
Dear Parent/carer,

Following the recent government announcement that primary schools in some areas will not be opening on 4th January, Mr Clark has written to you separately to confirm that The Robert Fitzroy Academy is in one of those areas and therefore will not be opening to all pupils at this time.

This letter explains our plans for remote learning for children during this brief period of school closure.

Our remote learning plan

Our remote learning plan has been made with our pupils and their families in mind. We believe that this strategy will work best for the children at our school. We have been using online learning since September to support families (where pupils are isolating or year group bubbles have been closed) and we have welcomed the positive feedback from those families who have used this plan when supporting their child with learning at home.

We will be providing **3 hours of learning per day**, whilst continuing to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, ensuring that your child can continue to explore a varied and wide curriculum. Some children may complete the work set more quickly and others will take longer to work through what has been set.

Maths resources will be uploaded to Microsoft teams, following on/mirroring the maths being covered in the classroom at that time to provide continuity of education and allow pupils the opportunity to consolidate key skills. This may be a combination of Effective maths slides (the scheme used in school), the screens shared in the classroom and resources/worksheets used in the classroom. Sometimes additional videos will be provided to model concepts to pupils. Answers will be provided for self-marking at home.

English tasks will be uploaded to Microsoft Teams following the sequence of learning happening in the classroom. The quantity will be dependent on age/stage of your child. Some/all of these will be 'handed in' to your child's class teacher via Microsoft Teams for marking. This will include lessons for spelling, grammar, writing and reading.

Topic task(s) will be uploaded to Microsoft Teams for children to complete and hand in virtually. This will be lessons following the curriculum that your child would have had in class which can be most easily adapted to remote learning. There will like be videos links from the teacher to accompany the learning.

1:1 support if your child receives 1:1 support and they are learning remotely, a more bespoke programme of support may be set up if required. This could include phone calls/video chats with your child's 1:1 support. Your child will usually be expected to still complete the learning set on Microsoft Teams.

Throughout this period of temporary school closure, we will be using Microsoft Teams as our platform for online learning. Each day your child will have the opportunity to join their class on a video call at the beginning and end of the day for approximately 20-30 mins. In order to support families with more than one child, we have staggered the timing of these meetings. When you log into Microsoft Teams you will see instructions from your child's teacher about how to join the meetings. On Microsoft Teams, our teachers are able to record the class meeting and will do this for the early morning meeting so that you can listen to the expectations for the day at a more convenient time if need be. Teachers

will place all of the supporting lesson resources in the “files” section and will leave links to any supporting websites for your child to use.

Year Group	Early morning meeting	Afternoon meeting
EYFS/ Year 1/ Year 2	9:45am	2:00pm
Year 3/ 4	9:30am	2:15pm
Year 5/ 6	9:15am	2:30pm

*There may be adjustments to these timings as our teachers are also on a rota in school. Please log into teams and look for the daily announcement to see when your meeting will be.

Your child’s teacher and teaching assistant will be monitoring Microsoft Teams throughout the school day, and will respond to any “handed in” work, giving feedback and the occasional next step to help pupils further develop their home learning. Your Microsoft Teams support sheet (that will be sent along with this letter) details how to submit work and send photos of work completed on paper. Please support to ensure that pupils are using Microsoft Teams correctly by ensuring that your child is not using Microsoft Teams outside of school hours.

Using Microsoft Teams

We will provide separate guidance about how to use and access Teams to support you in setting up this platform on your home devices. If you have any difficulties, please look at the Q and A guides that we will send and watch the tutorial. If you still have difficulties, please contact the school office.

Thank you to all families who filled out the “Devices Questionnaire” before October half term. If you are concerned about being able to access Microsoft Teams, please contact the school office.

What you will need at home

- Your child will need a suitable home learning environment to enable them to learn effectively. We would recommend a workspace that is quiet and enables them to focus on their learning.
- You will need a device that can access Microsoft Teams as we will be working online. Your device will need to have access to the internet, such as a laptop, desktop computer, tablet or smartphone.
- Your child will need materials to enable them to complete their learning. Please ensure your child has access to a note book, paper and writing materials.

If your child does not have any of the above, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can help support you.

What we expect from your child

It is important that your child engages with home learning and strives to complete the work set by their teacher for continuity of education purposes. In order to motivate pupils to engage in remote learning, teachers will use positive rewards including merits, house points and will continue to share work on our social media platforms.

Teachers will be closely monitoring the engagement of pupils and if pupils are not engaging with the learning, we will make phone calls to you to discuss strategies to provide additional support.

What you can do to help

We appreciate that remote learning may present some challenges for you. We kindly ask for your support so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for your child during this time.

Younger children in particular may need support in accessing online materials and staying focused with their remote learning. We ask that you help them as much as you can.

At the same time, we do not expect you to watch your child all day, and we wouldn't expect parents/carers to get involved in remote lessons in place of our teachers. But, it would be really helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning by asking them about their day and what they've learned.

Our top tips:

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day, and to keep to a timetable
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life
- Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active

Please keep in touch with us and do let us know if you are having any difficulties with remote learning, or if you have any questions. You can contact ask@robertfitzroyacademy.com and they will direct the email to member of staff who will be able to support you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Hayley French

Deputy Headteacher