

MVC Learning in Lockdown - January 2021

Previously:

During the first lockdown MVC continued to use its app (SMHW) that was already widely used by pupils and parents in order to communicate homework tasks.

Using this enabled a level of consistency and pupils felt confident in its use. The instructions then linked to resources held elsewhere, either by the school on SharePoint (the CATalogue) or externally by the creator/owner e.g. BBC Bitesize, Seneca, Oaks Academy.

However, each child was relatively isolated, and the differing methods used to set, collect and return work were confusing.

For the spring 2021 lockdown:

We decided to change our method of delivery to use Microsoft Teams.

Teams allows several elements to be used within the one app/program:

- Posts – direct written communication between members of the class Team
- Files – an area where individuals can save files, with some areas common to all
- Assignments – an area where tasks can be set and then collected, marked and returned
- Class Notebook – an area where teachers can create notes (in real time) that pupils can view, and where each pupil has their own private notebook, accessible by the teacher for marking and leaving feedback
- Meetings – the class Team can all be online at the same time, allowing the teacher to ‘teach’ live to the class (can also be recorded for those unable to attend, or to re-view)

Access by pupil:

All pupils have access to Teams, along with all other Microsoft apps, online in Office 365.

The pupil's school account gives them access to all; pupils are encouraged to use the MVC SharePoint homepage as their landing page, from where they can access all resources and all apps.

[Melbourn - Welcome \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Technology needed by pupils:

Each pupil will need their own device to access their learning.

Suitable devices include PCs, Macs, laptops, iPads, Kindle Fires, other tablet devices.

Although phones may allow a pupil access to view the live lessons, they are not ideal for completing the work.

Pupils will also need an internet connection, ideally through broadband rather than via a mobile phone used as a hotspot (unless the data allowance is large).

Pupils will need to be able to hear the teacher and so speakers or headphones will be needed. To participate verbally in the lesson pupils will also need their device to have a built-in microphone, or a plug-in microphone.

Help with Technology (hardware and internet):

The school has been very kindly assisted by several companies and individuals to source, re-condition and then lend hardware to pupils. We have over 100 second-hand devices that we have lent to pupils to enable them to work online from home since April 2020, and we are continuing to lend technology sourced this way.

If your child does not have a suitable device for their sole use, please contact the school: [Request to Borrow](#).

If your child would like to borrow a headphone/microphone set (like those used with mobile phones) please use the ‘Request to Borrow’ link above.

The government has recently created a scheme whereby families who are relying on mobile phone data hotspots for learning may request additional data for free – please contact the school if this would be of assistance to your family. You will need to provide the telephone number, the account holder's name and the name of the provider: [Request for Mobile Data](#).

Help with access and help with using the apps:

If you need help with changing a password or anything to do with access please email: [Pupil access - help request](#).

If your child is having difficulty in the use of the apps please ask them to talk to their teachers who will be able to talk them through the issues, or contact Ms Smith [email Ms Smith](#).

Curriculum and school day:

The school day remains as normal; in school in the autumn we had split the lunch break to increase social distancing but online this is not an issue and so we have now reverted to everyone having the same break-time and lunchtime.

Period on TT	Time
Reg (used Tues and Fri)	8:45 – 9:05
Period 1	9:05 – 10:05
Period 2	10:05 – 11:05
Break-time	
Period 3	11:20- 12:20
Period 4	12:20 – 1:20
Lunchtime	
Period 5	1:50-2:50

The curriculum followed by each class is the same curriculum as they would be receiving in school i.e. the same topics covered. Where this is not possible, for example due to the inability to all undertake the same practical experience, a different part of the year's curriculum will be substituted, and the original element taught on the pupils' return to school.

Style of teaching:

We recognise the need for consistency for pupils, for them to best understand the expectations on them, but we also acknowledge the differing needs of subjects and of staff. Hence there is no set pattern that all remote lessons must follow.

We have asked teachers to include a live element in their lesson wherever possible. This will help to engender a feeling of 'togetherness' which we believe will help to boost pupils' mental wellbeing during this lockdown. However, there will be occasions when either a live lesson is not the best approach to a topic, or a member of staff has other tasks that prevent the lesson from being live. Inclusion of a recorded segment is also useful, so that pupils can re-watch the section to gain further understanding.

Whatever the precise delivery within each lesson, teachers should be available to the class during the lesson time to support and aid pupils; pupils can contact teachers either through the Posts area of the Team or through direct email to the teacher.

Expectations on pupils:

We expect pupils to 'attend' all lessons. While recognising that all families have different circumstances, we have a core expectation that each pupil will interact with their five lessons per day – ideally in each lesson they will interact with the teacher and complete the tasks set them, returning them to be marked in whatever manner the teacher has asked.

If pupils are unable to interact with the lesson at the timetabled time, we expect pupils to visit the Team area, watch any recordings of the lesson and complete the tasks set, as well as to return them to the teacher for marking.

If a pupil is unwell and unable to complete their online work please contact the school as in normal school time, to report the illness. This is to enable us to let teachers know that the pupil will not be able to take part in the lesson that day.

Teachers are all tracking the engagement of pupils – we can see which pupils are attending the live lessons, and who has completed and returned their work. Where a pupil is not engaging with the lessons or not completing enough work the school will contact parents to discuss the situation.

When pupils return to school (after half-term):

Once most pupils are in school and attending lessons in person, our remote learning will focus only on the pupils who are at home due to self-isolating or shielding. We will endeavour to keep such pupils abreast of their peers, following

In these circumstances we will follow either one of the following:

- If the pupil can join in using Teams, and the style of lesson appropriate, we will facilitate them being able to see the teacher's presentation, or classroom board and hear the class discussions. Ideally the pupil working from home would also be able to participate and offer answers to questions, for example
- If the pupil is not able to participate as above, we will provide the content of the lesson in a suitable format for independent learning where possible. If the lesson content is not accessible in that form, we will provide equivalent work on a similar or complementary topic.