



Rainhill St Ann's CE Primary School
View Road, Rainhill, Merseyside, L35 0LQ
Tel 0151 426 5869, www.rainhillstanns.co.uk
Email: stannsce@three-saints.org.uk
Twitter: [@StAnnsRainhill](https://twitter.com/StAnnsRainhill)
Headteacher: Mrs Laura Rynn



Always our best for God, each other and ourselves.

Friday 30th October 2020

Remote Learning at St Ann's Church of England Primary School

Most pupils returned to St Ann's Church of England Primary School full time at the start of the Autumn One 2020. Despite this, there is still a risk of localised outbreaks of coronavirus or of small numbers of individual pupils being unable to attend school due to self-isolation. Because of this, it is vital for schools to plan for any disruption to schooling during the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

The period since 23rd March 2020 has been one of great innovation in remote education, both for St Ann's Primary School as well as schools across the country. A wide range of approaches has been developed, tested and refined. Despite the challenges, remote education has made a significant contribution to enabling students to continue to learn and progress, and to mitigating any widening of the attainment gap for the disadvantaged.

Our Remote Learning Provision

In line with current government requirements, all students who have to self-isolate due to COVID19 should receive immediate access to remote learning. In order to provide the highest-quality remote education for our students, we have recently transitioned to Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) as our remote learning platform. MS Teams is a system that allows students to log in, access resources and videos for their lessons, chat live with their teacher for support, participate in live lessons, and submit their work back to the teacher for assessment and feedback.

Your child's MS Teams account details can be found in the back on their reading diaries, and the following video resources will assist you in downloading MS Teams to your laptop/smart device, as well as giving you an overview of how the system works.

Setting Up MS Teams: <https://youtu.be/UOyIRsQoQJU>

Using MS Teams for Remote Learning: <https://youtu.be/zrgARhXRV8g>

Uploading work using MS Teams: https://youtu.be/kLWBhxf_Vpl

Before your child begins using MS Teams for their remote learning, ensure that both they and yourself have read through the 'Remote Learning Acceptable Usage Agreement' which can be found by [clicking here](#).

Preparing To Use MS Teams For Remote Learning

Where possible, it is important that (even if your child is not currently learning from home) you try and spend some time with your child, learning how to use MS Teams. Our aim is that the majority of each class (year group dependent) are able to access and use MS Teams independently with minimal adult support.





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To encourage all of our children and parents to use MS Teams, we have begun uploading your child's weekly spelling list to your child's class 'Spelling Channel' in MS Teams, and teachers will begin to upload homework and simple tasks to Teams for students to complete. In addition to this, your child will also get the time in school to familiarise themselves with the system and to ask any questions. If you are using a laptop or computer, your child can also access TTRS, Numbots, Bug Club and Spelling shed using MS Teams – these websites unfortunately don't work, through MS Teams, if your child is using a phone or tablet.

Remote Learning Expectations

Our core principles for remote learning at St Ann's are: content, challenge, consistency and connection. To achieve these principles, we must ensure that remote learning expectations (in terms of work quality, work quantity, attendance, engagement, and behaviour) are just as high as they are in school. Because of this, when a student is remote learning, there will be a set routine to the day and deadlines for students to meet.

Most students will fall under the category of **synchronous learners**. These are the students who are logging on during normal school hours, accessing the live lessons and completing the work with the assistance of the live teacher chat. For synchronous learners, it is expected that:

- **students will access remote learning daily.** They should log in between 9am - 9:30am and log out between 3pm - 3:30pm (or when they are given permission by their class teacher);
- **students will complete and submit all work set** by the end of each school day (if this is not possible for whatever reason, students/parents must let their teacher know and a phone call may be made home to come up with a catch-up plan of action);
- **students will respond** in a timely manner to teacher feedback and questions (in younger years, this may be with assistance from parents);
- **students will not miss or leave remote learning** during the day (apart from on breaks and lunchtime) unless **parents seek permission** from the class teacher (this can be done via the teacher chat bar).

We will assume that all learners are synchronous learners and will make phone calls home should the above criteria not be met. This, along with the quantity of work set, may feel quite intense; however, it is one of the key principles of our remote learning system that we keep driving the students forward as we would if they were in school. Lost learning time now will only further impact the lost learning time of last academic year!

There will be some students who fall into the category of **asynchronous learners** for one reason or another. These are the students who are unable to log in during normal school hours therefore can't attend live lessons or use the live chat feature for support. These students can still log into MS Teams and access the resources provided but only at a time which suits them. Students may be an asynchronous learner due to parental work commitments, technology shortages, childcare issues, or additional learning requirements.





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If you believe your child to be an asynchronous learner, then you must inform your class teacher (either at school or via the MS Teams private chat if you are already remote learning). It is important that the work of asynchronous learners is tracked; however, staff and parents can come to an arrangement regarding when and how the work shall be submitted. For asynchronous learners, it is expected that:

- **an agreement will be made between parents/carers and the class teacher** regarding when work will be completed and submitted;
- **a set time and method for teacher feedback will be agreed** (this may only weekly for asynchronous learners);
- **students must meet the agreed deadline** and should complete all work set.

Children (especially older children) should use their classroom teacher for support during remote learning, not an adult at home. There are a range of strategies teachers can use to support struggling learners (text/audio/video messages; small group video calls; 1:1 calls etc.) but students/parents must give staff time to slowly build the support. From our experience so far, some students message for help, receive a small prompt to try and get them started, and then deciding to ask a parent instead as they will get more assistance that way. Please encourage your child to be resilient and stay working with us. Support will continue to be escalated as it is required.

Screen Time

We are aware that while MS Teams is a fantastic resource to use for remote learning, it does require the students to be using a screen for a large proportion of the day. Twice a day while remote learning, staff will ask students to log out of MS Teams and to have a break - during their morning breaktime and lunchtime. These times will be identified in the daily schedule and it's important that students log out of MS Teams at these points. Teachers will not interact with students during these times, and work submissions will not be accepted.

In addition to this, where possible, we would encourage parents to reduce luxury screen time to make up for using more screen time during remote education. There may also be opportunities throughout the day (especially during afternoon sessions), for students to complete work away from the screen (for example, they could jot down the task or questions and work away from the computer during that time).

E-Safety

With increased access to a computer, comes an increased need to be vigilant in terms of E-Safety. All students, on the first day of their remote learning, will access an E-Safety lesson with their teacher. This will happen at the start of each new period of remote learning to refresh students on the key messages.

Some of the key e-safety messages that we will cover about safety within MS Teams (age-dependent) are:

- The use of the private chats for teacher-student conversations only; no private chats amongst students
- Only to use the functions specifically set out by the school for remote learning





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- Discuss how all actions online are moderated and recorded for their safety
- Rules regarding Live Lessons (e.g keeping video off at all times, only unmuting when asked)
- Appropriate use of the 'Class Chat' channel, including topics of conversation and the use of memes and GIFs

Some of the key e-safety messages that we will cover about safety outside of MS Teams (age-dependent) are:

- Checking with teachers and parents before accessing unfamiliar websites
- The risk that 'Google Searches' can pose and ways to avoid them
- Never giving away personal information about yourself (including pictures)
- Age restrictions on social media websites and the e-safety dangers linked with having profiles
- Behave and communicate with others as you would do in school (the internet does not offer the anonymity that most people assume it does)
- Not everything that is posted or said online is true or factually correct

Mental Health and Wellbeing

This is an increasing challenging time for us all, and the addition of periods of remote learning can seem daunting. Staff will be doing check-ins with the students each day of remote learning, and making personal phone calls for those students who require them.

As well as taking the designated breaks and reducing luxury screen time, we would encourage students to get outdoors as much as they can as fresh air and exercise are scientifically proven to improve wellbeing. Students on remote learning can use their private chat function with the teacher to express any concerns or upsets, and families have access to our school's Family Support Worker, Mrs Martin.

Finally, while we continue to push our high expectations throughout remote learning, we understand that things will not always run simply. If you or your child are struggling with the remote learning timetable, please message your class teacher. We are more than happy to be flexible, we just need to be made aware.

I hope this letter has been informative, and should you have any further questions regarding remote learning, please feel free to get in contact with the school or your child's class teacher.

Can parents and carers make sure they read this letter in conjunction with our 'Live Lesson' information letter which can be found on the school website here – [Live Lesson Letter \(23rd October 2020\)](#)

Kindest regards,
 Mr C Phillips

Year 6 Teacher and Remote Learning Lead

