



Thomas's Academy Remote Schooling Provision

January 2021

Mission for Remote Schooling Provision:

“Our aim at Thomas’s Academy is to provide high-quality remote schooling that delivers a broad and balanced curriculum, supports pupils’ wellbeing, secures their engagement and maintains high standards of attainment and progress, all within reasonable expectations of our members of staff”

What is high quality remote schooling?

As [this recent paper](#) shows, remote schooling, or remote education, is a means, not an end. Remote education is not the same as digital education and it is a myth, not based on evidence, that the best way to deliver remote education is always through [live lessons](#). High quality remote schooling incorporates a range of approaches, to suit different types of content and pupils. For example, new content may be taught through an asynchronous (recorded) lesson, with practice, tutoring and feedback carried out synchronously (live). As in ‘normal’ school, teachers are best placed to judge which approach is best suited to the content and age group that they are teaching.

Our Priorities for Remote Schooling Provision:

To continue to provide broad and balanced curriculum

While remote schooling is required, we will avoid a narrowing of the curriculum. Progress in ‘core subjects’ such as English and Maths is of course important, but we will maintain our core belief in children’s overall development through our broad curriculum, including subjects such as Art, Computing, Dance, Spanish, Music and Physical Development.

To continue to support pupil wellbeing

Remote schooling brings particular challenges to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of our pupils, members of staff and parents. We prioritise our pupils’ safety and wellbeing ahead of their academic progress and will redouble our efforts to ensure that our systems of safeguarding and pastoral care are robust and effective, notwithstanding the increased difficulty of operating remotely.

To continue to strive for high standards of attainment and progress

With all of the above in place, we will seek to support good pupil attainment and progress throughout the duration of this third national lockdown and second imposition of remote schooling. Focus will be placed on high-quality teaching and learning and formative assessment rather than summative assessments.

To ensure that our offer is accessible to all pupils.

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We have provided laptops or iPads to pupils where necessary as well as offering access to physical learning resources (pencils, pens, paper etc) as required. We also recognise that some pupils, for example some pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those pupils by providing differentiated work, 1:1 support via Zoom and where possible, physical places at the school.

To ensure that our offer is engaging and replicates school life as much as possible

We recognise that remote schooling can leave our pupils feeling isolated and disconnected from the normal life of the school as a kind, thriving, welcoming community. Anecdotal evidence suggests that it is the small, daily, social interactions which take place in normal times that many pupils (and parents and members of staff) miss most of all. Put simply, they miss their friends. We will strive to ensure that our pupils are engaged fully, not only in the curriculum, but in the best substitutes that we can make available remotely to replicate the communal aspect of school life.

To have reasonable expectations of staff and of parents

The third national lockdown is giving rise to tremendous pressure on the personal and working lives of millions. This includes many of our parents and, at the same time, school staff are no exception. Remote schooling creates complex challenges and is far more time-consuming than 'normal' school. We have a duty of care to our members of staff and must protect them from being tasked with unmanageable expectations. We all want to return, eventually, to thriving schools and healthy, motivated staff teams. Similarly, remote schooling puts huge pressure on parents. We do expect parents to be involved with their children's remote learning. We do realise that it can be incredibly difficult at times, and encourage parents to get in touch with the teachers directly via the class email addresses if their child or family requires any additional support.

What does Thomas's Academy Remote Schooling Provision look like?

Summary

- Early Years daily activity uploaded on Tapestry
- Y1-Y4 daily activities uploaded on Seesaw
- Y5-Y6 daily activities uploaded on Seesaw/Google Classroom
- Pupils in Y1-6 also have access to Edshed, Busy Things and CGP books
- Feedback given to all work submitted from home including Early Years
- Zooms led daily to teach/introduce daily activities with an option to 'stay behind' to speak with the class teacher personally
- Daily PE activities set by P.E. Coordinator (Y1-6)
- Weekly PE activities uploaded to Tapestry for Early Years
- Weekly Ballet lessons uploaded to Tapestry for Early Years
- Weekly Art activities uploaded to Seesaw/Tapestry (Y1-6)
- Weekly Spanish lessons uploaded to Seesaw (Y1-6)
- Weekly Music activities uploaded to Seesaw (Y1-6)
- Weekly optional Zoom sessions to promote social time (Y1-6)
- Daily blogs - mostly focussed on home learning activities
- Monthly newsletters

We expect that remote education (including remote teaching and independent work) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

Early Years (Nursery & Reception)	2 hours per day
Key Stage 1 (Y1 & Y2)	3 hours per day
Key Stage 2 (Y3-6)	4 hours per day

Pupil engagement is monitored and follow-up calls/emails are made to overcome barriers

Detailed provision for particular year groups:

Early Years

- Morning Zoom led by class teachers will include songs and some activities that might include phonics (In Nursery). Reception have phonics on zoom daily Monday - Thursday as well as Tapestry activity modelled by the class teacher.
- One Tapestry activity uploaded by class teachers daily. Feedback given by Early Years staff.
- Weekly ballet pre-recorded lesson uploaded to Tapestry
- Weekly P.E pre-recorded lesson uploaded on Tapestry

Y1-Y4

- Daily morning Zoom led by class teachers will include an introduction to the days' activities
- Daily maths and English activities with clear instruction uploaded to Seesaw
- Daily wider curriculum lesson
- An element of video teaching daily
- Teachers provide feedback and support
- Weekly Spanish activities uploaded to Seesaw and feedback provided
- Weekly art activities uploaded to Seesaw and feedback provided

Y5-Y6

- Daily morning Zoom led by class teachers will include an introduction to the days' activities
- Daily maths and English activities with clear instructions uploaded to Seesaw/Google Classroom
- Daily wider curriculum lesson
- An element of video teaching daily
- Teachers provide feedback and support
- Weekly art activities uploaded to Seesaw/Google Classroom and feedback provided
- Weekly Spanish activities uploaded to Seesaw and feedback provided

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in school, remote education will differ from the approach for whole groups. This is due to the challenges of teaching pupils both at home and in school. If your child is not in school because they are self-isolating, we will provide a pre-prepared version of the approaches described above. This work may not be as closely linked to their current topic or unit of work as it will have been prepared in advance for use when necessary, however the class teachers will adapt this as much as possible to suit individual needs at the time.

Who to contact if you have any questions:

The school office remains open, and you can contact the school as normal during the current lockdown. You can also contact class teachers directly on the class email addresses, or you can contact senior staff on head@academy.thomas-s.co.uk