



St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy

Home Learning Provision: information for parents

January 2021



In September 2020, all our classes returned to full-time education following the Covid-19 partial school closures in March. Although we had hoped that the majority of our pupils would have an uninterrupted experience, with the re-closure of all schools in January 2021, there is now the need for our whole school community to once again access our remote learning provision. Our plan for remote learning allows all children to continue with their education. This meets the expectations set out in the DfE guidance 'Remote Education Support', however for the purpose of this document and to reduce any confusion between screen and non-screen learning, we will refer to Remote Education as Home Learning.

Pupils at St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy are very young and at the beginning of their education journey. We understand that teaching young children at home can be extremely challenging and have kept this at the forefront when designing our Home Learning provision. We are very aware that pupils in the Early Years and Key Stage One often have shorter attention spans with enquiring minds and that they may be at the early stages of learning to read and write. For these reasons, it is our intention to provide child-centred, age appropriate Home Learning activities that encapsulate the full bespoke St Meriadoc Blossom Curriculum, whilst continuing to embed the key basic skills taught in school.

For further information please see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-remote-education>

Home Learning-what did the school provide in the first few days?

St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy was closed to pupils on January 4th 2021, due to our previously planned INSET day. Following Government guidance, St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy was closed to all pupils on January 5th 2021. All parents/carers and pupils were written to on January 5th 2021 detailing our remote learning provision from January 6th 2021. All work packs and teaching videos were available from January 6th 2021.

See the letter here – INSERT LINK

The Home Learning Curriculum-what will my child learn?

It is essential that all pupils continue to access the full curriculum whether they are learning in school or at home. Leaders at St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy have ensured that all subject areas are well-represented within our Home Learning provision and that progression is built in. Curriculum Leaders continue to work to monitor the progression and coverage of their subject(s) across the year groups and to ensure that every subject is well represented within the Home Learning tasks across the weeks.

Regular, pre-recorded, Collective Worship services led by members of the St Meriadoc Team and associated clergy, will be available to access on our school website, encouraging pupils to stay motivated, celebrate successes and maintain the Christian Vision and our core Christian values of the school community. In addition, Children will have access to weekly 'Picture News' assemblies, which will be familiar to children as these are regularly used in school to discuss current affairs, world issues and teach about British Values.

Pupils will have access to 'live,' daily story time sessions with a member of their year group team and regular Virtual Playground Chats for more social interaction. Daily Story Time will give children the opportunity to be read to as a class, as they would have been in school, to develop their vocabulary and language and to support a clear routine. This will also enable teachers to see their pupils every day. Virtual Playground Chats will enable children to stay in contact with their peers, communicate as a whole-class group, discuss any whole-class issues or concerns, celebrate the work being completed at home and have a contact with school.

Teachers will note pupils missing from daily meetings and our Family Liaison Officer will contact the parents individually to offer more tailored support. Any families who are not engaging with home learning or virtual sessions will receive well-being phone calls, visits or referrals to the Educational Welfare Officer if necessary.

1:1 Microsoft Teams sessions will be available to parents/carers and children having any difficulties with home learning. Difficulties to Home Learning could be, if they do not understand the work, have misconceptions or parents/carers feel their child would benefit from a quick chat with their teacher to explain or encourage their child. Requests for 1:1 Teams sessions should be made via Tapestry (Reception or Nursery) or via STMIYear1@rainbowacademy.org.uk (Year 1) or STMIYear2@rainbowacademy.org.uk (Year 2) to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Invites to any virtual Microsoft Teams sessions (Story Time, Playground Chats or 1:1s) will be sent to parental email addresses of children not attending school and where the Microsoft Teams User Agreement Policy has been read, understood and signed.

Praise Postcards will be sent out to children to celebrate their home learning efforts linked to our school Christian Values. Postcards will be sent virtually to parental email addresses or on Tapestry and via post. Children in school will continue to be awarded Star of the Week and Christian Values Award each week to ensure consistency and continuity for them.

For direct teaching, pupils will receive a differentiated daily RWI lesson video, daily English lesson video, daily Maths lesson video and a daily Topic lesson video. All videos will be recorded by St Meriadoc teachers/RWI tutors. These videos will model and scaffold the learning prior to the child completing the work from their Home Learning pack.

Teachers will regularly respond and give feedback to pupil's work using our dedicated email addresses - STMIYear1@rainbowacademy.org.uk (Year 1) or STMIYear2@rainbowacademy.org.uk (Year 2) at Key Stage 1 and Tapestry at EYFS. This will allow all pupils to have 1:1 feedback on their completed work, with positives highlighted and next steps suggested. 1:1 Teams sessions will also be available to support learning as previously mentioned.

P.E Home Learning is focused on ensuring that children are remaining active whilst at home. Activities may be a Joe Wicks live work out or a link to a child friendly HIIT/Go Noodle session. PE will feature during our Topic teaching also, with a specific activity, such as a Personal Best Fitness challenge or the opportunity to create a game within the home or garden.

The Home Learning tab on our website also contains additional links to other PE sites that provide families with ideas for activities to do at home. Our aim is to keep our pupils fit and active during periods of school closure.

How long should my child be learning for every day?

Staff will provide Home Learning activities for parents/carers to use in a manner that is convenient to them in their current circumstances. The amount of time spent completing these tasks will vary from child to child, however, we expect the work set to take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

EYFS: We are offering and providing a minimum of 2-hours a day for parents and children to access when appropriate and convenient to their home school provisions.

KS1: We are offering and providing a minimum of 3-hours a day for parents and children to access when appropriate and convenient to their home school provisions.

How will my child access the online Home Learning platform?

Using our school website, <http://www.st-meriadoc-inf.cornwall.sch.uk/> the Class teacher will upload daily lesson videos and activities within a weekly timetable, this will allow parents/carers to access activities for the week ahead. All parents will be directed to the Home Learning tab on the website where they will be able to use the variety of links to access the daily English, Maths and Topic videos as well as navigating the RWI section to access the differentiated RWI daily session for their child. The intended layout of the website, set up for each day, ensures this is simple and user friendly, enabling children to access learning activities independently and reduce the need for parental support.

When a parent/carer wishes to submit their child's work to their class teacher, they will use the dedicated year group email addresses (KS1) or Tapestry (EYFS) to share the completed task, this will then be responded to personally by the teacher who will also provide next steps of learning when appropriate. A support video of how to use the scanner in the Notes app (iPhone or iPad only), to make submission simpler will be shared with parents/carers.

Bespoke learning will also be planned and shared for SEN children. The SENCO will lead on the arrangements for this and liaise with families and teachers. All submission of work and feedback will follow the same procedures.

General information for parents and pupils will also be shared using our school Facebook page, text messages and emails. There are also a number of different links to additional learning platforms on the school website should parents and children wish to use them.

My child does not have digital or online access at home, how will the school help them to access the Home Learning?

We recognise that pupils may not have suitable online access at home and that some parents would prefer that their young child was not learning using a digital device. This is why our home learning is set up to be introduced by their teacher through a video on a screen, but the independent work will be completed using pencil and paper. We think the importance of children gaining these fundamental fine motor skills is essential to their future learning, therefore we are minimising our use of screens for completion of work. We also understand that parents/carers may wish to reserve screen time for their child's recreational use too.

We take the following approaches to support all our pupils to access our Home Learning provision:

- Whilst we are not eligible for the DfE 'Get Help with Tech Scheme' (Year 3 and upwards only), St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy will prioritise school equipment to loan to families. Parents/carers can find more information about this by contacting their class teacher, emailing the school office,

ewhite@rainbowacademy.org.uk or by calling on 01209 713982. In order to borrow IT equipment from school, the Rainbow MAT Device Loan Agreement must be read, understood and signed to adhere to the conditions set out in the agreement.

• Printed materials will be available to be collected or delivered weekly at scheduled times on every Friday. See the below timetable:

Reception (Heron/Swan Class)	9:00am -9.30am
Year 1 (Hedgehog/Squirrel Class)	9.30am-10.00am
Year 2 (Chaffinch/Kingfisher Class)	10.00am – 10.30am
N1 (Ladybird Nursery)	10.30am – 11.00am
N2 (Dragonfly Nursery)	11.00am-11.30am

More information about this is available by contacting the class teacher or the school office as above.

• All children will be provided with a work pack specific to their needs. This will include their school exercise books and Maths No Problem workbook (KS1). Children will use these books to record all of their Home Learning. Staff will add a divider sheet into their books, to indicate where Home Learning began, separating it from the previous work completed in school. This will enable us to monitor children's progress and help in our assessments on their return to school in all subjects. These can be delivered to the home if required. Children will be provided with a Maths laminated manipulatives resources sheet, to cut out to support their home learning (suitable for their year group). Children will be provided with their own set of RWI cards and workbooks, differentiated to their level. In their learning pack children will also be provided with usual school resources such as pencil, whiteboard and pen etc.

• If pupils are unable to submit work to their teacher due to a lack of devices, work can be delivered to the school office by hand, which will follow quarantine protocols, before being passed on to the teacher for marking and individualised feedback.

How will my child be taught?

We will use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils who are learning at home:

- Live, interactive sessions with class teachers every afternoon and through live Virtual Playground Chats.
- recorded teaching videos
- printed copies of learning activities produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- Maths No Problem Workbooks and RWI resources
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences

What are the expectations for my child's engagement and what support should I provide?

We are fully aware of the demands on parents during periods of school closure and understand that supporting Home Learning can be challenging for many reasons. We also know that our parents understand the importance of maintaining a routine for young children, which engagement in Home Learning supports. Children engaging in their daily lessons, will be better prepared on their return to

school. We ask that our pupils access our Home Learning at convenient times for parents/carers and that parents do what they can during this time to support their child's learning at home.

Additional support and advice will always be available from the staff at St Meriadoc and we will endeavour to ensure that each family is supported to help their child as effectively as possible. Whilst designing our Home Learning provision, we carefully considered our pupils' age, stage of development and individual need and hope that the age-appropriate, child-friendly approach supports our parents and pupils.

We know that pupils in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 often require high levels of parental involvement to support their engagement when learning at home. We have therefore provided a very user-friendly, Home Learning platform on which we will share our lessons and will use paper work packs for most activities. Our aim is that pupils are able to access some of this learning independently and that parental support is not required for all activities. Using paper-led Home Learning enables all pupils to engage in our Home Learning curriculum.

We regularly invite feedback from parents and will continue to adjust and update our provision based on suggestions.

How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if you have any concerns?

Throughout the period of closure, teachers will timetable daily Story time sessions and Virtual Playground Chats with their class to share stories, discuss learning and have a social catch up. We will use Microsoft Teams to facilitate this. For ease, parents will not be required to create an account or remember login details, they will be emailed a link to access these sessions. For our Daily Story time sessions this will be the same link each day. We have staggered these meetings across the year groups to enable parents of more than one child to attend their meetings if they are sharing a device. Teachers will take a register as part of these sessions and note any pupil who is not in attendance. Teachers will then inform the Family Liaison Officer to contact the parents of these pupils individually to offer additional support and check that they are able to access the Home Learning and happy to engage in the activities. This will also provide the teacher with essential contact with all pupils during periods of school closure.

Staff will arrange for quizzes and other assessment style activities which will enable pupils to assess their own learning and teachers to monitor pupil progress. Teachers will collate completed work using the dedicated email addresses or Tapestry and monitor any pupils who are not submitting work. Teachers will provide feedback to pupils on all submitted tasks, providing next steps where appropriate.

If staff are concerned that a child is not engaging with the Home Learning, the teacher and/or Family Liaison Officer will contact the parent/carer (phone or socially distanced visit) to discuss the reasons for this and make a plan to support the child further. If this continues, a member of SLT will then contact the parent/carer to discuss the concerns and the support needed by the family including considering if a place in school should be offered. Referrals to the Educational Welfare Officer will be made if necessary.

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

- Pupils will be asked to submit completed work using the dedicated email addresses or Tapestry. Tasks submitted through either platform will be sent directly and privately to the year group teachers.
- The teacher will feedback on work that they receive, they will praise the pupil's efforts and provide 'next steps' of learning where appropriate.
- In addition to this, pupils will have access to regular quizzes requiring them to answer a range of questions from across the curriculum, this will enable teachers to monitor pupils' understanding of concepts covered during the week. Responses will be collated by the class teacher and feedback given to pupils.
- Teachers will also use all assessment data to inform planning for the following week.

My child has additional needs, how will you support them to learn at home?

Pupils with SEND have the same access to all teaching and learning resources as their peers. Teachers will ensure that all work is carefully matched to the abilities of the pupils within their class and that tasks are appropriately differentiated. Individual support for those pupils with SEND will be offered by the class teacher, class TA or SENCo. Pupils will be provided with appropriate IT equipment, hard copies of activities or access to face to face learning wherever appropriate or possible.

Class teachers and the school SEND team will provide additional differentiated resources, tailored to individual pupil's needs and support the use of these through regular telephone and email contact with parents and carers. Home Learning packs will be updated regularly in consultation with the adults at home. For some children, individual video calls may be appropriate to provide specific interventions.

During periods of school closure, the SLT at St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy will prioritise face to face, in-school provision for all pupils with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and those considered vulnerable with a special educational need. Parents of these pupils will be offered appropriate provision within the school day where the individual needs of the pupil will be met. When a parent chooses not to send their child into school, staff at St Meriadoc will work closely with the family to support Home Learning and ensure that the pupil is able to engage fully with the curriculum.

Links to websites and resources that offer advice and support for a wide range of learning needs, mental health and general well-being are also available to parents.

When the school re-opens, how will you continue to provide home education to my child if they have to self-isolate?

When we are able to re-open the school, the teaching teams at St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy will continue to prepare and provide the paper packs of Home Learning resources every week in conjunction with the usual planning of the curriculum to ensure that pupils continue to access the full curriculum whether they are learning face to face, in school, or at home due to enforced self-isolation. In these circumstances, teachers will be continuing to provide daily teaching for all pupils still in school and will therefore have reduced capacity to contact parents during the day. However, teachers will contact isolating pupils regularly to monitor their engagement with learning and offer support where needed.