



ST THOMAS A BECKET R C PRIMARY SCHOOL

REMOTE LEARNING STATEMENT

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: **January 2021**

AGREED BY GOVERNORS: **January 2021**

SHARED WITH ALL STAFF: **January 2021**

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: **Ongoing**

Remote Learning Statement

During the closure of the school, due to Covid-19, we are providing resources to support you, our parents, with your children's learning at home.

In the event of further closures, or periods of individual or bubble self-isolation, we are continuing to use our online learning platform on the St Thomas a Becket School blog :

<http://stthomasabecketschools1.primaryblogger.co.uk/sample-page/>

as well as direct teaching and wellbeing Zoom sessions for those children unable to attend school. We attach the following key documents:

- Remote learning Information
- Remote learning Zoom Guidelines and Rules
- Remote learning Zoom Timetable
- The Remote Learning Policy
- Further Online Resources

Remote Learning Information

This document is for Parents and Carers, children and teachers and is a good practice guide to be used by staff responsible for the curriculum and its delivery in schools. It offers suggestions to help schools meet the expectations for remote education as set out in the [guidance for full opening](#). These suggestions are non-statutory but to meet the needs of the children at St Thomas a Becket RC Primary School, we will follow them, adapting them for the requirements of our children.

Ensuring Access to Remote Provision and Learning

Most pupils returned to school full time at the start of the Autumn term, 2020. Despite this, there is still a risk of localised outbreaks of coronavirus (COVID-19) or of small numbers of individual pupils being unable to attend school. So, we have planned for disruption to school life and attendance during the 2020/2021 academic year.

Since the first Lockdown on 23rd March 2020, the necessary and innovative use of remote education has been crucial to how school staff teach and how children learn. Despite the challenges, remote education has made a significant contribution to enabling students to continue to learn and progress and to try to alleviate any widening of the attainment gap for the disadvantaged and indeed, for every child.

Where a child or bubble needs to self-isolate, or there are local restrictions requiring pupils to remain at home, St Thomas a Becket have the capacity to offer immediate remote education.

One of the key ways in which St Thomas a Becket provides remote learning, constant resources, updates, pupil work and celebration feedback, is through our school blog.

Reproducing the Classroom Remotely

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has found that the effectiveness of remote teaching is determined by many of the same factors as determine the effectiveness of live classroom teaching. For example:

- ensuring pupils receive clear explanations and expectations,

- supporting growth in confidence with new material through scaffolded practice,
- application of new knowledge or skills,
- enabling pupils to receive feedback on how to progress.

Although these characteristics of good quality teaching are more crucial than remote facilitate, it is essential that this is carried out with clarity and effectiveness for all involved.

St Thomas a Becket will use Zoom to deliver live lessons and we will plan the rest through remote key provision of our school blog.

Live lessons enable important interaction between teachers and pupils through, for example, questioning, prompting and reflective discussion. These complex teacher skills in the live classroom are not always easy to recreate in a remote environment. Where remote education recreates at least some aspects of this interactivity and intentional dialogue, teaching is likely to be more effective, support pupil motivation and lead to better progress.

Pupils, in the early stages of their formal education, are likely to have particular needs which cannot easily be addressed in the same way as those of other pupils. Likewise, some pupils with SEND will require specific approaches tailored to their circumstances.

Access to appropriate devices and connectivity is essential for technology-led approaches to remote education. However, securing access for all pupils is a significant challenge in many contexts. As schools plan for potential future disruption, we found it helpful to:

- Make a record of which pupils and families do not have device or internet access.

- Consider how school technology resources could be used in future to support pupils without sufficient remote facilities. We have prepared to provide laptops and chargers to identified families with any usage or loan agreements necessary to help safeguard school property.
- Ensure that any equipment obtained under the department's [Get help with technology programme](#) is clearly identified and ready to be re-distributed for a similar purpose.

Procedure for Remote Learning at St Thomas a Becket

A pupil's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching.

What will each child have for immediate remote education in the first day or two of a child being sent home?

Each child is supplied with a resource pack which had everything in it for home learning to be complete at home. The pack also includes an exercise book and a white board, a whiteboard pen and rubber.

There is work planned for each year group on the school blog which covers the objectives of Maths, English and RE as well as other activities based upon the foundation subjects which are being currently taught in that year group, at that time.

There are comprehensive and varied online resources for all areas of the curriculum.

Following the first few days of remote education, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

As much as they can, the teachers at St Thomas a Becket plan and teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school, wherever possible and appropriate. However, the staff need to make some adaptations to the lessons, in some subjects, as not every task has direct teaching set with it. The following are adaptations to the planning and delivery of the questions.

- Using online recorded teaching and lessons (e.g.: Oak Academy Lessons: Video/audio recordings made by teachers),
- Using recorded teaching and lessons made by teachers and support staff at St Thomas a Becket,
- Using high quality online resources which broadly match the objective of a topic of a subject and the subject itself.

Remote Teaching and Time Set to Complete Tasks

Each Day

How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?

Nursery	Recommended 1 hour of learning, broken down to short periods Recommended play sessions at home also incorporating independent and led learning
Reception	2-3 hours each day, again, broken down into short tasks. Independent play also matched to the Early Learning Goals
Key Stage 1	3 hours a day on average across the year group, less for Year 1 children, at times. Again, tasks are broken down to help learning and for parents leading the tasks at home. Independent learning through play and real and online activities can also take place.
Key Stage 2	4 hours a day Independent Learning through play and real and on line activities can also take place.

How will my child access any online remote education you are providing?

The pupils at St Thomas a Becket will be able to access the school blog, where all planning is posted for the week, with specific timetables for daily tasks.

Live lessons, as well as specific phonics and reading sessions, are delivered via Zoom.

The blog is easily accessible via any type of device which has access to the internet. At this point, there is no need for a laptop as all work can be recorded on paper.

The requirement for a laptop or tablet may be more beneficial when a lesson is delivered on Zoom as the need to see PowerPoints is important and therefore beneficial in a child's learning.

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access remote education?

At St Thomas a Becket, we recognise that some of our children may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support these to access remote education:

- The school can loan laptops from the allocation of laptops received from the DfE. These are DfE secured which means they can only be used for online learning. If you, as a parent, feel you need an extra device for online learning at home, you will be asked to ring the school office or write an email to explain the need for a laptop or even to supplement devices your children already have at home (e.g.: older siblings needing to be on devices throughout the day for online learning also).
- The headteacher will then speak to parents to discuss their need for a device and to explain the loan system.
- Parents can come to collect a device from the Key Stage 2 school office, signing the school loan paperwork.

- The staff at St Thomas a Becket will also help parents or carers with advice and information to enable an internet connection at home. Parents can find more information from “Free BT Wi-Fi to support learning in lockdown (businessdirect.bt.com)”. Application forms are available for free WiFi codes for families until July 2021 from BT.
- At all times, the teachers provide paper copies of the work posted on the blog, if it is requested by a parent. This can either be collected from one of the school offices or it can be delivered by teachers who volunteer their time, after the teaching school day, to do this.
- At all times, differentiated work is set in pack for those children who find accessing the blog too difficult and find it easier to work from paper copies. Differentiated work packs are also given to those children with SEN and with specific needs. Recorded support, such as bucket therapy and sensory stories, are posted on the blog and emailed to parents.
- **Submission of work:** The children submit work via email to their class teachers’ year group emails. This is then assessed and feedback given by the teacher via a return email. General feedback is also given during each Zoom lesson, if related to the lesson being taught.

How will my child be taught remotely?

St Thomas a Becket use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:

- live teaching with Zoom online lessons,
- recorded teaching using Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers,

- printed paper packs produced by teachers consisting of work packs with resources, worksheets and “shoe box” activities for children with SEND,
- reading books for children to have at home,
- A comprehensive and varied set of websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences. (Please see the list on the school blog and on the Remote Learning resources list.)

Engagement and Feedback

What are the expectations for my child’s engagement and the support that we, as parents and carers, should provide at home?

- At St Thomas a Becket, the teachers of all year groups will expect the children to complete all tasks set for them each day. The planning and tasks set for each day are achievable and provide clear instructions in order that all tasks can be completed. The children are also provided with a range of challenging tasks and activities, if all set tasks are completed.
- All our children are fantastic learners; they want to learn. Therefore, we would expect them to continue to want to do this, as best they can, at home. The children are given clear guidelines and expectations in Zoom lessons and feedback/wellbeing sessions.
- Support and advice is given to parents who need help to work with their child:
 - Weekly phone calls are made and emails sent on alternate weeks, as well as daily responses to emails on any matters relayed to support the children, either with their work or with their welfare.

- Through the Home Learning policy, Zoom Rules and Guidelines and regular letters and updates on learning, advice is given to you in terms of expectations of parental support, for example, setting routines to support your child's education.
- At any time, during the school day, you can ring Miss Murphy or Mrs Harris in the school offices to request to speak to myself, Mrs Greally or your child's class teacher or Mrs Cooper, our Deputy Head and SENCO.

How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

As a parent, the staff at St Thomas a Becket will ask is, as one of the expectations to support your child at home, to monitor the amount of work your child is doing each day.

This can be done by looking at each day's tasks; the amount of tasks and how they should be done. This does not mean that you must sit with your child throughout, just to check what each day's tasks are and how many.

If there are any concerns regarding your child's record of tasks or work, you will be informed by email or your child's class teacher will ring you to discuss and advise ways to support your child to finish tasks to the expected standard and in the time set.

How will my child's work be assessed and their progress monitored?

Feedback at St Thomas a Becket can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid

and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

- Each child will be asked to submit selected pieces of work for each week. We will ask parents, to send these pieces via email. Alternatively, work can be brought in to the school office to be given to your child's class teacher.
- General, daily feedback is given via the blog (posting up your child's work) through Zoom lessons and sessions as well as daily communication via emails.
- This feedback will mainly be used to give praise in recognition of work, sharing work and ideas amongst your child's peers. It can also be used to give advice and support on specific tasks coming up the following day.

More Specific Feedback

Your child will receive specific feedback for pieces of work which you/they have been told to submit. This will take the same format as feedback in school.

- Praise and celebration of task
- Learning Questions (challenge questions based upon the learning objective and task set)
- 'Next Steps' to learning (to provide improvement in learning to evidence in further task)

Additional support for pupils with particular needs

How will you work with me to help my child, who needs additional support from adults, to access remote education at home?

At St Thomas a Becket, the teachers and all staff that some pupils, for example 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 our families and we will always work with parents and carers to support those pupils in the following ways:

- With constant liaising with Mrs Cooper, the Deputy Head and SENCO, parents are fully aware of the support given to the children and therefore how to support your child.
- Each week Mrs Cooper plans specific differentiated tasks which are set on the blog for the children to complete for each day. These tasks are sequenced and consolidate learning.
- As well as the clearing differentiated tasks on the blog, work packs are provided for specific need of each child, each pack is supplemented with resources which will support learning.
- For each child with specific SEN, Mrs Cooper makes weekly phone calls to give support, ask for feedback of work carried out by your child and to give advice about tasks to be set for the forthcoming week.