



Remote Learning Policy

Specific Aims

- To outline Vallis First School's approach for pupils that will not be attending school as a result of government guidance or due to continued shielding.
- To outline Vallis First School's expectations for staff that will not be attending school due to self-isolation but that are otherwise fit and healthy and able to continue supporting with the teaching, marking and planning for pupils.

Who is the policy applicable to?

In line with government guidance, pupils, staff and families should self-isolate if they display any of the following symptoms

- o A continuous, dry cough
- o A high temperature above 37.8°C
- o A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste
- o Have had access to a test and this has returned a positive result for Covid-19

Remote learning for pupils that are not able to attend school due to self-isolation or in line with government guidelines

Vallis First School will provide remote learning for pupils that are not able to attend school so that no-one need fall behind. In the following points, an outline of the provision will be made and some guidance given on the role of pupils, teachers and parents. Vallis First School are fully aware that these are exceptional times and this document seeks to inform and guide families. Each family is unique and because of this, should approach home learning in a way which suits their individual needs.

Family Role

- Where possible, it is beneficial for young people to maintain a regular and familiar routine. Vallis First School would recommend that each 'school day' maintains structure.
- Each week, work in English, Maths and other curriculum areas will be posted on Google Classroom and parents/carers should view this together with their child and then make appropriate plans to complete the work.
- Should anything be unclear in the work that is set, parents can communicate with class teachers via the Google Gmail address.
- Work that children complete at home can be sent back to the teacher using the Google platform - the work will be marked and feedback given to the child when appropriate.
- We would encourage parents/carers to support their children's learning, including finding an appropriate place to work and, to the best of their ability, support pupils by encouraging them to work with good levels of concentration.
- Every effort will be made by staff to ensure that learning is set promptly on appropriate platforms but school cannot guarantee that the chosen platforms will work on all devices. Should accessing work be an issue, parents should contact school promptly and alternative solutions may be available. These will be discussed on a case-to-case basis.
- Please see the separate guidance regarding use of Google Classroom – Appendix 1.

Staff Expectations

Staff from Vallis First School will continue to support children that are unable to attend.

- Teachers should plan lessons that are relevant to the curriculum focus for that year group and endeavor to replicate this through tasks for home learners. In general, the work set for home learning will be the same as the planned class learning with relevant adaptations.
- Resources, activities and instructions will be uploaded to Google Classroom and can be found in the appropriate class page.
- We would endeavor to meet the needs of any children with identified SEN in the same way we would in school. Staff would communicate with the families concerned as to the best way to meet these needs which may include adapted resources.
- Signpost parents to links for online learning and videos that may support their children in their learning e.g. Oak National Academy; BBC Bitesize.
- Any resources used, including websites and worksheets, should, where possible, be shared with home learners. Staff will do this electronically and it will be the responsibility of families to print/download/use these resources at home. If a family does not have access to a printer, please let the office know.
- We will try to respond, within reason, promptly to requests for support from families at home. This should be done via Gmail or phone call.
- Should a staff member require support with the use of technology, it is their responsibility to seek this support in school and Senior Leaders will ensure that support is given promptly.

Remote teaching for staff who are self-isolating

Teaching staff are required to self-isolate if they show symptoms outlined at the start of this policy or they have been told to shield and/or have received a letter to confirm this.

If a member of staff is required to self-isolate, they are expected to:

- Follow normal reporting procedure for planned absence.
- School will ask staff about their intention to get tested. Should a staff member be tested, it is expected, as per national guidance, to share the result of this test with school so that appropriate plans can be made.

Whilst self-isolating, and if able to do so, staff will be asked to support with the online learning provision for their year group.

Reviewed: November 2020

Appendix 1.

Google Classroom

As part of our commitment to supporting pupils during any future school closure, we have decided to implement Google Classroom as a platform to communicate with children (and parents/carers) and set learning opportunities. We are not currently expecting a closure but have set up Google Classroom now so that we can use it if the need arises. Beyond COVID, we will possibly continue to use Google Classrooms for a range of things e.g. homework; class tasks as it has many useful functions.

Children have been set up with an account which consists of their username (an email address in the format of initial.surname@vallisfirstschool.org) and a temporary password which are both attached to this letter. There is no current work to be completed through Google Classroom. ***Please could you sign in to your child's Google Classroom account to set a unique password?***

Google Classroom can be accessed through a free app either on the Apple Store or Google Play for Apple and Android devices as well as through the internet on laptops or desktops. If accessing on the internet on a laptop or desktop, type **classroom.google.com** into the address bar. You will see a log in screen and will need to enter your child's username and password. You will then see an invitation to join their class.

The **'stream' tab** is where you will see notifications and messages from your child's teacher. On the **'classwork' tab**, there will be assignments (tasks) which are set and materials to support your child's learning. The **'people' tab** is where your child can see the accounts of their teachers and friends. In the event of a school closure, children can send a private message to their teacher asking for help. Whilst the school is open, teachers will not be using Google as a means of communication - please address any questions to the school office.

If we do experience a school closure, clear instructions will be given to explain how to complete each task and videos will be recorded by the teachers to explain the work. There is no expectation to print any of the resources but that is an option if it is convenient for you. You can hand in the work through Google Classroom by submitting a photo of the child's work on paper, writing a private comment to the teachers or attaching word documents etc containing their work. The teachers will then be able to see your child's work and reply with comments to give feedback.

If you would like more information about how Google Classroom operates, please visit support.google.com/edu/classroom. There are also many helpful videos on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Please search for 'google classroom tutorial for students' to learn more.

We hope that in the event of a school or class closure your child enjoys engaging with this learning platform. If there are any issues with passwords and usernames, please contact the school office for support.