

HITHERFIELD VIRTUAL SCHOOL STRATEGY:

The Hitherfield school leadership understands that the continued existence of the Covid-19 virus in our community means that the school may be required to operate virtually to provide education for its pupils if they are unable to attend school due to the impact of this virus. Educational research shows that there are a number of factors that mitigate the negative effects on learning that learning from home may have on children. The most important of these are; the child's 'self-efficacy' (their confidence in their ability to learn independently because they understand what is expected and the strategies they can use to achieve the outcome of any given activity); the effective feedback they receive - from adults, other children or from how well the task appears on completion; and collaboration. We have chosen the Tapestry and Seesaw platforms to enable us to enable us to provide a virtual environment for learning. All children will be trained to use these platforms and practise doing so as a part of their classroom experience. Parents/carers will receive the support they require to ensure that their children are able to access these platforms independently according to their stages of development. We anticipate that we will have the following potential scenarios:

SCENARIO 1 (EDUCATION TIER 3): BUBBLE QUARANTINE

In this scenario, all members of a year group bubble would be required to isolate at home for 7 or 14 days. Remote learning will be undertaken by most pupils through the Tapestry (EYFS) and Seesaw (Primary) platforms.

Action (assuming the teacher is well and able to work from home):

Day 1: Teacher will plan a sequence of learning activities for the children in the class group. No activities will be available for pupils on that day. This will include an English, maths and wider curriculum activity for each day of the week. A short instructional clip will be produced by the teacher every day to accompany one of these planned activities.

Access to learning activities will commence on day 2 and follow the usual working week structure - ie. no activities will be posted on the weekend or during holiday periods. Learning activities will be planned to engage children in 3 hours of learning per day.

A member of the SLT will post a message for the children on the Seesaw announcement page. Parents will receive a copy of the Hitherfield Virtual School Agreement by email or post as appropriate.

Days 2 - 14:

- The class teacher will schedule daily activities and the accompanying film onto the Seesaw/Tapestry activity section for their class by 9:30am every morning. In addition, the class teacher will also provide a 'Good morning message' for their class on each day.
- Children will be expected to do the daily activities set and post them as they complete them. All activities will need to be posted by 15:30 in order to receive feedback from their teacher.
- The teacher will lead a class meeting at a set time once a week through Google Classrooms.
- The class teacher and/or support staff will provide feedback through the child's Seesaw post page for each child every week day and may contact families if appropriate.

- The Virtual School leaders will provide support to the class teacher during this period.
- A further half-day will be allocated to allow the teacher to attend the Year group assessment and planning session with their colleagues. They will let families know when this half-day will be. During this time, activities will be set by a cover teacher and they will provide the feedback once children have posted their responses.
- Families of children with an Educational Healthcare Plan (EHCP) will be contacted by one of our Sendcos. They will be provided with appropriate activities and specialist provision (if possible within Government guidelines) as is required by their (EHCP). Sendcos and AHTs will oversee that children with Support Plans receive the support stated in their plans from the teacher or support staff.
- The class teacher will update the HVS Contact Form from Day 2 to note the children that are not engaging with Seesaw/Tapestry. A member of the admin team will contact identified families on Day 3 to ascertain why they are not engaging. Reasons will be recorded on the form and this will be assessed by the relevant AHT on Day 4. Teachers will follow up and review engagement and note this on the Contact Form on Day 5. This will be assessed by the relevant AHT on Day 6 to support families and address issues of access.

This will continue for the quarantine period. The number of activities posted may change due to staff capacity as the teacher may become unwell and be unable to fulfil their responsibilities. If teachers are unwell we will provide as much virtual learning as possible using other staff where possible. This will be communicated to families via a text message.

SCENARIO 2 (EDUCATION TIER 4): WHOLE SCHOOL LOCKDOWN

In this scenario staff and pupils will be at home for a longer fixed or indefinite period due to local or country wide restrictions. Remote learning will be undertaken by most pupils through the Tapestry (EYFS) and Seesaw (Primary) platforms.

Action (assuming all teachers are well and able to work from home):

Day 1: Class teachers will ring all children in their classes to reassure them and set an expectation for the child's interaction with activities to be posted through Seesaw or Tapestry. The teacher will ascertain how the child is able to access learning activities and pass any concerns on to their phase leader. No activities will be available for children on these days. Teachers will use these phone calls to ascertain the level of support that families require to meet their children's learning needs. In addition, a message will be sent to all families through the Hitherfield Herald to ask parents/carers to contact the school if their children are not able to access the Hitherfield Virtual School. All families requiring support to access the internet and/or devices will be placed on a priority list and allocated resources where the school is able to provide these.

A member of the SLT will post a message on the Seesaw announcement page. Parents will receive a copy of the Hitherfield Virtual School (HVS) Agreement by email or post as appropriate.

Day 2: Teachers would meet remotely to plan a sequence of learning activities for the children in the year group. No activities would be available for pupils on that day. Teachers will work together to produce a sequence of learning activities for children in their year group. This will include an English, maths and wider curriculum activity for each day of the week. A set of short instructional clips to show alongside each activity will be

produced by the teachers where this is essential for the children to undertake the activity. Children will follow the same curriculum remotely as we do in school although the volume of activities offered may decrease due to staff illness.

Access to learning activities will commence on day 3 and follow the usual working week structure - ie. no activities will be posted on the weekend or during usual school holiday periods. Learning activities will be planned to engage children in at least 3 hours of learning per day as per the Government requirements. Additional learning activities will be signposted for parents using the Oak National Academy or BBC televised resources. This will provide the opportunity for children to be engaged in learning activities for up to 5 hours a day.

From Day 3:

- Appropriate printed materials will be sent to each child who does not have reliable internet access or access to an appropriate device. Because the Hitherfield Virtual School will provide the best educational offer for children, all efforts will be made to support families to access the internet or an appropriate device.
- Year group teachers will upload daily activities and accompanying films onto the Seesaw/Tapestry activity section for their class by 9:30am every morning. Each class teacher will also provide a 'Good morning message' for their class on each day. This message will include a timetable for the day to provide a model of the structure that the children would be receiving if they were in school.
- Class teachers and support staff (where appropriate) will provide feedback through the child's Seesaw/Tapestry post page for each child every week day. They will provide feedback using the available tools on the Tapestry/Seesaw platforms. This may include written notes, voice recordings or a 'like'. Teachers will determine which of these functions will give the necessary support for the child to move their learning forward. They will also monitor each child's engagement in the learning platforms and this will be followed up by the SLT to ensure that the child is doing as much as they can and to determine whether the school can offer any additional support for the family.
- Children will be expected to do the daily activities set and post them as they complete them. Some of these responses will be recorded directly online through written notes, voice recordings and films. Others will be recorded into work books or result in the child making something. These responses will be photographed and uploaded onto the respective platforms. All activities will be posted by 15:30 in order to receive feedback from their teachers.
- Teachers will lead a class meeting at a set time once a week through Google Classrooms.
- Teachers will phone children on the first Monday/Tuesday of every month during this period. There will be no learning activities posted on Monday.
- The Virtual School leaders will provide support to class teachers and the SLT by providing a regular 'drop in' session every week and instructional films where required.
- Teachers will be allocated a half day once a week to plan activities. This will be organised by the AHT leading their phase and activities and feedback for these sessions will be covered by the APP teacher assigned to the Year group. AHTs will also direct the contributions of our additional teachers to support the HVS.

- Families of children with an Educational Healthcare Plan (EHCP) will be contacted by one of our Sendcos. They will be provided with appropriate activities and specialist provision (if possible within Government social distancing guidelines) as is required by their (EHCP). These families will be offered priority for our Key Worker and Vulnerable Children School on site and specialist programmes will be continued either on site or remotely. Sendcos and AHTs will oversee that children with Support Plans receive the support stated from teachers or support staff. This will involve having access to the resources that will most support their learning and may also include having regular contact through weekly phone calls with the member of support staff who is employed to meet their needs. Children with speech and language difficulties will be supported virtually by our Specialist Teaching Assistant.
- The class teacher will update the HVS Contact Form on Day 2 to note the children that are not engaging with Seesaw/Tapestry. A member of the admin team will contact identified families on Day 3 to ascertain why they are not engaging. Reasons will be recorded on the form and this will be assessed by the relevant AHT on Day 4. Teachers will follow up and review engagement and note this on the Contact Form on Day 5. This will be assessed by the relevant AHT on Day 6 to address issues of access. Contact will continue to be made to support families with issues in relation to home learning. Where contact cannot be established, a home visit will be conducted by members of the safeguarding team and a Child Missing in Education notification will be made.

This will continue for the entire period of Lockdown. The number of activities posted may change due to staff capacity as they may become unwell and unable to fulfil their responsibilities. If teachers are unwell, we will provide as much virtual learning as possible using other staff where possible. This will be communicated to families via a text message.

A member of the SLT will monitor children's engagement with Seesaw and Tapestry (the virtual learning platforms). The Sendcos and Learning Mentors will contact families where children are vulnerable and/or not engaging with their learning. They will also follow up where the class teachers raise concerns about pupils following their phone calls to families.

Parents/carers will be updated about the Virtual School through the Hitherfield Herald and through the Hitherfield website.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN NOT ABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRAINTS:

There are two situations that may arise and mean that a child is not able to attend school; a child who is either extremely critically vulnerable themselves or is shielding someone who is extremely critically vulnerable or a child who is undertaking a fixed period of quarantine.

The following will occur in these cases to support learning:

- teachers will make contact with any child and parent/carer in a shielding situation by phone and maintain this contact every four weeks as this may be a protracted situation.
- children are either signed up to the Seesaw or Tapestry platforms. This will ensure that children will be able to access the archive and pinned activities and upload pictures of their work and post written or voice messages for their teacher. Teachers will provide feedback to the children accessing these platforms and inform the SLT if a child is not accessing the platform to interact with the school. The children will have unlimited

access to these platforms but will be expected to post at least 3 responses per day. Teachers will acknowledge all responses and will provide feedback to develop learning as appropriate.

- Families with children quarantining will be provided with an activities pack with daily activities linked to the class curriculum map. There will be the equivalent of 10 days of activities. Children will be expected to post a response to the activities set on the Seesaw/Tapestry platform. These may be posted on completion throughout the day but all tasks must be posted by 15:30 to receive feedback from the child's teacher.
- families will be directed to any specific resources available (e.g. Oak National Academy, BBC Bitesize, Seesaw activities library) that can be used to support home learning. This will reflect the curriculum being taught in the child's class. Children will have access to up to 5 hours of learning activities per day.
- every effort will be made to ensure that families without adequate access to digital resources will be supported through the acquisition or lending out of digital equipment required.

SUPPORTING STAFF:

Throughout the 2020/21 academic year, the Virtual School leaders will:

- arrange virtual meetings in September to build the capacity of the support staff to contribute to providing feedback for the children through the Seesaw platform. EYEs already have the capacity to do this using Tapestry.
- work with teachers to increase the capacity to provide challenges for more able pupils.
- work with teachers to develop the capacity of pupils to interact more effectively with the Seesaw platform; specifically to be able to use this as a tool for collaborating effectively on shared tasks and communicating appropriately with other pupils when in school and at home.
- work with teachers to ensure that interactive formatting enables children to respond easily.