

Dear Parents/Carers,

Blended learning at Purbrook Junior School

As you will be aware attendance at school is now compulsory, and yet we live in a time where children may be absent from school due to self-isolation or a class bubble having to close for 14 days. The Government have asked that all schools come up with a plan for remote learning and supporting parents at home, if this were to happen. It's important that your child engages with home learning and therefore, in this letter, we would like to outline the plans that we have for the different scenarios that may occur.

What if my child is ill but has NO Coronavirus symptoms?

If your child is ill, and not well enough to be in school, you must follow the usual attendance procedures of informing school and your child returning once well enough to do so. As in the past when your child is ill, we will not send home work for them to complete.

What if my child has got Coronavirus symptoms?

If your child has one of the four Covid symptoms (persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste and/or smell) then you must keep your child at home, inform school and arrange for a test. If during this period of time you feel that your child is well enough to access home learning, then they can access their lessons which can be found on Google Classroom (this learning will be uploaded by 8.45am the following day so, for example, if your child is absent from school starting on a Wednesday, the learning for Wednesday will be available on Thursday morning). All they would need to do is upload their work for the teachers to see. However if your child is poorly with these symptoms, then they do not need to complete work.

What if I have been contacted through Track and Trace and my child has to self isolate for 14 days ?

If this is the case, please inform school and remote learning will be put in place for your child within 24 hours. Please log onto Goggle classrooms daily as the teachers will be setting daily lessons and videos through this App. Ensure you have the correct classroom code to hand ASAP please –

your child would have brought this home last week. By using this platform, education can continue at home and school work can be uploaded for the teachers to give feedback on. Please note that in order for teachers to give feedback in a timely manner, all core subjects (English, reading and maths) will need to be uploaded by 1pm. Working remotely via Google Classroom needs to be done on a daily basis, but can be fitted around parents/carers who may also be needing to work from home as well. If a child does not upload any work, or access the work on Google Classroom, we will treat this 'non attendance' as we do so in school and a phone call home by the school office will be made. It is important that children in this scenario continue with their learning at home, so they don't get left behind.

What happens if a year group bubble has to self-isolate?

Learning will continue, using Google Classroom - and children will need to complete the work and upload it onto Google Classrooms on a daily basis just as if they were in the classroom. Teachers will upload a mix of written, audio and video instructions to explain tasks where appropriate. **It will be an expectation that all children will log on and access the work. Again under the attendance system that we currently run, with non attendance, a phone call home from the school office will be made to ensure children are keeping up with the school work.**

Is Google Classroom easy to use?

Yes! We have prepared a step-by-step guide to help you navigate the system. And all children have practiced logging on and finding their virtual classroom in school. We also have a YouTube video on our website that you can watch to help with the first few times. Google Classroom is the preferred virtual classroom of many, many schools throughout the UK.

Will I be alerted to work being available for my child?

No. Our commitment to you is that learning will be uploaded daily.

How do I contact my child's class teacher?

When your child's classroom is open, please continue to use the school office as a way of contacting your child's class teacher. If your child's classroom is closed, for the duration of the closure please contact your class teacher via the following e-mail addresses.

Year3@purbrook-jun.hants.sch.uk

Year4@purbrook-jun.hants.sch.uk

Year5@purbrook-jun.hants.sch.uk

Year6@purbrook-jun.hants.sch.uk

As any normal teaching day, your child's class teacher will have teaching commitments; rest assured they will respond to your messages as soon as they can but within 24 hours.

What you'll need at home

All learning will be available on Google Classroom which can easily be accessed using a laptop or a tablet. A phone can also be used, though due to the size of the screen, you and your child may find this more difficult to use. A printer should not be necessary – your child can use the on-line documents to complete their work. Your child will also need a pen and some paper and ideally a quiet space to work, though we do appreciate this may be difficult if others are at home isolating too.

If your child does not have any of the above, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can help support you.

What you can do to help

We appreciate that if this situation arises, it may present some challenges for you. We kindly ask for your support so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for your child during this time. Younger children in particular may need support in accessing online materials and staying focused with their remote learning. We ask that you help them as much as you can.

At the same time, we don't expect you to watch your child all day, and we wouldn't expect parents/carers to get involved in remote lessons in place of our teachers. But, it would be really helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning by asking them about their day and what they've learned.

Our top tips:

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day, and to keep to their suggested timetable
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life

➤ Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active

We understand the huge pressures that families are under at the moment and as long as we keep communication open between home and school, we will support you in whatever way we can.

Our children, their safety, their health and their education is the most important thing to us all, and by working together we will get through this together.

Thank you for your continued support.