



ST. ALBAN'S

Catholic Primary School

St. Alban's Remote Education Offer

14th January 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been little over a week since the government announced a third national lockdown and directed schools to switch to deliver remote education for the majority of their pupils and students to help stop the spread of the virus. The only people who should be attending schools and colleges in person are vulnerable and critical worker children. Our senior leaders, teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to adapt to a completely new way of working and deliver a high standard of online learning as well as teaching the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils in school.

We appreciate the feedback we have received so far and we are continually improving the provision of our remote education in line with expectations and emerging best practice.

The DfE stated "When being taught remotely, your child's school is expected to set meaningful and ambitious work each day in several different subjects. Schools are expected to provide remote education that includes **either recorded or live direct teaching** and should be of equivalent length to the core-teaching pupils would receive in school. As a minimum that is:

- 3 hours a day for Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2 when pupils are aged between 5 and 7)
- 4 hours a day for KS2 (years 3-6 when children are aged between 7 and 11)

Those hours include **both direct teaching and time for pupils to complete tasks or assignments independently.**" <https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/08/what-should-remote-education-look-like-how-can-your-child-learn-remotely-if-you-dont-have-a-laptop-we-answer-your-remote-learning-questions/>

We are following the government recommendations and guidance for schools, outlining that, "*Remote learning will include both recorded or live direct teaching time and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. This does not have to be from your class teacher- it can be from government websites such as Oak Academy.*" Ofsted have said, "*Live lessons are not the gold standard.*"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>

We continually strive to offer the very best education we can during these unprecedented and ever changing times, however we appreciate your understanding during the pandemic. Every school's circumstances are different and unique and we are doing the best we possibly can with the resources and staffing that we have available to us at any one time. At present, we have some staff who are unable to

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work due to the long-term effects of Covid and staff who are shielding. We have increasingly high numbers of critical key worker pupils attending school, which is currently 48% of the total school in 'normal circumstances.' This means that teaching assistants are unable to cover all of the 'bubbles' of pupils that are in attendance and teachers do have to cover some of the critical key worker groups.

At St Alban's, we offer a mixture of live, pre-recorded learning videos as well as a myriad of high quality online resources, such as Oak Academy and White Rose Maths. We are delivering the recommended three hours (KS1) and four hours (KS2) for all pupils via a weekly timetable, which includes:

- Zoom lessons for one hour per day in the morning with class teachers.
- A 'live' recording of class teachers delivering a short lesson for each afternoon is added to the class page or plan daily. From week beginning 18th January, this will also include an additional zoom lesson one afternoon per week.
- 'Live lessons' from the Oak National Academy and other 'live links', which is part of the recommended 3 or 4 hours.
- A number of daily tasks set by the teacher that must be completed as if the child is in school and working independently.

Oak Academy is a recommended remote learning resource by the DfE and a teacher, with a pre-recorded video as well as quizzes, worksheets and creative activities, delivers each lesson. It is all easy to use, there is no login or password, you can access the lessons on any device, and pupils only need materials they can find at home. Links to the 'live teaching', are added, to our weekly timetable of lessons for each year group, to make it easily accessible for the children. Children in KS2 should be able to click on the links independently and take part in the lessons. Attached to this email is a suggested weekly timetable for each year group.

We appreciate how difficult it is for many of our parents whom are working at home or looking after a number of children, whilst supporting their child with their learning. Remember, the children are used to having to work independently. When they are in school, with thirty peers in their classroom, they do not get 1:1 attention all day. We are trying to ensure that we offer a range of provision to meet the needs of all of our families that have other commitments at home and work. Please see our remote learning policy- <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-albans-catholic-primary-school-birmingham/UploadedDocument/7ced962fcafa4ce89750069f18215eea/remote-learning-policy-2020.pdf>

If your child is struggling with motivation or the work set then please email the class teachers so that they can provide support and feedback. Teachers have been able to support pupils via phone calls and zoom calls when help has been requested. Some days due to your own personal circumstances, you may not be able to access provision or complete all of the work set and staff will understand.

We pray that everybody stays safe and we are keeping all of our families in our prayers and look forward to welcoming everybody back when we are able to safely.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McKinney and Miss Finnegan

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