



Thank you for all of the useful feedback on remote learning. It has been really helpful for planning a way forward over the coming weeks.

Home Learning isn't the same as mainstream schooling, and shouldn't try to be. Both have things the other can't offer. You can't always do what teachers do in a classroom at the kitchen table, and teachers certainly can't do what parents do at home. Work within your resources and abilities, and prepare to be as flexible as possible.

If you're Home Learning, there are no rules about when you do it. The DFE advises that KS1 children should have access to 3 hours learning per day and KS2 pupils should have access to 4 hours learning per day. Teachers will have given you a format regarding the daily curriculum in their class, however, you don't have to stick to a set timetable, you're in charge of setting a schedule that works for you and your child(ren). The DFE is also promoting use of published resources, textbooks and Oak Academy Trust lessons rather than an over reliance on live lessons and virtual learning.

A timetable can however be useful and, for some, necessary but it must work for you and your family.

Alternatively, you may decide to go with the flow, abandon fixed timetables and let each day be different. Some days, you might have your own work to do at certain times and need your child to be focused and learning at the same time; other days, you may have time for nature walks and board games rather than pencil-and-paper work.

Remember you don't need to be in online lessons all day to get a good education. There are some fantastic resources online (your child's teacher will have suggested a number of sites which they feel are useful) and the internet can be a lifesaver if you're trying to work while Home Learning or are unsure about the subjects and concepts your child is learning about. Try to balance the online lessons and work set with good old-fashioned reading books and practical, hands-on challenges, especially if your child's likely to be distracted by YouTube and Netflix!

Find a way of returning work or getting teacher feedback which suits you. This could be self-marking (where mark sheets are provided), verbal feedback during the session, work returned to assignments or notebook areas of TEAMS, e-mailed to your child's class teacher or a weekly return of paper copies. It is not necessary to return work by multiple means. What we do need is some daily contact if you haven't been on Teams or returned work so we can log we have had some engagement that day. Even if this is to tell us things haven't quite gone to plan that day.

If you don't have pens and paper, school has a ready supply which you can collect, and don't forget there's lots to be learned from puzzle books, board games, gardening, shopping and cooking.

Spend as much time outside as you can. Not just for your sanity, but for general good health - for you and your child.

One of the great advantages of home education is that the one-to-one time can be really concentrated and really beneficial.

Teachers and Teaching Assistants are more than happy to offer their assistance, so feel free to ask them questions, share your concerns and take advantage of their knowledge and experience. They want to help you, although please bear in mind that they're also teaching classes. As a consequence, teacher responses may be slower to materialise due to current workload.

These are strange times indeed, and our children's education has changed in many ways. None of us are experts, we are all adapting to the difficult situation we find ourselves in, so don't worry about your child missing out or falling behind, do what you can.

If it all gets too much, curl up on the settee and read a book together. Tomorrow is always a new day and the most important thing is that you and your child(ren) are happy.