



TO ALL PARENTS AND CARERS

REMOTE LEARNING AT LEOMINSTER PRIMARY SCHOOL

September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As a school we have prepared for the possibility of a class, group or individual children needing to isolate for up to 14 days following advice from Public Health to close the school/ year groups due to an outbreak within the school, infection rates in the community being extremely high, or part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern.'. In addition to this, we have planned for the continuation of learning if a child needs to isolate whilst waiting for test results for themselves. These arrangements follow the guidelines set by the Department for Education, which stipulate that the time spent learning should be an equivalent length to the direct teaching that children would receive in school. The DfE's expectation is that remote learning is a well-planned and sequenced curriculum that enables pupils to build their knowledge and skills and make progress academically.

It is important to note that the lessons and activities set are not simply revision or 'holding' activities to keep children occupied; they cover the learning that children would, otherwise, be completing in school. It is, therefore, very important that children complete and keep up with the lessons at home, so as to be prepared for class learning upon their return.

To do this we will be continue to use 'Purple Mash' for pupils in year 1 or above.

Purple Mash is a secure learning platform for teachers, pupils and schools. It provides a safe way for us to connect, share content, access homework, participate in discussions and receive class information. Using Purple Mash allows you and your child to have access to class work at any time and is accessible online through any digital device with internet access, including mobile phones and tablets. Through Purple Mash, parents and teachers can monitor the amount of work that pupils have done and ask questions about learning.

Our remote learning contingency plan ensures that we are able to switch between classroom-based learning and remote learning as seamlessly as possible, with the same subjects and lesson objectives simply being covered in a different format. As I'm sure you will be aware, this is no mean feat! Within our school curriculum, English and maths will be taught every day; this is reflected in the amount of English and maths work set for remote learning. Some other subjects, such as art, may not be taught every half term. In order to preserve the learning sequence, therefore, the lessons set will reflect whatever learning was going on in the classroom that half-term.

When formulating our remote learning plans, a conscious decision was taken to provide all worksheets in PDF (Portable Document Format), rather than Word or another editable programme. This allows inclusion for all as it means that the documents can be opened on any device. Please note

that if children wish they can do work in a book rather than on the worksheet. We will provide an exercise book for all children.

Our remote learning opportunities are designed, in most cases, to be carried out, by children, independently. We recognise that many parents may be trying to work from home themselves and we certainly do not expect that parents are teaching their children. For most children, very little parental input should be required, other than ensuring that children log on to Purple Mash and, perhaps, for younger children, assisting with upload of work.

We will include an element of teacher audio messages with instructions within the programme for whole class isolations. We feel that this way, children will hear their teachers voice which may help pupils and enable them to still have contact and stay in touch with school. They will have a daily '2 Do' list which will also help pupils stick to some kind of routine which is important. However we are aware that this may not be possible and it has been decided that, in order to accommodate the wide variety of home situations, lessons will not be live. This way work can be completed at a time convenient to each household. We feel that this way, no extra pressure will be put on families to adhere to strict times in what may already be a stressful situation

In the event of a local lockdown or a group of children needing to be sent home to isolate because of advice, class teachers will upload home learning (remote learning) on Purple Mash to be ready from the first day of lockdown or isolation. Remote learning will consist of daily lessons including tasks and activities.

Home Learning for Reception and Nursery:

Home learning for children having to self-isolate in reception and nursery will be accessed through Tapestry and the school website both of which are already familiar to both the children and parents in Nursery and Reception.

If a class / year group has to self-isolate then daily videos and tasks will be uploaded to Tapestry for children to complete. In these videos, teachers will be introducing an activity and then providing a task for you to complete at home. All resources needed to complete the tasks should be resources you have around the house, however if you do have any problems then please contact school and ask for advice. Once you have completed the tasks you can upload an observation with a photograph of your child's work. Teachers will be available during the day to provide feedback and comments. These will include phonics, literacy, maths and topic activities, as well as a story and song for your child to engage with.

Nursery will follow their normal timetable. Throughout the week videos and activities will focus around phonics, literacy, maths, topic, stories and songs. These will not be daily but spread throughout the week.

If an individual child is self-isolating, then general tasks and activities can be found on the school website as well as home learning packs. In addition to this, a weekly overview will be uploaded to Tapestry each week so you can view the learning in all areas of the curriculum that is being continued in school.

We are mindful that most families at Leominster Primary school have access to remote learning. We will make sure that our remote learning can be accessed easily this way. We will provide a balance of activities that require a device with tasks that require easily accessible household resources. For those of you without reliable online connections or access to devices we will provide home learning packs available as paper copies.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals we will provide these if your child is required to self-isolate for a long period of time.

Whilst we hope that your child does not have to self-isolate, and that we avoid any closure or partial closure during term time, it is important we have a comprehensive plan in place for all possibilities. So that you know what to expect from us if your child has to be at home, we have drawn up a tiered set of remote learning provision for given scenarios. The extent and complexity of this offer will depend on the capacity of class teachers. If teachers are continuing to teach full-time in school (if only one or two members of their class are self-isolating for instance), they have less time to provide remote teaching to children at home. If, however, the whole class have to self-isolate for any reason, teachers will have much more time available to devote to remote learning for their class. This plan has been sent with this letter and both these documents will continue to be available on our website here www.leominsterprimaryschool.co.uk

Lastly, we would like to be clear that your child is not expected to do any remote learning if they are off school because they are ill.

Thank you for your patience and co-operation as we navigate these difficult times together. Unfortunately, it appears that this new way of working is here for a while yet; we hope to continue to develop our remote curriculum so that children's learning suffers as little upheaval as possible. As always, your children's safety and education are our priority.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Helen Rees and Helen Lynch
Headteachers

	WHOLE CLASS / YEAR ISOLATION	INDIVIDUAL ISOLATION (child has symptoms of COVID 19 or is waiting for test result or tested positive)
Work set with pupils who have internet access	Daily work will be set via Purple Mash . Each morning the child will receive notification of the day's tasks as a 2Do notification (on the purple bell.) Three tasks will be set each day (English, maths and one other subject.) These will not just be revision tasks: teachers will continue to move learning forward and new content will be introduced. In addition to the above pupils in year 1 will receive phonics activities and in year 4 will be set multiplication activities. All pupils will also be set reading tasks 3 times a week.	If your child is poorly, and not well enough to attend school, they are not well enough to complete work and no work will be set for them. If you feel that they have recovered enough to be able to work at home then they can access the work via Purple Mash which will be set up by the class teacher.
Work set for pupils who do not have internet access	Pupils will receive a pack of work from school which will include maths, English and topic work. This will include instructions of how to do the tasks. / a book for English and maths with daily activities. There will be answers in the back of the book so parents can support their child and ensure they have the correct answers.	If your child is poorly, and not well enough to attend school, they are not well enough to complete work and no work will be set for them. If you feel that they have recovered enough to be able to work at home then you can contact the school to arrange for a paper pack learning resource.
Work expectations	It is expected that your child completes the daily work set at home and uploads it to 'hand in' to their teacher. Full instructions on how to do this will go out shortly. Tasks will be progressive, so it is vital that your child keeps up with the work set. In order to ensure progress teachers will provide feedback to your child throughout this period of time. As such we will contact parents whose children have not completed their work. For those pupils who are completing 'home learning packs' there is still an expectation that this work is completed. They should bring the work back to school with them when they return. At some time during the isolation period your child's class teacher will phone your child to speak to them about the work and answer any questions they may have.	If your child is poorly, we just wish them well and do not expect them to be completing school work.
Queries	If you / or you child has any questions about the work set, please encourage them to message their teacher through ' Purple Mash ' so they can respond. For younger children parents may want to do this for them.	Please call the school office or email with any queries.

Remote learning in different scenarios

Some Tips in an event of your child having to work from home for a set period of time.

1. Don't try to do too much. You might start with 30 minutes / an hour a day and then build up. We would advocate no more than three hours in any one day.
2. Try to keep a routine. This doesn't mean a 'school day timetable'. This is a routine that works for your family and with older children would be best agreed with them. It might involve setting times for 'work' during the day and times for 'recreation / relaxation'. If you want any help with how to set a routine, please contact your child's teacher through purple mash.
3. Build in plenty of breaks and make sure your child drinks lots of water. The children are used to having short 'outdoor play breaks' / healthy snacks regularly when they work.
4. Learning doesn't have to be at a table. Depending on the task, there may be a much more suitable place for your child to do an activity.
5. Be kind to yourself. Lots of us are anxious and still trying to adjust to this new way of living. Lots of us are also still working and trying to balance this support for learning. Don't feel guilty if you miss a day, or just decide to spend a day having fun as a family, just do what you can. This time as a family is valuable and will hopefully be one of the positive things that we are able to take away from this experience.