Bowbrook Primary School

Remote Learning Policy

January 2024

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Purpose

This Policy is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or Carers about what to expect from remote education where national or local restrictions require pupils to remain at home.

Aims of this document:

- To define what we mean by 'Remote Learning' at Bowbrook Primary School
- To clarify expectations of staff, parents and pupils in relation to Remote Learning
- To explain the processes and use of Seesaw

1. ***What is remote learning?***
2. ***Dojo: our online platform for EYFS***
3. ***How does Dojo work?***
4. ***Seesaw: our online platform for EYFS to Yr 6***
5. ***How does Seesaw work?***
6. ***Seesaw during normal school operation***
7. ***When will Seesaw / Tapestry be used for Remote Learning?***
8. ***How many tasks will be set?***
9. ***What will the tasks be? Will it all be maths and English?***
10. ***What is expected of parents and children?***
    - ***10.1 : Online-Specific behaviour expectations***
11. ***What is expected of teachers?***
12. ***Rewarding remote learners***
13. ***FAQs***

1. What is Remote Learning?

Remote Learning, is **not** homework. It is also often referred to as 'remote learning' or 'distance learning'. It is the method of delivering curriculum learning that will be employed in the event of enforced isolation of children owing to Coronavirus.

2. *Dojo*: our online platform for EYFS

- *Dojo* is online app-based platform that EYFS use throughout the year to share observations and send messages to parents.
- All parents will be given login details at the start of the academic year.
- Teachers and parents are able to share observations and comment on posts.
- During a school closure, appropriate work will be set for you and your child to complete.

3. How Does *Dojo* work?

- Follow the instructions given to you by the EYFS team to login to Dojo.
- You can down load an app to your smartphone to keep track of observations.

- Parents and teachers are able to share observations, send messages and comment on and like posts.

4. *Seesaw*: our online platform for Years 1 to 6

- *Seesaw* is an online app-based platform that could be purchased in the event of a closure.
- *Seesaw* provides a safe online space to share and comment on work. It is managed by teachers and all work / comments must be approved by teachers before it is posted to make sure that it remains safe and appropriate.
- The use of *Seesaw* is overseen by leaders to ensure that the system is used consistently across school.
- The apps are free to use for parents and children. They can be used on smartphones, tablets or computers.
- Each child will have a *Seesaw* login linked to their class, and parents will be able to download a parents' version to keep track of their child's work.
- Logins will be provided at the start of the school year – the use of the apps is user-friendly and straight forward to navigate.
- All staff have been trained in using the app and have access to ongoing support and training, if needed.

5. How does *Seesaw* work?

- To use *Seesaw*, the free *Seesaw Class* app must be downloaded and instructions followed to log in.
- Teachers set tasks which appear in your child's home page. The tasks are accessed and completed: either on screen or on paper. The completed work is then either sent back to the teacher, or a photograph is sent back to the teacher. The teacher then approves the work so it can appear in your child's journal.

6. *Seesaw* during normal school operation

- *Seesaw* will **only** be used for remote learning in individual cases or in the event of a whole-school closure.

7. When will *Seesaw* /Dojo be used for Remote Learning?

- For children who have to observe self-isolation because of Coronavirus and cannot attend school, *Seesaw* /Dojo will be used to deliver teaching, receive completed work and to provide feedback/assess progress made by pupils during normal school days and school hours.
- This applies to individuals, small groups and in the event of a whole school closure, although there are differences in provision for these scenarios.
- In the event of a **whole class absence or whole school closure**, the **full** *Remote Learning* policy will be enacted.
- When individuals (or groups less than the whole class) are absent owing to Coronavirus, remote learning via *Seesaw / Dojo* will consist of the tasks the children in-class receive. It will not be possible for teachers to include daily Zoom conferences or instructional videos whilst teaching a class full time in school.

8. <u>How many tasks will be set?</u>

- Government guidance is that Key Stage 1 children should be provided with 3 hours of remote learning a day, with less for younger children. Key Stage 2 children should be provided with 4 hours a day.
- Each day, **4** tasks will be set by the class teacher: maths, English and 2 other curriculum tasks.
- We will aim to plan a programme that is equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and as a minimum primary aged children are to receive 3 hours, on average, across the school cohort.
- Evidence from the spring lockdown suggests that setting more tasks than this created undue anxiety for parents and children at an already difficult time. For families that require more tasks, we can signpost you further resources.
- There may be some extra posts that are not necessarily class work; things like assemblies or PE games. These are *in addition* to the teachers' tasks, not *instead of.*

9. <u>What will the tasks be? Will it all be maths and English?</u>

- The tasks should have a spread of all the curriculum subjects – we do not want to limit our children's learning to just maths and English.
- Learning tasks will be meaningful and appropriately ambitious.
- Many tasks will include videos modelling the work being set: either a video made by the teacher or a narrated slideshow. These videos and any high-quality curriculum resources will provide frequent, clear explanations of new content.
- The tasks will follow our normal curriculum sequence that is delivered in-class. When planning learning, teachers will be considering how to transfer lessons onto Seesaw when it is needed.
- A mix of screen-based and off-screen tasks will be set.
- Knowledge and skills will be built incrementally as they would be in the classroom. This is to ensure that the quality of education provided is as close to what you would normally expect as possible.
- It is important to note that despite this consideration during planning, real, lasting learning may not be achievable in this context. Nothing can replace the nuanced and intimate learning that happens in a classroom environment. The aim of the remote learning is to maintain children's engagement with school; maintain their understanding of taught subjects and to keep children busy whilst locked down at home. *Seesaw* and Dojo will **NOT** be able to replace the learning that happens in school, so it is important to not expect it to do so.

10. <u>What is expected of parents and children?</u>

- As with the spring lockdown, we **DO NOT** expect all children to complete all the tasks. Teaching one's own children at home is a uniquely difficult task.
- We would like families to ***'Go With The Flow'*** and complete what you are able to. Many families will be experiencing a difficult time during a lockdown and we do not wish, as a school, to be adding to the huge pressures many families will already be under.
- We do, however, need to remain in contact with **ALL** our families during a lockdown, so we ask that at least one task each day is responded to in some way. Checking

Seesaw / *Dojo* for interaction is the best way for us as a school to check that our families are safe and well.

- All teachers will have in place a system for checking whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern. Any concerns relating to lack of engagement in home learning will be logged by teachers on CPOMS.
- All work / photos posted on *Tapestry* or *Dojo* will adhere to the E-Safety Policy (which can be found on the school website).
- No abusive or inappropriate messages or posts will be admitted.

10.1 : Online-specific behaviour expectations

- When engaging with Zoom/Teams calls, children will be dressed appropriately (no pyjamas, swimwear etc.) and not in bed.
- Chat functions will not be used by children unless expressly asked by teachers (they will be deactivated by the teachers).
- No photos or videos are to be posted on Seesaw/Dojo where children are not fully clothed. Parents are ultimately responsible for the policing of what images or videos are posted.

11. <u>What is expected of teachers?</u>

- Teachers will be expected to set appropriately meaningful and ambitious tasks as explained above.
- Years 1 to 6: Teachers will have daily contact with their classes through Teams/Zoom. Each school day morning, class teachers will host a Teams/*Zoom* meeting where they will explain the day's tasks and answer any questions you may have. Joining the meeting is not compulsory, and the recorded video will be posted on *Seesaw* /Dojo so that every child gets a chance to view it. It is vitally important to maintain regular contact with school to reduce feelings of isolation and removal from the school community.
- EYFS: Daily videos will be posted by the Reception teachers to explain the day's activities.
- Years 3 – 6: Teachers will run live lessons (at least 2 each week) using Teams/Zoom each week.
- Teachers will be expected to teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject
- Teachers will be expected to approve work daily, providing valuable feedback to their pupils. Teachers are not expected to work beyond normal working hours. It will not be possible to comment on all pieces of work – sometimes, a 'like' will be more appropriate.
- Teachers will be able to gauge how well children are progressing through the curriculum and modify tasks as appropriate to suit differing needs.
- Teachers will reserve the right to offer small-group or 1:1 Teams/Zoom sessions for children with SEND and/or specific struggles with understanding of work or for children who would benefit from extra stretch and challenge. This will be at the teachers' professional discretion.
- Professional advice will be sought for children with places in the SEND Hub.
- Parents will be able to email class teachers, or send messages via *Seesaw* / *Dojo*, which will be answered within 24hrs.

- Teachers will monitor *Seesaw / Dojo* engagement and call/zoom call families with no engagement each week: this is to check that everyone is well and safe, **NOT** to chase missing work. Teachers will, at this time, ask to speak with individual children to check that all is well. These phone/zoom calls will be logged on CPOMS for our records and to enable Safeguarding Leads to keep an overview and follow up on any concerns as quickly as possible.
- Teachers in EYFS will maintain contact with their children via weekly phone calls and these will be logged on CPOMS.
- Teachers will adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding.
- We will post weekly PE lessons onto Seesaw for all children and there will be 2 assemblies per week posted by the Headteacher.

12. Rewarding Remote Learners

- ***Dojos***
    - Class dojo will still be used to reward remote learners in the same way they would at school.
    - Remote learners will be provided with a certificate of achievement as they are at school.

13. FAQs

What if my child is the only one in the class who is isolating?
In the event of a one or two children isolating, the class work will still be posted on *Seesaw* / *Dojo*. It will not, however, be possible to include the quality videos, explanations or daily *Zoom/Teams* conferences for only a small number of children. This level of time resources cannot be afforded alongside full-time class teaching. Your child's class teacher will instead call once a week to provide support.

What if my child refuses to complete any tasks?
Your child's teachers will be available each day to speak to about concerns and will be able to speak to your child if necessary.

Will there be consequences for not completing tasks?
No. If there is no *Seesaw* / *Dojo* contact in a week, your child's class teacher may call to check that everyone is OK. It would be unfair to expect all tasks to be completed. Your child may, however, miss out on learning if they do not engage at all.

What if the tasks are too difficult?
You can contact your child's class teacher through the daily Teams / *Zoom* meeting, *Seesaw* /
Dojo messaging or email to address any concerns you may have.

What if the tasks are too easy? What if there are not enough for my child?
Contact your child's teacher if the tasks are too easy. There will also be links to other high-quality online resources.

14. Further Online Resources

- DfE Government-compiled list of resources: A comprehensive set of links to resources for English, maths, science, PE, wellbeing and SEND.

- Oak National Academy: An online resource of lessons (including videos) from all curriculum areas and all year groups.

- BBC Bitesize: Daily lessons for all subjects and all year groups.

15. Review

This policy will be reviewed upon national or local guidance being issued, where pupils are required to stay at home.