



The Mall School

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Year 1 guide for parents on remote learning

The following is a guide to how we will aim to support you and your son pastorally and educationally next term. Thank you if you took the time to complete our recent survey on remote learning which we have used to inform the approach we are taking.

Thank you also for your patience so far and also for the many supportive comments regarding what we have already put in place. These are unprecedented times and all schools and families are going to find home schooling challenging. We ask you to appreciate that no amount of preparation will replicate the typical school day, and any attempt to provide educational continuity will be carried out with the aim of supporting parents in the education of your sons.

The approach we are trying to adopt is one that is simple, supportive and safe. We understand that without a teacher present, and with the inevitability of varying levels of support available at home, we want to ensure we are providing activities which find a balance between challenging your son but do not require high levels of support and input from you.

We are also mindful of the pressures on families in the current circumstances. Many of you will have understandable concerns about the health of family and friends; be trying to juggle family life with working from home; and have financial or other concerns related to your work. There will also be many families who will have more than one child who needs your attention and will need to share a device and indeed there will be many parents who will be working from home and will also need access to the same devices. With this in mind, it would not be wise for us to try to recreate a usual school day, and we understand families may need some flexibility in terms of the times they access online learning tools.

Online safety

We are also aware of the hazards associated with pupils working online. Keeping children safe online can seem rather daunting for parents but try to think of it as you would road safety. Teaching children about road safety is giving them the tools and confidence to know how to look after themselves and behave safely when they are out and about on their own. From an early age we teach our children not to dash out into the road but find somewhere safe to cross. Online safety is the same.

The [Child Exploitation and Online Protection website](#) part of the UK National Crime Agency gives clear, straightforward guidance on staying safe online.

The [Net Aware website](#) produced by the NSPCC is excellent for explaining about social networks, apps and games. If you do not know what a meme or Tik Tok are then this is the site for you.

Just as we teach road safety in school so we have been teaching your sons about online safety. The following are the top tips we would like you to reinforce with your sons.

- Tell your parents if something happens online that upsets you or made you worried. They are not going to be cross.
- Do not share personal information with people online. You are a secret agent and you do not tell anyone your name, address or date of birth even if you think you know them. Speak to your parents first before sharing this information.
- Behave online as you would in school and be the best version of yourself. Do not do anything online that you would not do at school.
- When your son is online try to have him working somewhere you can keep an eye on what he is doing.
- Have plenty of breaks from screen time. Get some exercise and fresh air.

We would be grateful if you would take the time to read the following school policies and share the relevant sections with your sons: [Remote teaching and Learning](#); [Information and Communication Technology](#); [Email](#).

Hard copies of work

A pack of work will be delivered to your house from Wednesday 15 to Friday 17 April. If you have not received your son's pack by Monday 20 April please email reception@themallschool.org.uk We ask that the boys do not start using these packs until instructed to do so.

The start of term is Wednesday 22 April although we will have individual video class meeting on Monday 20 April for all boys to explain what will be happening. Your son's class teacher will email you with a time when these meetings will take place.

Daily video conference

In Year 1, we shall be holding weekly, small group, video meetings where a maximum of five boys will have opportunity to share some of the work they have completed, talk to their teacher about what has gone well or about those things they have found more difficult to complete. Mrs Courtney, Mrs Goldsmith and Mrs Tovey will set a regular time each week for you son's group.

There will also be an afternoon live story session for the boys.

Boys will need to be dressed appropriately for these meetings but do not have to wear their school uniform.

Weekly timetable

Class teachers will send out a weekly timetable at the start of each week giving a brief overview of the work to be completed. There are also weekly guides included in the pack sent out to you explaining all aspects of the work to be covered in much more detail.

We ask you to print off the timetables or save them to the computer and ask you and/or your son to tick off the activities when they have been completed. The timetable will include an indication of how long a boy should spend on each activity. Do not panic if your son cannot complete all the activities. We recognise that not all boys will be able to complete all the activities and if this is not possible we would encourage parents to focus on the English and maths.

Microsoft Office 365 Teams

All boys have an account with Teams. Parents can download the Teams app for any mobile device, tablet, laptop or personal computer. We will email you with your son's account name and a generic password which you can change (please make a note of this new password and keep it somewhere safe).

Where an activity requires a more detailed explanation we will include a recorded lesson where additional detail about individual activities can be found. These lessons can also be downloaded so

boys can access them at a time which is convenient to the family or so he can watch it more than once.

Teaching staff

To simplify communication between staff, pupils and parents, and to ensure continuity across the year group, the following members of staff will be teaching your son in the summer term. If you or your son has any questions about the work set please email the relevant member of staff who will endeavour to get back to you within 24 hours.

Name of staff	Subject	Email
Mrs Courtney	1C class teacher	CourtneyK@themallschool.org.uk
Mrs Goldsmith	1S class teacher	GoldsmithH@themallschool.org.uk
Mrs Tovey	1S class teacher	headofjuniors@themallschool.org.uk

Mrs Tovey has set the afternoon topic work and ICT for both 1C and 1S so please contact her if your queries are about these subjects.

Activities

Work set for your son will include a mix of hard copies of work that has been provided for him; tasks that can be completed and marked online; and tasks where his teacher has recorded an introduction to the activity.

Some work boys can mark themselves or with their parents because an answer sheet or booklet has been provided.

Teachers will inform you about which pieces of work should be scanned and then emailed or uploaded to Office 365 for them to mark and return. We will be recommending that parents use the Microsoft Office Lens app which can scan documents and upload them to an individual Cloud account. Teachers can also use this for texts or documents they want to share with their class.

Online activities

All Year 1 boys have usernames and passwords for the following websites which they have been using in school. If you are having problems logging on please contact Mrs Tovey:
headofjuniors@themallschool.org.uk.

[Education City](#)

Boys in Year 1 may be set weekly activities in English, maths and ICT using the Education City website. A letter in the pack of work you have been sent includes your son's log on details and password. Contact your son's class teacher if you have any questions.

[Hit the Button](#)

This an app which can be downloaded and used by all boys to practise their mental arithmetic skills. Boys can keep a record of how many questions they get right in two minutes for each of the four skills (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and then try to beat their personal best.

Weekly Certificates

We will continue to award Head of Juniors certificates, which will be awarded in a weekly recorded assembly.

Possible questions and answers

What do I do if my son finishes the work assigned within the allotted time?

They can practise their mental arithmetic skills using Hit the Button and all boys are expected to read for fifteen minutes a day.

How will my child's progress be monitored?

Teachers will be monitoring the boys' online activities and will provide feedback for work that has been requested to be uploaded. Parents and boys can email the relevant member of staff if they have any questions.

What if I have an issue with the online learning platforms?

If you have an IT issue you can email itsupport@themallschool.org.uk and a member of staff will aim to respond to your query within 24 hours.

What are the recorded lessons?

For some of the children's task there will be a recorded lesson available. This is a pre-recorded lesson from a member of staff explaining the task set. Boys can access these from the Assignments app on their Microsoft Office 365 Teams account. We hope this will provide a personal element and be a familiar voice for the children to hear.

How can I support my child with reading?

Where possible, we shall continue to suggest books at the appropriate book band for your son using Collins Big Cat online texts. Further details will be provided by Mrs Courtney and Mrs Goldsmith.

What do I do if I cannot access the internet?

Please contact the school office to discuss this further reception@themallschool.org.uk.

How would you suggest my son structures his day?

At the start of the week we will send you a suggested timetable with a brief overview of the activities to be completed. We recognise that some families may wish to complete activities at different times and may not be able to complete all the tasks that have been set. If this is the case please do not stress but focus on the main English and maths activities and ensure your son is getting some exercise each day. Please email your son's class teacher if you are concerned about the amount of work your son can do.

Please remember the importance of time to talk – this is a chance to talk about feelings, worries, hopes and wishes; this may be during the day or, together as a family, in the evening. Please also allow your child to discover through play and take the time to enjoy games and puzzles together. Take the opportunity to enhance your child's life with a new skill or hobby such as cooking and gardening; you will find these have many links to the curriculum too.