice through feedback or make contact directly with you if necessary.

Engagement increases where children feel part of the Moor Hall community so sessions like story time and assemblies will help to deepen this feeling of connection.

There are a variety of approaches to remote learning both locally and nationally. We have taken time to consider our approach to remote learning, which is in the best interests of our children and our families and which reflects our school vision. This is a dynamic approach that we will continue to review: we are continually looking to improve.

We have said on many occasions that these times are challenging. We will get through this with a lot of patience and consideration towards each other, working in partnership and understanding the challenges that are faced by all of us both at home and at school.

If you have any concerns, please email your child's class teacher. Enquiry account messages are passed on to members of SLT where appropriate and we will get back to you promptly. If your child is struggling emotionally please drop a note to the teacher and also the pastoral manager, Mrs Curwen (pastoralmanager@moorhall.bham.sch.uk). We have a brilliant team of people at school and we are here to help however we can.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Steggall
Headteacher

OFSTED have produced guidance on remote learning. Please follow this link
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>