



HOME LEARNING: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Thank you for your support whilst we switch Home Learning remotely, once again. There have been some changes since the lock down in March. This document will help you understand what is expected this time and how we can help you.

We realise that the circumstances we all find ourselves in will affect our families in a number of ways. In our planning and expectations, we are aware of the need for flexibility from all sides:

- Parents may be trying to work from home so access to technology for a family may be limited;
- Parents may have two or more children trying to access technology;
- Teachers may be trying to manage their home situation and possibly learning of their own children;
- Systems may not always function as they should.

We understand this and have aimed to create Home Learning that recognises this. Please let us know if you are experiencing difficulty of any kind (either contact the class teacher via email or phone the School Office).

Thank you for your support.

What learning will my child be expected to do?

Go to the School [website](#) using the desktop site (computer) or the app, and log in.

Click on the Home Learning tab for your child and find the week's work.

Here you will find an overview of the day which explains the learning for each lesson. Some of these lessons will have links to videos and other support materials. Children will be expected to complete the following each day:

- 1 Maths lesson
- 1 English lesson (Reading or Writing focus)
- 1 Reading session using the class text
- 1 or 2 Other curriculum lessons
- Handwriting of spellings (KS2) for 15 minutes
- 1 Grammar and Punctuation session (15 minutes)
- Phonics (KS1)

Please take daily physical activity- take breaks, do something fun or competitive. Please also have some quiet reading time.

How will my child's teacher see my child's work?

Classes have been set up with class email accounts linked to parent emails for work to be uploaded as a photograph or document. Teachers will be able to respond to work through this. *Please take photographs of the work close-up, square on and with a steady hand so it can be easily read by teacher.*

Please return work on a daily basis.

What if we have a problem accessing work?

Please phone the school office or email your child's teacher in the first instance who may be able to rectify this. Children have already been sent work books for them to continue focusing on skills in Mental Maths, Reading and Grammar and Punctuation in KS2, and also Phonics in KS1. Teachers will direct you to the pages that they can do. A lined book for English and any task that requires writing, a squared book for Maths and basic stationery have also been provided. You may collect further stationery from school, when required but please phone the school office first to ensure that this can be done safely, in accordance with COVID rules.

Why do I have to log in to the app or website now?

Some of the learning we have planned for your child is subject to copyright laws and cannot be uploaded to that part of the site that is viewable to anyone. We also have to monitor and report on children's attendance and log-in information is a valuable source of data for this.

How will my child set their work out in the books?

All work needs to be completed with the same high expectations that we have in school.

Each day, you need to send your child's work to their teacher via the class email. This allows you to send photos or documents.

If using lined books for English or other lessons, children will need to write the long date at the top of the page, underlined with a ruler, miss a line and then write the subject and lesson title. e.g. English - Reading: features of newspaper report.

Children will need to write as neatly as they can using the pencil provided.

Your child should re-read sentences to make sure that they make sense and that they have used the correct punctuation in the right place.

For Maths lessons, please write the short date at the top of the page of the sheets or pages you use e.g. 02.09.2020 and underline with a ruler, then miss a line and write the title of the first slide on the video, e.g Prime numbers to 100 Please keep numbers the same size when writing them. Please write 1 digit in each box.

Workbooks (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling; Mental Maths and Reading): these books contain the answers for you as a parent to check your child's responses. Please support your child in checking these answers. They may mark them with you.

Some activities may not need to be written down and may require a photograph of the learning.

Who can I contact for help with school work?

Your child's teacher via the class email:

Y6 squirrels@thorns-p.dudley.sch.uk

Y5 kingfishers@thorns-p.dudley.sch.uk

Y4 hedgehogs@thorns-p.dudley.sch.uk

Y3 foxes@thorns-p.dudley.sch.uk

Y2 badgers@thorns-p.dudley.sch.uk

Y1 owls@thorns-p.dudley.sch.uk

Reception otters@thorns-p.dudley.sch.uk

Responses will be during the school day or as soon as is possible, but at least once a week.

What should I do with the work?

Please keep your child's work in a safe place and return it with them when they next return to school.

Is the work optional?

The work cannot be considered optional. It will be part of our current class work and so considered compulsory, and the completion of it is classed as attendance. Home Learning is essential unless your child is too ill to engage in learning. Some children may need slightly different tasks to address SEN targets, or work that is slightly different. The work your child is required to complete will be indicated, where and when necessary, by their banding (Blue Band, Green Band, Yellow Band). Sometimes, specific work will be emailed to your parent email address. This is a change to the requirements during the lockdown of spring/summer 2020, when expectations were not the same.

Every morning we will complete a 'virtual register'. Please email into your class email address to indicate that your child is attending 'Remote School' that day (a "Good morning" or "Hi" is sufficient). Please can you email in by 11am. Please email your child's teacher if you are finding any difficulties with the tasks.

What happens if my child is ill?

If your child is unwell and unable to do the work, then please phone school to let us know, just as you would if they were not attending school. If you suspect that your child has COVID symptoms, please ensure that you get a COVID test for them as soon as possible and phone the school office.

What if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

Please phone the school office as soon as you know. If your child is asymptomatic, they may continue to access the work. Should they become unwell, please let the school office know so that they can also ensure that you can access medical support if required.

What lesson provision is the school making?

Lessons will be based through a combination of different resources:

- Learning from video lessons made by staff
- Learning from video lessons made by other providers, such as Oak National Academy and White Rose Maths
- Learning from video clips to support understanding, such as the BBC
- Learning that can be accessed from a description of a written task.
- Learning from workbooks for Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (KS2)/ Phonics (KS1), Mental Maths and Reading.
- Teachers are available to email, and responses will be made during the school day or next day. Your child's teacher will indicate when they are in school, should you wish to have a telephone conversation with them.
- Reading books will be available to swap fortnightly (at an allocated time – these times have been emailed out). Covid-secure procedures will be in place.

A previous survey of parents suggested that live lessons would not be accessed by all children. Live lessons use a greater bandwidth of data and require attendance at a certain time. As devices in the home are often shared by parents and children, they will not be available to 'attend' lesson in this way. Videos of lessons can be replayed and followed again. They also use less data. They can also be paused and rewound if required, so that children can work at their own pace. Additionally, the teacher is available to ask questions for further help.

What pastoral support and support for families is the school providing?

Thorns Primary School has a Family Support Worker. Mrs Westwood is available in the school office every day and contactable by phone or email. Regular calls are being made to our families and more frequently so, where the situation requires it. If you have any worries or concerns as a family, please message her or your class teacher who will be able to support you.

Phone: 01384 818285

Email: swestwood@thorns-p.dudley.sch.uk

Mrs Tilley, our SENCO, is also available to offer support and advice to you regarding children's additional learning needs and a more bespoke learning plan. She only works part-time, and will be spending time in class working directly with the children so please call the School Office if you would like to speak to her.