



RICHARD PATE
INDEPENDENT CO-ED SCHOOL 3-11
CHELTENHAM

**Remote education provision:
information for parents**

January 2021

Message from the Headmaster:

Dear Parents,

This is a document which outlines the online provision for pupils of the Richard Pate School.

As we face a further COVID-19 national lockdown in the UK, we find ourselves in another period of remote learning and having learnt valuable lessons from the first lockdown, I am confident that the whole Richard Pate community will once again rise to the challenge. As we know, change can be difficult and there will be challenges for us all but I have no doubt that we will overcome these and grow stronger together as one School community.

We are proud of the broad curriculum we offer across the School. The challenge for us is to provide this remotely at these times when children are unable to attend school. Our chosen online platform, Showbie, provides a combination of video lessons, online tasks and creative resources, and this together with Zoom registrations and one-to-one sessions, allows us to continue to successfully provide this curriculum remotely to children in all year groups.

A recent survey tells us that our remote learning programme via Showbie has been well received by children and parents alike but we are still learning. As such, we are continuously reviewing and further developing it in response to feedback from our parents.

As I have said before, our team will continue to do absolutely everything they can to deliver the best education for your children whether they are at home or in School. We sincerely look forward to the day that we are fully open again.

Kind regards

Robert MacDonald

Robert MacDonald

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 at The Richard Pate School where national or 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.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

The government made a decision to close schools in early January and we responded immediately by activating our remote learning provision through Showbie, our chosen online learning platform.

Why Showbie? When we undertook a detailed review of the online platforms available this one ticked the most boxes. It provides us with the following functionality:

- The user interface for classes and lessons (known as assignments) is extremely clear, simple and easy to use, both for parents/pupils and for teachers.
- The structure of lessons is easy to set up and to read. Lessons can be composed using of a variety of different media: video, text, voice note, comment, photo, Word document, PowerPoint document, PDF file etc. This allows us, for example, to start a lesson with a video introduction, to include a worksheet for printing off at home, and to add other comments which will assist the pupils and parents in engaging with the lesson.
- Work can easily be returned by pupils as a photo or a series of photos of work that has been completed with pen and paper, or has been otherwise created by the pupils. It is very straightforward for parents/pupils to take the photos within the app to upload them.
- Work can also be completed in a document such as a Word file and uploaded to Showbie.
- The feedback to pupils can take the form of a video, voice note, photo, comment and/or a score. Returned work can also be marked within Showbie, whether it is a photo or a Word file. Ticks, comments and voice notes can be placed directly onto the work for the pupils and parents to read or listen to. The user interface for marking is very easy for the teachers to use.
- The interaction between a teacher and a pupil for a lesson consists of a dialogue, similar in concept to a messaging app, where the teacher and parent/pupil can keep replying to one another's comments, videos etc in a single stream.
- Pupils, parents and teachers are able to set up notifications so that they know as soon as a change or addition has been made to an assignment.
- It is easy to review existing assignments to see whether work has been submitted and whether it has been marked.
- Work can be differentiated depending on the capabilities of the different pupils in a class whilst maintaining complete confidentiality about the differentiations.

We used Showbie during the first lockdown in March 2020, and it has continued to be used for remote provision and homework since then so is familiar to pupils, and staff.

Will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

- We are covering the same curriculum through our remote curriculum as we would if the children were in school. The timetable for lessons differs from the normal School timetable, this is to enable all pupils to cover English and Maths when the children are at their most fresh first thing in the morning. All timetables have been emailed to parents by their class teachers. The core curriculum is covered by lessons prepared and uploaded by our teachers working in tandem with their year group partner.
- Our specialist staff, (science, languages, music and art) are also delivering lessons through Showbie and these lessons are covering the curriculum we expect of children in their appropriate year group. These may be adjusted slightly to adapt to the materials which are available away from school.
- Games and PE staff are creating a collection of activities to promote physical fitness which can also be delivered at home.

Remote teaching and study time each day

How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?

We expect that remote education (including remote teaching and independent work) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

Key Stage 1	Reception – minimum 3 hours Year 1 – minimum 3 hours Year 2 – minimum 3 hours 30 mins
Key Stage 2	Year 3 – minimum 3 hours 45 mins up to 4 hours 10 mins Year 4 – minimum 3 hours 45 mins up to 4 hours 10 mins Year 5 – minimum 3 hours 45 mins up to 4 hours 10 mins Year 6 – minimum 3 hours 45 mins up to 4 hours 10 mins

Accessing remote education

How will my child access any online remote education you are providing?

We have given each child and their parents log in details for Showbie, our online learning platform. The parents are able to check on work assigned each day and download videos, assignments and voice notes to help in their child's learning. The children can either work from paper copies and upload them or work directly from a device to complete the work. The teachers are available during lessons to answer questions, mark the work and provide feedback.

Should children or parents experience any technical difficulties with Showbie, they can email: techsupport@richardpate.co.uk for support.

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

- Through Showbie we have provided a learning tool that allows parents to print off work that children can work on without constantly being on a screen. Parents can print the work off the night before and be ready to start in the morning.
- Where parents do not have sufficient devices for the children and printing the work off is not a satisfactory solution, we have made school iPads available to be offered on loan.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:

- Showbie allows us to record lessons for children who then follow a timetable each day
- if parents are working or supporting multiple children at home, then this provides flexibility to complete the lessons at times that work within the household
- live registration through Zoom – each morning the children are expected to attend Zoom registration with their teacher or parents are asked to e-mail the teacher directly to say why the child was unable to join
- individual connection one to one with child and class teacher – this is also done through Zoom often before or after registration so the child can share any concerns they are having about the learning or other aspects of remote education
- depending on the length of the lockdown the school has created activity days where the school as a whole has worked through themed activities – this would be set as a special day but would not interfere with the delivery of the curriculum expected to be covered by the end of the term

Engagement and feedback

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

- We understand that remote learning provides unique challenges for parents at home and the ability to support a child's learning varies considerably from one household to the next depending on circumstances
- We expect the children to join us for morning Zoom registration or for parents to alert us to why they are unable to do so
- We expect the children to work through the daily timetable and the activities set
- We ask that parents try to create an environment conducive to work and that they encourage the children to work independently when they can and support them when they are unable
- The teachers are available on Showbie to answer questions, to mark work and to provide feedback when needed or as soon as possible if they are supervising children at school
- If parents or children are struggling with the work set, then contacting the class teacher via e-mail will hopefully lead to a supportive solution

How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

- Teachers will regularly check work and engage in a dialogue with the child through Showbie
- If the teacher is concerned with the work that is being submitted, they will make direct contact with the parent to see how the child can be supported in their learning
- If parents have a concern with how their child is coping with the learning, then they can contact the teacher directly via e-mail or a message can be left on Showbie detailing the concern

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

- Teachers will mark the work placed on Showbie and give feedback designed to help consolidate understanding
- This feedback will come daily. Children may also be asked to complete on-line quizzes to show understanding
- The children will have one to one Zoom contact and daily group Zoom registration where teachers can also assess understanding
- The parents and teachers will have a Zoom Parent Teacher Meeting in the second half of term where a more general discussion will take place about the child's progress
- Upon a return to in school provision, we will undertake Progress in English, Maths (Year 1 and above) and Science (Year 3 and above) assessments to evaluate progress during this period of remote learning

Additional support for pupils with particular needs

How will you work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils, for example some pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. 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:

- For those children who have been identified as requiring SEND our SENDCo support, we will be making regular contact with the children and the class teacher will also monitor their progress
- Work will be differentiated to cater for different levels of ability
- Parents and teachers will have an open dialogue of how best to support those children who are finding remote learning a particular challenge
- Our Nursery has remained open and children have been allowed to continue attending as normal. For those choosing not to send their children in, we have provided a collection of activities on Showbie created by the Nursery Manager
- Children in Reception are also working via Showbie as well as some interactive activities on Zoom such as Show and Tell

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in school, how remote education is provided will likely differ from the approach for whole groups. This is due to the challenges of teaching pupils both at home and in school.

If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?

Currently there are a number of children in school as they have been identified as children of Critical Workers or as Vulnerable Children. We are trying to ensure that the work covered is the same whether a child is at home or in school although we are adapting the delivery within school as there are not sufficient devices available for every child in school.

Should we return to in school provision for all and a child is required to self-isolate, then remote provision will be available on Showbie.