

Remote Learning: Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if I can't make all of the online lessons?

We know that many of you will be trying to juggle working from home with home learning. Firstly, just attend the lessons that you can attend. Attending some lessons is better than attending no lessons. We have provided online lessons to support you and your child and to (hopefully) reduce the loss of learning during a lockdown. But you can only do the best that you can. On the Eschools platform for your child's class, we have a timetable each day of the activity that is linked to a lesson so you can also work on the activity at another time if possible. If you can only attend one lesson a day, try to vary which lesson your child attends so that your child isn't missing all the learning for one subject.

My child is struggling with the online lessons.

This is a common worry! Firstly, online teaching (and learning) is very difficult. It's a learning curve for us all! So, if your child is struggling with the lesson content, just encourage them to have a go. It's the practice that is important. Don't forget that if your child is learning new content it **is** going to be difficult initially. If it was all easy, it wouldn't be worth learning! We teach resilience at school as it is so important to persevere and keep trying. When we teach growth mindsets at schools, we teach children that you just can't do it **yet**. Sometimes, particularly in maths, it may take 3 or 4 lessons before a child starts to really get to grips with a new strategy. That being said, you can always adjust the learning for your child. In maths, just try making the numbers a bit smaller or, when asked to complete the worksheet, just try for 2 or 3 questions. Don't think that you need to complete the whole worksheet. Sometimes, with the child knowing that they only need to try 2 or 3 questions, it can really help as it doesn't seem so daunting. Don't forget: you can also help your child. At school, children often get help throughout the lesson if they are really struggling. Try and encourage your child to talk about which part is hard and why it is hard or try to encourage your child to talk out loud how to solve the problem before they begin.

My child is refusing to do the work

Remind your child that this is their school learning and that they would normally be learning at school at this time. Remember, your child knows how to push your buttons and will try this at home whereas they would not refuse to do work at school. You can encourage them in a few different ways:

- Shorten the activity (e.g. try 3 questions rather than completing all of the questions)
- Give lots and lots of praise.
- Start a simple reward system. Once your child has completed the work, there is a reward of whatever it may be!
- Give your child a break: allow your child a break between the online lesson and completing the work.
- Send the work back to the teacher. Sometimes, your child knowing that the teacher is waiting for the work is an incentive.
- Ask that your teacher speaks directly to your child if you think this might help

It is also worth remembering that your child may find some subjects more challenging than others. We found, during the lockdown experience, that some children completed all the maths work but none of the writing work (because they didn't like writing) or completed all the writing work but didn't complete the maths work (because they didn't like maths). This makes it very difficult when they return to school as the subject they find difficult has now become even more difficult. So, it's worth persevering with the idea that all work needs to be completed. However, how much they complete is entirely up to you.

My child won't stay at the device to watch the lesson

Again, this is a difficult one. Again, it is worth reminding your child this is school time and they would be learning in school. Dress them up in their uniform during learning time if it helps!! Normally, a child who refuses to join the lesson is motivated by an emotion. It is worth talking to your child about the reasons why. It could be fear of getting things wrong or a worry because the work is hard.

There are many feelings that may link to your child's refusal to work. Just keep talking to them and name the feeling they may be feeling e.g. "I imagine you may be feeling really worried about learning today". Then reassure them "It's okay to feel worried. I'll be with you and we'll do this together." You can also use

the words: "Can you help me understand why you don't want to learn online, today?" Finally, it can also be useful to have some online learning rules that you and your child agree to. Go over these rules before the lesson begins each day. You can also link these rules to treats and rewards.

My child finds the work too easy

Sometimes, your child may pick up the work really easily. In independent work, check that they are answering the work correctly. If they finish this, then ask them to explain how they worked out an answer. This is as important as finding the answer. Accuracy is also really important so check your child is accurate in their learning, particularly in maths. Then, challenge them to create two questions for you to work out or try to extend them yourself with some more challenging questions! Go on the journey together!

My child is finding the learning too quick and can't keep up

Again, work at the pace of your child. If the learning is going too quickly then answer every other question rather than every question. In maths, you may see *Flashback Fives*. These are about recalling information (which helps cement learning into the long term memory) rather than always knowing the answer! So, don't worry if your child doesn't know all the answers; it's about trying them that is important. *Flashback Fives* are also about speed so there will be a limited time to answer the questions. Again, try answering every other one if your child is struggling to answer every question.

I am worried my child is falling behind and will never catch up

This will be the worry of many parents at this time, particularly with a second lockdown. You are not alone in this worry. We will do everything we can to support your child at school to catch up the missed curriculum. This is what we were working on all last term. All you can do at the moment is try to ensure your child is joining in with the online lessons as often as possible and completing the work sent home (or at least some of it). Take one day at a time.

Can my child go ahead and complete work from other days?

This is not recommended at all. It is the discussion of the learning that is important before the independent learning is completed. So, please, just complete the learning each day as signposted by the class teacher. There are many educational games online so you can always search for an online game that links to the learning. You can also review learning from a previous week as children often need to reinforce their learning to cement it in their long term memory. Otherwise, work on some basic skills of spellings, handwriting, reading or times tables.