



**ST STEPHENS COMMUNITY ACADEMY**  
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Head Teacher: Maura Furber

**'Embracing Learning.  
Inspiring Ambition.  
Celebrating Individuality'**

25.09.2020

Dear Parents,

The Department of Education has asked that schools must have remote teaching contingency plan ready by the end of September, according to new government [guidance](#).

The Department for Education says it expects schools to give pupils access to high-quality remote resources, and to provide printed resources such as textbooks and workbooks to pupils without internet access.

"Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, we expect schools to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education," the guidance says. At St Stephen's we are putting together a contingency plan should schools be asked to close again. We will also endeavour to provide home learning resources should a 'bubble' be closed temporarily or should your child be at home isolating but not unwell for 14 days.

Our contingency plans will be sequenced in a way that is linked to the school's curriculum expectations. We will ensure our staff have the necessary training to use our online tools. We also recognise that younger pupils and some pupils with SEND may not be able to access remote education and provide adapted support and resources where needed.

During the previous period of school-closure, our current online communication programmes J2E(Y1-Y6), Evidence Me (YF and Class 7) and Class Dojo (Pre-School) were highly effective in maintaining good contact and communication between children, families and staff. We will continue to use this as the programme to set and respond to pupil learning. This will be alongside our text and email service that we use.



We aim to:

- Set tasks and activities so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious learning each day in a number of different subjects on each class page.
- Teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject.
- Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher in the school or through high-quality curriculum resources including recorded videos and some enhanced provision for live learning where achievable and appropriate (More details on how this will be delivered to follow). For example, we may record video explanations, set-up live lessons or use the National Oak Academy lessons, White Rose and RWI resources, etc.
- Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher in the school or through high-quality curriculum resources and/or videos. For example, we may record explanations, use the National Oak Academy lessons, White Rose or RWI resources, etc.
- Gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum, using questions, quizzes and other suitable tasks and through the checking and response to the childrens on line portfolios.
- Adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or tasks, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding.
- Plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with teachers.
- Work with families to support and overcome the challenges of home-learning, monitoring and encouraging appropriate levels of pupil engagement in learning.
- Monitor and plan to support pupil mental health and well-being through PSHE lessons, activities to watch or upload and support from our Trauma Informed School and Pastoral /Family Support practitioners.

Ultimately, we hope that this eventuality does not occur and that we do not end up using this contingency plan. The best place to learn is in school with our teaching staff amongst their peers. However, please know that whatever the case, the school will support in any way it can to ensure that our pupils can continue to have access to high quality learning through any disruptions that may occur during this coming academic year. We ask that you support us in enabling your child/ren to access and engage with home teaching and learning to ensure they do not fall behind their peers. Please do inform us of any issues, concerns or problems.

We have created a short survey that you can complete to give your response to our contingency plans and express your preferences for your children on home-learning programmes. It would be really helpful if you can take the time to complete this survey by 30<sup>th</sup> September:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/96XMZMJ>

Many thanks for your continued support,



*Maura Furber*

Mrs Furber

Headteacher

