

Distance Learning at Western Primary School

At Western Primary School we have a 1-1 iPad scheme for children in Years 3-6. Every child in KS2 has an iPad for use in school and about 75% of our parents opt into the payment scheme which allows their child to take their iPad home each night. In KS1, the children have shared iPads on a 1-2 ratio. These iPads stay in school.

Our children were already familiar with using their iPads and uploading all work to Showbie which gave us a head start when closures were announced. We immediately allowed all children who had not opted into the payment scheme to take their iPad home for the duration of the closure.

Since closure, we have been able to maintain live teaching across KS2 using Zoom. Without our iPad scheme this would have been almost impossible as many children would only have limited access to the technology they need. Some only have shared devices within the home and have parents and siblings who would also need them to work on. Some have no home devices at all.

In KS2, two live lessons are taught on Zoom each day but all follow-up work and additional activities are delivered to the children through Showbie. Children and parents are able to access Showbie to revisit lesson Keynotes, complete activities and set and upload work. Feedback has been provided to the children on every piece of work they have completed through Showbie. Verbal notes have been particularly valuable during this time as they allow the children to feel they are still getting personal feedback from the teacher. We have put a daily diary on Showbie for the children so they can “speak” to their teachers and receive voice notes in return.

In KS1, the children have been accessing Showbie remotely through their own devices at home. Prior to school closing, the children in KS1 were using Showbie in lessons, so were becoming familiar with how to use it. We created a user guide for parents to support them when accessing and navigating Showbie, which has helped to create a smooth transition. We have 9 children in KS1 who do not have access to a device. These children were highlighted before school closed and were given work to complete at home. As remote schooling continues, we are currently in the process of arranging to send school devices to these children. The children have 4 sessions timetabled each day across a range of subjects. These lessons are uploaded to Showbie in the form of pre-recorded teacher videos with a follow up activity. These videos have been made using Prowise software, iMovie, clips or the camera facility. This may be paper based and to be completed in their home learning books, which were sent home prior to closure, or on a template on Showbie. Teaching assistants are accessing online work and marking on Showbie the same day. Class discussion is open for children to ask their teachers questions relating to their work. Year 2 teachers and teaching assistants are holding a weekly class Zoom with a social focus and Year 1 are holding small group Zooms over the week on a rotation basis.



Parents have access to Showbie and have been able to keep up with what their children are doing during this period of home learning. Showbie discussion groups allow the children to ask any questions they have about their work and to receive an answer immediately. We are also using a Showbie group to send out any daily announcements to parents.

Safeguarding implications have been a key consideration throughout this process. Children, staff and parents have been issued with a code of conduct for using Zoom in the home which ensures that specific standards are met in terms of behaviour, dress and general conduct. We have also developed a risk assessment and a pupil/parent contract which are used for any one-to-one Zoom sessions with pupils.

Work set for the children has included activities to be completed directly on Showbie, creating Keynotes, making films using clips or iMovie, creating animations on Keynote or using the camera, photographing work done on paper and uploading a photo to Showbie and written work on Pages. The measures app and accessing online videos have proved invaluable in supporting maths lessons. Teachers have used various methods to deliver the lessons to the children. We have taught live lessons through Zoom, we have uploaded Keynotes to Showbie for the children to follow and we have also recorded videos of lessons for the children to watch and shared these with the children through Showbie.

The iPads have proven to be an invaluable resource. The versatility of the device has provided us with a platform to not only deliver work but capture it too and has enabled the school to maximise the learning potential through our home learning curriculum. It would have been impossible to produce and maintain the same level of high support through video and online learning without the iPads.

Feedback from parents has been incredible. They have really appreciated the way the school has utilised technology to bring live lessons into the home, keeping the children not only engaged in their learning but also able to socialise online as part of our provision, thus helping to maintain their wellbeing. Please see some quotes from happy parents below!

- The zoom lessons have been invaluable as the children can ask questions if they need to and has been good for them to see other faces.
- I would just like to say how brilliant and amazing the team at Western have been. I have a daughter in the nursery as well and they too have been doing zoom calls twice a week reading stories and singing songs, sending out ideas to keep the children entertained and engaged.

