



Question & Answers:

Remote Learning at Wombwell Park Street Primary School

Question 1

Does my child have to attend the daily Zooms every day?

During this lockdown, the Government's focus around schools has changed. Before, schools had to be open to provide child care for key worker families and those deemed to be vulnerable. This time, the focus is more so to continue the learning and progress of ALL children. As a result, it is really important that your child attends Zoom calls and completes remote learning, as much as possible.

Our remote learning offer consists of a blended approach of both Zoom calls and Seesaw. The Zoom calls are a really important part of the home learning offer. They allow the teacher and children to 'check-in' with each other, so as they can maintain those important relationships. They also allow time for the teacher to model key aspects of learning to the children at home and in school and answer any questions which the children may have about their learning. The calls also provide a time for the teacher to take a 'class register' and ensure the children are safeguarded.

Feedback so far regarding the Zoom calls has been very positive. We recognise that they 'eat in to the day' a little, especially if you have a number of children learning from home, but we feel the benefits of these far outweigh this issue. We appreciate your child's attendance at each of these as it really helps ensure consistency and continuity of teaching, learning and progress.

Question 2

If my child is learning from home, do they have to do every piece of work on Seesaw?

We are trying very hard to make sure that our teaching and learning offer for those children learning from home is as close as possible to that which is being received by children in school. Those children in school will be learning in line with activities set on Seesaw, so it is important that your child gets as much of this learning done at home as possible.

We totally recognise, however, that this can be a struggle for some families, especially when parents are busy working from home etc. If you feel this pressure, then please simply pick up the phone and speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team in school, who will be happy to talk you through some options. These may be that we collectively decide on which learning to focus on if you are struggling to support your child in completing all of it, or it may be that your child's teachers are made more aware that your child may be learning at different times of the day to the rest of the children. If you want to help your child in the evening with their maths, rather than see them struggle independently in the day, then that is totally acceptable to us! We would be silly not to recognise the value of your child sitting 1:1 with an adult for 30 minutes completing their work, as opposed to struggling on their own for hours in the day and becoming upset. That is no good for anyone!

From 25.1.21, your class teacher will post a timetable for the week so you have an idea of what to expect each day of the week and you will be able to see how long your child's teacher is recommending be spent on each activity (there is no doubt that this will still vary for some children and for some families).

Question 3

How will my child be taught remotely?

As mentioned, the children will be supported with home learning through a blended mix of Zoom calls and Seesaw. The Zoom calls are a chance for the teacher to model the learning for the day and answer any questions needed and then the work can be accessed through Seesaw.

Open Zoom calls may be kept 'open' during the day to enable children to check back in with their adults in school should they need further support. Staff will be on Seesaw throughout the school day to answer any questions and feedback on the children's learning. They will be doing this at the same time as being in class, teaching the other children.

As well as this, your child may be taught 'live' lessons where bubbles have capacity to do this. There may be some recorded teaching posted on Seesaw which is from places such as Oak National Academy or Read, Write, Inc, for example too. Commercially available websites which support teaching (including video clips / songs etc) may be used effectively too to engage and model learning.

Question 4

What if my child attends school as a key worker on some days, but then is at home on others...do they have to do all of the work on Seesaw or is some done in school?

When your child is in school, they will be learning the same subjects and completing the same activities, as closely as possible, to those children at home.

So, if your child attends on a Monday to Wednesday for example, then they do not have to do the Seesaw learning on those days at home, they'll do it in school. However, when they are learning from home on a Thursday and Friday, then we would encourage them to do the work in line with other home learners, so they don't miss key learning and can continue to make progress. This means they would be attending the Zoom calls and completing learning on Seesaw on the Thursday and Friday and submitting work for teachers in school to check and feedback on.

If you feel work is 'mounting up' on Seesaw as a result of this, then every week teachers are archiving work which is older than the last week, so this will disappear. Alternatively, you may use the calendar option on Seesaw which allows you to just focus on tasks and activities for particular days.

Question 5

What if my child's Zoom lasts longer than it should?

Staff will always try to aim for the Zooms to last their allocated times as follows:

- Team WP (Reception) and Team CC (Reception / 1) – 15 minutes
- Team CH, CT, AC, GG, JF, JD, AF, LG and LL (Year 1-6) – 30 minutes

We recognise these timings need to be kept to, to help with parents working from home. This enables you to organise your own working day around your child's remote learning more suitably. Also, it allows those families with siblings who may be sharing a tablet, to access every Zoom call. Running over might mean that one of your other children at home, might miss their Team's Zoom call. If staff, for whatever reason, feel their Zoom may run on slightly longer (maybe because there is more learning to be modelled), then they will forewarn parents the night before and remind children and parents of this again at the beginning of the Zoom call. We will try to keep this to a minimum.

As much as possible though, we will aim for the Zoom calls to last the allotted and suggested time. If parents could ensure their child is on for the beginning of the Zoom call that would be helpful for teachers so they don't have to keep recapping instructions or key points. Staff would appreciate this. Please make sure all children are full dressed too, for safeguarding reasons.

Question 6

How much work should I expect my child to have to do each day?

Government guidelines state that children in the following year groups should have work to the following extent each day:

Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6) – 4 hours of learning

Key Stage 1 (Years 1-2) – 3 hours of learning

EYFS (Nursery and reception) – anything up to 3 hours

Your teacher will post a timetable for the week for each bubble, in line with the above. This will identify how long work should approximately take and will add up to the above amounts. Your teacher may also put on extra activities to help keep the children busy at home, should you wish to take advantage of these.

Question 7

What do you do if your child doesn't want to engage with home learning?

Try your best to encourage them by talking through the benefits of joining Zoom calls (seeing their teacher and friends; finding out what learning they have to do in more detail etc) and the benefits of learning on Seesaw (making sure they are keeping up with their class friends; interesting learning and activities to do; something to fill their time whilst at home etc).

You could also make a positive behaviour chart so your child can see a physical reward for doing their learning. You could give stickers out for your child to place on a chart once they have completed aspects of learning and then provide a time for your child to have their favourite reward.

It may be a good idea to 'chunk' learning throughout the day in to small sections of learning followed by a reward – you might like to ask your child what their reward could be, so they feel more involved.

You may choose to use the 'first and then' approach which is used in Park Street classrooms. Eg, you would say 'first we are learning about Phonics and then you can have your reward time'. This sets high expectations for your children and they feel more aware of the plan of action for the day too.

You may also like to discuss ways in which your child responds well to engaging in learning at school with your child's class teacher. They may be able to offer more bespoke ways of managing your child and reward them through Seesaw with dojos, for example, as this works well with all children in school.

You could use the timetables which staff will be posting from 25.1.21 as a way of structuring the day. Try involving them in aspects of learning which they are more interested in initially and then build the routine of learning up from there. There is no doubt at all that your child will respond well to a good routine.

One thing I have found useful if you are leaving your child at home with another adult, is to leave a little letter each day with a list of 'learning jobs' which need doing; this helps structure their day and children love ticking off things they have completed. They then have lots of achievements to share with you when you get back from a hard day at work, which is always lovely to celebrate! It also means a bit of home learning is completed before you return to do the work with them!

Please try not to panic at this early stage. Your child learning from home will be very, very different for them. Home is their happy place where they play and having to change their mindset will take a little time – bear with them!

Question 8

What if my child normally has support in school?

A few classes through school are trialling a system by which the Zoom call is left open for children to stay on at the end and ask any further questions that they might have, should they wish to. Additionally, these Zoom calls are being left open for the school day, so children, as they do their work during the day, can log back on to the Zoom call and request to speak to an adult in class. These are working effectively in classes at the moment and we are hoping to roll this out to more classes as we move forwards. Some classes will find this a challenge due to the high amounts of children within specific bubbles, but we will aim to do this wherever possible.

Also, additional Zoom call invites may be sent out for Teaching Assistants to complete small group work or 1:1 sessions with specific children to complete an intervention.

Question 9

What if my child continues to struggle with using Seesaw?

Don't panic! Children are quick learners and the more they practice the more permanent their understanding of using Seesaw will become.

Mr Fidment and Mrs Lawson are running weekly support sessions for parents to 'drop in to' every Wednesday evening during lockdown. These Zoom calls are held between 5-6pm and parents can drop in to these at any point during the hour, to ask a question and get an answer.

As well as this, for those children in Key Stage 2 (Year 3- 6) who might be using Seesaw more independently than others, there have been Zoom drop in calls for them this week as follows:

Thursday 21st January 2021 for Years 3 and 6

Friday 22nd January 2021 for Years 5 and 6

On these Mr Fidment modelled some quick and easy ways for the children to use Seesaw, with some top tips for them. We will look to repeat these every few weeks for children to use.

Question 10

What if my child struggles in the day with a piece of work which has been set?

First of all, it is important that we look after your child's mental health and wellbeing. If your child is upset about some work, simply notify their child's teacher and support will be put in place.

We are currently trialling a system by which Zoom calls are left open so your child will be able to log back in at any point during the day and ask questions to support the children at home with their learning.

Alternatively, you could call school and a member of your child's team will phone you back and support that way, as soon as they are not teaching in school.

Question 11

Is there any way that some of the past work and activities can be removed?

We understand that some Seesaw accounts may have a lot more previous work on than others and some parents find this daunting. We don't want this! We have fed this back to teachers this week in their weekly remote learning development sessions and have encouraged staff to archive past work from this week. They will leave on the current and previous week's learning (as we know some families are playing a little catch up due to their bespoke situations at home), but the rest will be archived. Hopefully this will relieve some anxieties around this. Should you want learning left on longer, simply contact your class teacher and they will be happy to try and support with this. We thank you for your patience in allowing us to sort this for you as it does take a little time for teachers to do.

In the meantime, please do use the calendar function which shows you which work has been set for specific days.

Question 12

Is it possible to have my child's work earlier?

We have spoken to teachers about this in their weekly remote learning development sessions and we have agreed that all work will be scheduled on Seesaw to be available for families from 8am each day. The nature of teaching and learning is as such that you may plan for a week, but this rarely works out as quality teachers assess learning on an ongoing basis and alter, tweak and adjust lessons to meet the class' (and individuals within the class') needs. This means that as staff mark and provide feedback over the course of the day, they are continually analysing where to go next with the learning and plug any gaps. With this in mind, in the evening staff may have to alter and adjust their planning and this takes time. We feel this time provides working parents with some time to view the learning before starting their working day. Hopefully this strikes a balance for teachers and parents.

Question 13

My child's remote learning offer is different to in other schools...does this matter?

Each school is selecting a form of remote learning which works best for their children, families, teachers and the school's bespoke situations. Park Street currently have a very high level of key worker and vulnerable children attending school (around 45% of the school population). Because of this, all staff are in school in their usual bubbles and are not on a rota basis, like in some schools. Certain staff are working remotely due to health conditions, for example, but the vast majority are in teaching the children in school. As you can imagine, it is a tough job to 'juggle' teaching and learning at home and school, for staff in class, but we have no other option than to provide this blended mix of Zoom calls and Seesaw for those at home and school.

We really welcome parental feedback and have our two parental Governors leading on remote learning alongside Mr Fidment to ensure we get the offer as right as possible. It may well be that as we progress on this journey that we tweak and change things. We will always inform you of any changes and the reasons why and any decision to change and improve things will have the children at the heart.

Question 14

My child was on a Zoom call but I had a text to say they hadn't been on. Why is this?

Bear with us! Please accept our apology if one of these text messages are sent in error. We are trying really hard to monitor each child's learning whether that be in school, on Seesaw completing work or attending daily Zooms and are trying hard to engage some hard to reach families – purely for the benefit of the child. Sometimes, when registers are completed, human error may mean the wrong box is ticked. If you imagine a teacher is teaching and caring for children in class, at the same time as teaching on Zoom, monitoring learning of those at home and taking a register...sometimes this is not an easy task! We simply ask you politely let us know and our records will be changed and any issues fed back to bubbles, with an agreed solution to improve matters for you. Please don't do this in an aggressive manner – we are absolutely trying our best.

If possible, to help this situation, could we ask that parents alter the name which appears at the bottom of your child's Zoom window to your child's first, last or full name. This would help staff immensely as sometimes parental 'nicknames' appear and if the children's video is off, it is a little tricky to determine who is on and who isn't. As well as making this easier for staff, it ensures good safeguarding procedures and means that the teacher has total control over who is in the Zoom call.

Question 15

What if my child hasn't got a laptop / tablet to use to access Seesaw and Zoom?

Please contact Mr Fidment in school via phone, text or email in to parkstreet@ecmtrust.co.uk and he will speak to you about the issues you face. We have applied for a bank of laptops from the Government and have also purchased

over 15 tablets as a school in lockdown 1. On the whole these have been distributed out to digitally disadvantaged families already, but please do contact school and we will do everything we can to support.

Should you wish your child to have paper copies of learning, then please contact school and a member of staff will try their best to get it printed and sorted for you to collect. This can then be brought back in to school and after quarantining, will be marked.

**Message of reassurance from the staff at
Wombwell Park Street Primary School:**

We miss our Park Street team being altogether. Last term was just the best – having all the children back in school and seeing them flourish with routine, strong relationships and quality learning. However, we have to do what we have to do to get us all through this. Please know we are trying our best and it may be that we don't get everything right first time...but we will always aim for perfection! Whatever support you can give to your child at home is invaluable to us – thank you!

Team Park Street!