



HOME LEARNING
Information for Parents/Carers
WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A BUBBLE CLOSURE

BUBBLE CLOSURE

A bubble closure means that a class or group of classes or a group of children in a 'bubble' group have to isolate at home because someone in their bubble has tested positive for COVID-19. This information sheet outlines how your child can access learning if this occurs. See below in the format of 'questions and answers', to find out what you to expect from school. This information sheet addresses **full bubble closure and partial bubble closure**.

What happens if the full bubble (children and staff) has to isolate?

If it is a full bubble closure, then the whole bubble will be in their homes and this will include staff. If this is the case then the system will operate as if in a full lockdown. Please read all the information below for guidance. If it is a partial closure, please scroll right down to the question that asks '**What happened if part of the bubble has to isolate?**'

How will my child access the work from home?

Work is loaded daily onto the homework page on the school website. We are using this format as children are familiar with it because in September 2020, we introduced this as our main method of setting homework.

What happens if we do not have a device or internet access?

The school will support families if they are lacking in devices or data. Laptops can be issued to those needing them by emailing admin@parkview.manchester.sch.uk. This is the same if families do not have broadband. School can support with data vouchers and 4G routers if needed. Again, please send an email to admin@parkview.manchester.sch.uk with details of your requirements and a staff member will contact you to discuss your needs.

I would rather just have a paper copy – is this possible?

We can provide paper packs for children if it is absolutely necessary. However, paper-based work lacks the input from the teacher and children can struggle with paper-based work at home for a number of reasons. It is also difficult to mark and assess paper-based work as this requires parents/carers to get the papers back to school. In lockdown, adults coming to and from the school regularly is not advisable and sending work back through the post is slow and warrants adults to leave their homes when they have been advised to stay at home. In *exceptional* circumstances, staff can deliver work packs but as there are children learning in school the staff available for delivery and pick up is limited. Families with no option but to use paper-based work are to contact the teacher (via the class email address), who will then phone you to discuss how to meet your particular needs.

What will my child find on the homework page?

Each day, when your child logs on, he/she will find work maths, English and other subjects on the page. There are pre-recorded (recorded by the class teacher) and tasks that are matched to your child's needs. As teachers are differentiating the tasks, your child should be able to do the work.

What if my child gets stuck and needs help?

There are several ways in which your child (or you on behalf of your child) can access support:

- via the chat facility on the homework page
- when the homework is uploaded (a question can be typed)
- on the daily face to face live session with the teacher (either by asking directly or via the chat function)

- via the class email
- during the call your teacher makes weekly (or more frequently in some circumstances)

Will my child learn the same as if he/she were in school?

Teachers are aiming to deliver a broad curriculum whilst school is in lockdown. There will be daily reading (or phonics), writing and maths sessions and over the course of the week, your child will have lessons/work set in the other curriculum areas that would be taught in school.

Yes, but will it be exactly the same?

It is not possible to deliver the curriculum in exactly the same way remotely so some things will be different. For example, science will not be as practical as we appreciate that families will not have all the equipment needed for certain experiments and that parents/carers may be working from home too and time is an issue. However, we will do our best to make the learning as engaging and as interactive as possible.

How long is my child expected to study at home?

We want all children to engage with all the lessons and activities that we provide and this will vary from year group to year group. However as a rough guide we would expect children in KS1 to be actively engaged with learning at home for 2 hours in the morning and a further 1½ hours in the afternoon.

For KS2 children we are expecting 2½ in the morning and a further 2½ in the afternoon.

How is the work marked and assessed?

Before lockdown as part of demonstrating to do homework online, children were taught how to upload their work. This can be done in a number of ways. Children can type their work directly into the communication box and send it to their teacher. Children can also do the work on paper, take a photograph of it and upload that to the teacher and send it. For some subjects or some types of work, taking and uploading a photograph may be the best method. The teacher will make this very clear in the daily instructions.

How will staff check if my child is engaging with the work?

For children able to access online learning from home, teachers regularly check for work that has been uploaded throughout the day. If a child is not uploading work, this will be followed up in a variety of ways:

- parents/carers and children will be asked why they have not completed in the weekly (or more frequent) phone calls
- if it is not possible to connect with parents/carers and children via the phone calls, a staff member will do a doorstep visit

What will happen during a doorstep visit?

The staff member will check that you are all well (well-being check). He/she will share information about the work that has been missed (e.g. child has not completed any work/specific subject/half/a few pieces) and will affirm that you are expected to support your child in engaging with all the work.

If parents/carers says that the work is too hard/easy, they will be asked how this has been communicated to the teacher and what the outcome was.

The visiting staff member will outline an agreement with the parent/carer and child and will affirm that the child should engage with all the work provided by the school using the agreed method for that child (online/paper) and there will be an expectation that the parent/carer will do their very best to ensure that this happens.

My child has special educational needs – how will you cater for this?

All children with an EHCP will have been offered a place in school and depending on the number of places determined by our risk assessment and staffing ratios, some children who have learning needs but not an EHCP will have been offered a place in school too.

If your child is learning at home, it is likely that you have chosen to keep him/her at home. If this is the case and your child has an EHCP, he/she will access the work in the same way as the rest of the children learning at home. However, your child will receive additional phone calls from support staff and some face-to-face online sessions. The work set for your child will be designed to meet his/her needs and this work will be the basis of discussion during the additional phone calls.

Those children learning at home without an EHCP will have work designed to meet their needs and additional support from either a specialist member of the support team (for example Speech and Language) and additional online programmes to access.

English is not my child's first language. How will you support this?

Children who have English as an additional language (EAL) and are at the beginners stage of learning will receive additional calls and specific work from our EAL support staff. Your child will also be able to access work from a special learning platform that is designed for EAL children.

My child does not have a special need and is not EAL. Can he/she access additional platforms too?

All children have access to the specific class work, online recorded lessons, work to meet their individual needs and a daily live session with the teacher. All children can access additional resources to support and enhance their learning. Many of these resources are programmes and platforms that they access regularly in school. Your child knows the platforms and all children have usernames and passwords for these as they use them in school. Parents/carers have been sent a list of platforms and passwords etc. However, if your child forgets a username or password for a particular programme/platform teachers/office staff can provide them again. Ask for usernames and passwords via:

- email to admin or class email
- phone call to school office
- via child's homework page
- during call from school staff member

You can use any method and the necessary information will be sent to you.

Are there any other ways that my child can access learning?

Teachers have populated the homework pages with links to other services that children can access from home. For example the BBC is broadcasting lots of different educational TV programmes for children to watch on regular TV (you do not need a Smart TV for this). The programmes are on BBC2 and CBBC. The schedule is on your child's class page.

What happens if just part the bubble (children and staff) has to isolate?

This depends on how many children and staff are required to isolate and the answer will depend on how many staff and children are working from home. In a partial bubble closure, it is likely that blended learning will take place which means that because some of the staff associated with the bubble may be still working in school with the children who are not isolating, they cannot dedicate their time fully to online learning. In this case, there would be a mixture of online learning and paper-based learning which parents/carers can collect and return to school.

Every partial bubble closure is likely to be different therefore a different plan will be made for each circumstance. Therefore, in the case of a partial bubble closure, we will email specific information to you at the time and a staff member will phone you to make sure you are clear about the expectations and arrangements for that particular closure.

