Providing remote education: information for parents and carers at Errington Primary School

The information attached is there to support families in knowing what to expect from school in the event of a bubble, school closure or period of self-isolation. We appreciate this is a time of significant challenge and we have worked hard to ensure that we have as robust a learning offer as possible for our community.

The attached information will be accessible from our website.

Remote education provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and Parents or Carers, about what to expect from remote education if local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home. For details of what to expect where individual pupils are self-isolating, please see the final section of this document.
Our school will make reasonable endeavours to provide high quality education to all its pupils when they are working remotely. At times, factors such as staff absence through illness, may mean that this is not always possible.

We welcome your feedback on the provision, if you have suggestions on how we can improve further please contact the Headteacher at office@tvc.ac.uk

The Errington Online Offer

What can you expect from our online offer in the immediate days following a closure?
What will the curriculum look like?
What will the teaching offer be?
How have we ensured that we meet the needs of all the children in school?
How can we meet the needs of children who may require additional support?
What do we expect from children and families?

What can you expect from our online offer in the immediate days following a closure?

The process of closure can be a challenging one, throughout each stage we will look to make decisions in as calm and methodical a way as possible. Keeping parents and carers informed of the decisions we make and the rationale behind them will be key.
The closure process will differ slightly between bubble closure and school closure and will be outlined below.
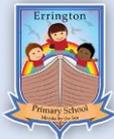
What happens if a bubble is closed and children need to isolate?

In the event of a bubble closure the process will be as follows:

Contact
We will contact you to let you know of a bubble closure through: 1. Parent Mail, 2. Direct phone call, 3. Social media (Twitter), 4. Letter (If children are sent home from school, if it is outside schools hours this will be provided as part of the children's learning packs).

Implementing home-learning
Through the Share Point staff will contact all children with a timetable for online learning. We will also provide all families with some suggestions for learning that can be accessed through: CBBC/BBC Bitesize/The Oak National Academy. All children will receive a physical learning pack with activities that could be accessed across the week. We have completed a digital survey and have some capacity to support families where there is no access to technology.

Home-learning
The children will be able to access a daily online Maths and English lesson from the teachers in their bubble alongside a set afternoon topic lesson. The lessons will last 30 minutes and will allow for work to be done afterwards. These will be accessible via Microsoft Teams, all learning resources will be accessible each day through the Sharepoint. We do not expect work to be uploaded daily but do expect children to check-in via email, uploading a photo or tasks or if your class teacher calls. Class teachers will also be having 'keeping in touch' calls.

What happens if we must enact a school closure for all children?
The process of school closure will be broadly similar to the bubble closure regarding online learning. The key differences will be around the opening of critical worker provision, the allocation of packs and targeted support with technology.

In school 'Critical Worker' provision
The school will offer a provision to critical workers as defined by the Department for Education, children will be able to access this provision for the days in which it is needed but would be expected to work from home if able to do so.
Equally school will be open for children deemed to be vulnerable and children who have an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan). Those children will be contacted directly by the school and we will look to allocate a place from there.

We will provide further information regarding targeted support within this document. We will commit to ensuring a regular review point where the Senior Leadership Team will review the provision, informing parents of additional changes as soon as we are able to do so.
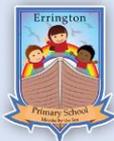
What will the 'online curriculum' look like?

We will endeavour to make our online learning offer as robust as possible; it will continue to follow the National Curriculum model and we will maintain the highest of expectations of our children throughout. We have made the decision that all online learning will be a continuation of learning that has begun within the classroom.
The curriculum will be taught through Microsoft 365 which encompasses Teams and the Share Point. We chose this platform specifically for its accessibility, alongside this we have dedicated significant in-school time to training the children in the programme to ensure their familiarity. To keep the structure as routine as possible we have ensured that both maths and English are taught within the morning with additional subject opportunity on the afternoon. We have made adaptions to this content through offering a grid of activities that can be completed. This allows families a greater degree of flexibility to manage the curriculum content. We have equally supplemented the online teaching offer with physical work packs that can be collected from the school office on a fortnightly rotation. Families will be informed when these are ready through ParentMail. The learning this provides mirrors the content taught within the online teaching model.

What will the teaching offer be?

At Errington Primary we believe the strength of our provision is based on the positive relationships that we build with our children. For that reason, we have very consciously moved to a 'blended' online teaching model where children can have face-to-face interaction with their teachers and peers on a daily basis. The children are taught within their normal class structure for a maths and English lesson daily with time built in for the completion of independent work. The timings for each year group are at differing points in the day, this has been done to reduce the impact on siblings within the home. The class teacher will be available through the SharePoint and email throughout the course of the afternoon, when they are not teaching, to provide additional support if needed. There will be a weekly social meeting where children will have the opportunity to share in a less formal environment with the teaching staff. Equally the class teacher will be monitoring the children's interaction with their learning throughout the course of the school day. This is fed back to our SLT weekly via an online register and we will complete a home visit where there has been no access to provision in 48-hour window.

Live Streaming

Live Streaming will always be carried out within the year group Team and any other access will not be authorised.

Filtering and Monitoring

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safeguarding of both of our children and staff, the use of the application will be heavily monitored by our ICT lead/department to ensure that any inappropriate use or problems are reported and rectified as soon as possible. Parents/Carers are asked to ensure that they report any identified issues immediately.

Equipment; we make the following expectation of parents:

The functionality of the application Teams will be disabled or enabled by the school/controller/administrator at the source irrespective of using the school's equipment or your own laptop/computer. Whether you are using your own equipment or the school's equipment we will still seek your agreement to follow and adhere to our school's 'acceptable use' Policy which highlight's clear expectations of the use of equipment.

How have we ensured that we meet the needs of all the children in school?

We are extremely aware that each family's ability to access digital technology is different, be this access to devices or limitations in internet providers. With that in mind we have been building a store of laptops within school to support families where needed. We have already allocated some key devices to families, however if you require support as the closure process evolves please contact the school office. We keep an in-school register of allocation of devices and you will be required to sign a loan agreement upon receiving your device. Equally we can provide families with additional data support if you are unable to access online, again this is accessed directly from the school office if required.

How can we meet the needs of children who may require additional support?

This is a challenging time for all our children but none more so than those children who may already require additional support or intervention. We recognise how difficult this can be for families where parents may be unable to support due to your own work commitments. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those pupils in the following ways:

- Some children are prioritised for support in school and where this can happen, children can be given a limited offer of provision that can take place more effectively in school.
- When children with SEND needs are working at home, teaching staff will identify differentiated activities that may be physical resources provided to support learning.
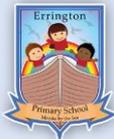
During this time we are monitoring the attendance to learning of our SEND children and our SENCo Miss Holly Matthews is accessible through office@tvc.ac.uk to communicate directly with families where additional support may be required.

What do we expect from children and families?

We appreciate that each family's context is different, as such we have tried to implement an offer that has high expectations of learners whilst also building in flexibility for families.

We share a timetable for remote learning at the start of any period of closure. We have sought to avoid clashes between year groups, but when these do occur, we provide reassurance to parents and pupils, and stagger timings so it does not happen twice in one day. We expect families to engage as much as practicable with this timetable, but we recognise that 100% compliance may not be realistic. Some activities may require parental support. When this is the case, we will try to model the activity clearly.

The Microsoft 365 structure allows for staff contact over the course of the school day, they are your first port of call if you require support or assistance. Equally we have provided all learners with information on how Teams and SharePoint can be accessed through a variety of devices.