



7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Forgive the delay in getting this letter out to you. Since the announcement on Monday evening, we have been working flat out behind the scenes getting everything ready for both children in school and you at home, without taking an extra training day.

We have made some adjustments to our systems to make remote learning as high a quality as possible and to support you as best we can during this time.

### **Remote Learning**

Remote learning is available on the website:

Covid-19/Remote Learning/Class or Year Group

[https://www.chadsmeadacademy.co.uk/web/remote\\_learning\\_1/518530](https://www.chadsmeadacademy.co.uk/web/remote_learning_1/518530)

Learning will be uploaded to the website ready for a Monday morning start. The entire week will be available at once with an overview sheet to help you see what all the resources are, and which lessons you will be doing. At several parents' request, we have also uploaded a timetable (to the top of your class page) that you could follow. This is a very clever idea, thank you for the suggestion. This allows you to match the assigned work to when it is being taught and will help you structure your day. All remote learning should be completed although the timetable is only a guide and does not have to be strictly adhered to.

Work should be completed in the Remote Learning books provided earlier in the year. Please keep these and bring them to school when we return fully. If you complete a book, bring it into school and we will replace it. If you have mislaid it, contact school to arrange a time to collect a new one.

You will see on the overview sheet that 3 pieces of work have been highlighted in blue. These pieces of work are to be sent back to staff to school and you will receive quality feedback. Please send this work back by 3pm of the Friday of the week, you will receive feedback in the next week. You can photograph the work or scan it to send it back. Sending the work by e-mail is the preferred option (details below) but if you wish to drop work off when collecting learning packs or hampers, or use the MyEd app, the work will still receive feedback.

### **Printed Learning Packs**

If you indicated on the IT survey earlier in the year that you did not have printing access, you were contacted recently with details of when to collect your printed packs. If you do not need these please let us know, to avoid wasting time taken to print these resources and the paper used. Likewise, if your circumstances have changed and you now need a printed pack, please let us know through the MyEd app.

If you do not collect your printed pack, without letting us know the reason, we will not make packs the following week.

## **Communication**

As in the last lockdown, we will aim to make contact with you every week. This is to maintain positive relationships between home and school and help combat any feelings of isolation. We know from experience how important this is. We will do this via telephone, so please look out for an unknown number calling. Please do your very best to speak with staff members, because if we receive no contact, a home visit will be made. We would like to avoid this in order to keep our staff as safe as possible.

We have set up dedicated e-mail addresses that allow communication directly with staff working within your child's phase. This should make getting help with the remote learning easier and quicker. The e-mail will be monitored by staff everyday between 9am and 3:30pm. The e-mail address you need are:

Children in Nursery and Reception	bubbleAlockdown2021@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk
Children in Years 1 and 2	bubbleBlockdown2021@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk
Children in Years 3 and 4	bubbleClockdown2021@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk
Children in Year 5	bubbleDlockdown2021@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk
Children in Years 6	bubbleElockdown2021@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk

You will use this address to send your child's 3 pieces of work and receive feedback. Although we have only asked for 3 pieces of work per week (to allow for staff time to teach, make contact and provide feedback) do not let this stop you e-mailing other work you are proud of. Please do ensure you make it clear who your child is, as it is often not clear from home e-mail addresses.

## **TEAMs**

You have received a booklet to help set up your TEAMs access. This is the school's digital learning platform. These guides have also been uploaded to the Remote Learning introduction page on the school website.

We hope that by improving this aspect of our remote learning our school community will feel more connected. This was requested by many parents and carers in the last lockdown. Initially, we will begin with class assemblies and PSHE style sessions, where the children will talk with their class teacher and other classmates at home. Once the children (and staff) become familiar with the functions and use of TEAMs we will move to more 'teaching' style lessons. This will enable the learning to be explained and the technical/specific parts of the lesson to be shared and modelled by the teacher. The children will then complete the task independently. These sessions are expected to be around 15 minutes.

Early Years children's learning style is slightly different, as normally it encourages learning through play to focus on the three prime areas: Communication & Language, Physical Development and Personal and Social Development. At school the children choose activities following their own particular interests and needs and experience both adult led and child led time on a daily basis. You can appreciate this style of learning is difficult to replicate through a digital platform. Therefore, the activities provided on the website for remote learning mirror both the adult led challenges as well as some of the continuous provision. However, you will see from the timetable that we have included 'learning through play' which is intended to replicate the child led element of Early Years' practice. When Early Years engage in a TEAMs session this will include storytelling or Read Write Inc, how to make household items fun and

singing. These sessions will be more in keeping with communication and language, than the other children in the school who receive a formal National curriculum.

We will be mindful that families may be sharing devices and timetable all TEAMS sessions separately to allow for this.

You can also access TEAMS through an X-box or PlayStation. Many children have these and if you are struggling with enough devices for the remote learning this may be of help to you. A 'How to' sheet has been uploaded to the Remote Learning Introduction page on the school website.

### **Other Help**

We have added to the remote learning introduction page a reminder of how to access the Accelerated Reader quizzes at home. We are pleased to have been contacted by some parents of children who are keen to complete quizzes already.

Use the MyEd app to request any forgotten passwords for our online learning tools (maths with parents, iXL, Spag.com, Maths.com, Accelerated Reader, TT Rockstars) we are happy to provide these again.

Disappointingly, our order for loan devices has been cancelled by the DfE, in favour of secondary schools. We will be notified when we can re-order. We are trying our best to make our school devices home friendly, but it is appearing to be quite a task for our computer support team. We will update those in need as soon as we can.