

Educating pupils at home

Online education resources and considerations

Home Learning - Advice and Guidance for schools

A large number of schools and parents are requesting reminders of the best available resources to support home learning due to higher number of children being absent from school and the possible event of part or full closure of schools. Below is some advice and guidance to help you.

There is a new site that has been set up to support schools with advice and links to resources

<http://homelearninguk.com>

and all the free educational resources can be seen here -

<http://www.amazingeducationalresources.com/>.

The site can be quite overwhelming, so think carefully about what you are looking for to make it easier to search. There is currently a lot of news coverage of remote, online learning which needs careful consideration, be very cautious about trying something wholly new:

- a) Many homes have limited access beyond mobile which children traditionally "watch", parents working from home may need the family laptop.
- b) Need for offline/online balance for every child staying at home all day. See below for free downloadable packs
- c) Safeguarding and Health Well-being – Parents regularly ask for support with screen-time boundaries – Social media issues e.g. WhatsApp/TikTok may spike across class/friendship groups

Key Considerations and Actions

- Refresh or refer to survey on device/internet access at home to inform best balance of learning resources
- Consider households with limited books or learning material
- Updated Safeguarding advice e.g. <https://www.lgfl.net/about/coronavirus>
- Achievable daily targets e.g. learning time 2-3 hours, exercise, reading, movie (+ review)

<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-11-tips-using-google-classroom>

<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-5-lessons-school-lockdown> (helpful quick article!)

Another list of Education Companies Offering Free Subscriptions Due to School Closings:

<https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/135609/list-of-education-companies-offering-free-subscriptions/>

Key Learning Activity and Example Ideas

- Provide engaging, accessible books/basic learning tools for targeted families
- Provide physical learning packs for targeted years e.g. SATs years
<https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html>
- & <https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/free-home-learning-packs>
- <https://www.robinhoodmat.co.uk> whole school home learning packs recently released
- Refresh pupil accounts for online subscriptions e.g. Doodlemaths, TTRS, 2Simple, Discovery (& LGFL)
- Decide on core teaching tools, cloud platforms and websites – e.g. (office 365/teams or Google), SeeSaw, NewsRound, Kahoot, Quizlet, Scratch, White Rose Maths – free video package available.
- Staff refresh on online tools e.g assigning activities Doodlemaths, Busythings & check for updates from companies providing school closure resource- e.g. 2Simple
- Share reminders of traditional, fun off-screen learning activities E.g. from Pobble

Communicating with Parents and Teachers

Extract from <https://edtechnology.co.uk/Article/edtech-uk-isc-advice-schools-potential-coronavirus-closures>

- Think about communications channels to parents, can you use them to maintain the momentum of the learning community and deliver more practical solutions? E.g School websites, parent app, emails
- Do you have a shared online space (OneDrive, Google Drive etc) for staff to share information with each other and with students/parents?
- Does your institution or Parent Teacher Association have a Facebook group or similar solution you could use to maintain a dialogue with parents?
- How can you best mobilise and explain to parents the continued need to support learning?

Advice about home learning - <https://islington-gov.j2bloggy.com/Islington-Computing-Online-Safety/home-learning/>

Considerations for home learning - www.swgfl.org.uk/SafeRemoteLearning.

Other resources:

A) From Ross Morrison McGill (Teacher Toolkit)

The post is not an exhaustive list of resources, so there will be others.

Resources for pupils

1. [Learning by Questions](#) offers 60,000 questions, allowing pupils to deepen their knowledge, freeing up what limited time teachers have...
2. [Me Power](#) provides more than 100 practical tactics and tips to improve examination performance.
3. KAZ-Type is a [typing software that is differentiated](#) in order to be accessible to both mainstream students and those with special educational needs.
4. [Gojimo.com](#) has GCSE quizzes that relate to different specifications and are set up and ready to go.
5. [Socrative.com](#) allows teachers to create simple quizzes that students can take quickly.
6. [Quizlet.com/live](#) can be used to create keyword flashcards online and give out to students.
7. Another great app for creating timed quizzes is [Kahoot.com](#) for added competition for keywords or ideas.
8. [Memrise.com](#) is a useful app for all languages and uses videos to help learners.
9. Tableau Public is a great platform to connect to a spreadsheet and create [interactive visuals](#).
10. Looking for visual thinking? Try [bubbl.us](#), to help students better understand, remember and generate new ideas.
11. [Revisionbuddies.com](#) can provide short bursts of revision for many GCSE topics and tracks progress too. It even allows the pupils to access past papers and mark schemes.
12. [Goconqr.com](#) allows pupils or teachers to create mind maps and flashcards using key terms.
13. [Wordflex.com](#) app uses a dictionary with a focus on key terms and a content-rich curriculum.
14. Introduce creativity into your English classes – try [Young Writers](#).
15. Exam season can be stressful for pupils and mindfulness can be a way to combat this and improve grades overall.
[Keltymentalhealth.ca/breathr](#) helps pupils focus and relax can be a useful tool for achieving top grades.
16. [Poll Everywhere](#) is a vital tool to gain feedback; ideal for voting and gathering data online.
17. [Brainpop](#) has a great set of videos, freely available for pupils.
18. Choose a video, give it your magic touch and track your students' comprehension. Try [Edupuzzle](#).
19. Make beautiful boards, documents, and webpages that are easy to read and fun to contribute to. Try [Padlet](#).
20. [Seneca Learning](#) offers many online courses for pupils.

21. There are loads of online resources pupils and parents can use. [Safer Internet Day](#) is all-year-round in my opinion.
22. [Young Money](#) supports teachers to develop and deliver high-quality financial education...
23. [Super Movers](#) is an initiative from the BBC and Premier League and is designed to help primary school teachers inspire children to become more active throughout their school day.
24. [Unio](#) creates lesson plans, content and provides feedback and evaluation tools.
25. Finally, it's been around for a while and just as good, [BBC Bitesize](#) resources and videos.

Sharing videos

1. [Zoom](#) – probably the best software out there for videos, webinars and sharing resources through video.
2. [Flipgrid](#) can empower every voice in your classroom by recording and sharing short, awesome videos.
3. [Screencastify is a free screen recorder](#) extension for Chrome. It allows you to capture, edit, share screencasts, animations of presentations and give feedback to students.
4. [Screencast-O-Matic](#) is another free and easy-to-use screen recorder, you can capture any area of your screen with the option to add narration from your microphone and video from your webcam.
5. [Periscope](#) allows users to share 'live' videos, something I have been [doing for at least three years](#) to connect with my audience and allow them to interact with me as I share information. I'd be lost without it and my audience on Twitter will be familiar with my Sunday evening live stream videos...
6. [Speakpipe](#) software allows people online (by voice or email) to leave you a voicemail. It saves users time, having to write an email when the same information can be left in an online voicemail between users. I've been using it for years and my website and it's [how most people get in touch with me...](#)
7. [Google Hangouts](#) – is a communication platform for messaging, video chat and for audio and photo sharing to have group conversations with up to 150 people and free video calls with 10 colleagues. I have started to experiment using it for teacher training online ...
8. [Google Meet](#) is a video conferencing app, which requires you to dial a phone number and is great for users with a slow or unreliable internet connection. However, you need to be a G suite member to build to do this. What I like about it the most, is that I can open up a meeting and leave it online all day, and as various people want to talk to me, I just give them access to the link. This is great for hot-desking on the move, or for people who need to speak with lots of people through the web.
9. [Microsoft Teams](#) offers a wide range of resources – they offer video collaboration too.

Resources for teachers

1. The digital [5-Minute Lesson Plan](#) allows teachers to create lesson content and share it with others.
2. [CreateSpace is a platform for individuals](#) to self publish their books and reach millions of readers on Amazon. It's been on my to-do list for some time...
3. [Mailchimp](#) is a great way for schools to remain in contact with all of their parents and analyse the data, without having to waste £1,000s on paper newsletters being sent home and trashed down the high street
...
4. I've been [using Grammarly for a few years](#), and although I do not rely on it heavily, it is an essential plug-in for checking documents.
5. [WeTransfer](#) is the perfect platform for sharing large online files to another person over the web. Perfect for videos, photographs and large folders and files, you can personalise your page and receive notifications when another person download your documents.
6. [Trello!](#) I would be lost without this piece of software, which helps me manage contracts, to-do lists and pretty much everything else. Even if you are not a freelancer, it's a brilliant tool for teachers to use to help get organised.
7. [GDrive \(or GSuite\)](#) as a perfect online solution for storing files (e.g. Google Docs and Google Slides) and pretty much everything else. The beauty of it is, is that I no longer need to carry a USB around with me and that if I need to share a file, I don't even need to download it! You can just share the hyperlink and provide the end-user with a view, comment or edit access hyperlink.
8. [Evernote Scannable](#) is a way to quickly take a photo and scan the myriad of papers that come your way during a frenetic school day. If you have an iPad or iPhone it's a must-have tool that will save you precious minutes of time searching for that stray receipt or consent form!
9. [Prolio](#) is a great free tool for setting individual targets for students in a quick, fun and interactive way. You can customise specific targets and issue them to selected students.
10. [Planbook](#) is great for storing your grades, lesson plans, calendar, attendance lists, to-do-lists, timetable and lesson notes (along with 101 other things!) It won't win any awards for most beautiful education app, but it is fast, responsive and very intuitive to use.
11. [Remind](#) is handy for sending messages and reminders to students and parents without all the faffing of printed forms and papers.
12. [LendEd](#) offers a search database for technology resources. It's definitely worth a browse...
13. And finally, if you have a lot of reading to get through, [Pocket is a fabulous app](#) for saving articles to read. The tool downloads all of the data, perfect for reading 'underground', on a plane or when you have no signal. There is also a feature where it then reads it to you via headphones – perfect for time-poor teachers.

B) A non-exhaustive list that might help those affected by school closures due to coronavirus, compiled by home educators.

Khan Academy

<https://www.khanacademy.org>

Especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at Secondary level. Note this uses the U.S. grade system but it's mostly common material.

BBC Learning

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/>

This site is old and no longer updated and yet there's so much still available, from language learning to BBC Bitesize for revision. No TV licence required except for content on BBC iPlayer.

Futurelearn

<https://www.futurelearn.com>

Free to access 100s of courses, only pay to upgrade if you need a certificate in your name (own account from age 14+ but younger learners can use a parent account).

Seneca

<https://www.senecalearning.com>

For those revising at GCSE or A level. Tons of free revision content. Paid access to higher level material.

Openlearn

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

Free taster courses aimed at those considering Open University but everyone can access it. Adult level, but some e.g. nature and environment courses could well be of interest to young people.

Blockly

<https://blockly.games>

Learn computer programming skills - fun and free.

Scratch

<https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/>

Creative computer programming

Ted Ed

<https://ed.ted.com>

All sorts of engaging educational videos

National Geographic Kids

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

Activities and quizzes for younger kids.

Duolingo

<https://www.duolingo.com>

Learn languages for free. Web or app.

Mystery Science

<https://mysteryscience.com>

Free science lessons

The Kids Should See This
<https://thekidshouldseethis.com>
Wide range of cool educational videos

Crash Course
<https://thecrashcourse.com>
You Tube videos on many subjects

Crash Course Kids
<https://m.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids>
As above for a younger audience

Crest Awards
<https://www.crestawards.org>
Science awards you can complete from home.

iDEA Awards
<https://idea.org.uk>
Digital enterprise award scheme you can complete online.

Paw Print Badges
<https://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk>
Free challenge packs and other downloads. Many activities can be completed indoors. Badges cost but are optional.

Tinkercad
<https://www.tinkercad.com>
All kinds of making.

Prodigy Maths
<https://www.prodigygame.com>
Is in U.S. grades, but good for UK Primary age.

Cbeebies Radio
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio>
Listening activities for the younger ones.

Nature Detectives
<https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/>
A lot of these can be done in a garden, or if you can get to a remote forest location!

British Council
<https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find>
Resources for English language learning

Oxford Owl for Home
<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>
Lots of free resources for Primary age

Big History Project
<https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home>
Aimed at Secondary age. Multi disciplinary activities.

Geography Games
<https://world-geography-games.com/world.html>

Geography gaming!

Blue Peter Badges

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges>

If you have a stamp and a nearby post box.

The Artful Parent

<https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/>

Good, free art activities

Red Ted Art

<https://www.redtedart.com>

Easy arts and crafts for little ones

The Imagination Tree

<https://theimaginationtree.com>

Creative art and craft activities for the very youngest.

Toy Theater

<https://toytheater.com/>

Educational online games

DK Find Out

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/?fbclid=IwAR2wJdpSJSeITf4do6aPhff8A3tAktnmpaxqZbkqudD49l71ep8-sjXmrac>

Activities and quizzes

Twinkl

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

This is more for printouts, and usually at a fee, but they are offering a month of free access to parents in the event of school closures.

C) Resources recommended by schools

Bedrock Vocabulary - evidence-based and fun online learning sites. Bedrock is suitable for all Key Stages. [Bedrock is FREE for all schools that are closed!](#)

English teachers - Litdrive account. <https://litdrive.org.uk/> -useful resources on there including work booklets that students can complete at home.

Here are a few more resources for EYFS to share with families/schools suitable for EYFS

Early Education <https://www.early-education.org.uk/download-free-resources>

Muddy Puddle Teacher <https://themuddypuddleteacher.co.uk/>

Nature

Detectives <https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/>

D) Examples of school websites with resource packs etc

<https://www.st-lukesislington.co.uk/remote-learning/>