



6th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we begin the current Lockdown focus and once again move to remote learning for the vast majority of our students, I wanted to get in touch to remind you about the government's continued initiatives to support students and families with access to remote learning. There are two schemes currently available to support families with either increases to mobile data allowances or with support via wireless 4G networks.

Qualifying students can access **one** if these schemes and the government offer the following criteria to check whether the schemes are available:

Mobile Data Scheme - Who can get help?

Schools and local authorities can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- Do not have fixed broadband at home.
- Can use the mobile device's internet connection on a device suitable for learning (this is known as tethering).
- Cannot afford additional data needed to access educational resources or social care services.
- Have access to a mobile device that uses a participating network (current list below).
- Are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education or have been advised not to attend school.

The owner of the mobile device should be at home when the child or young person is learning remotely and the mobile phone must have a strong signal at home to support access.

The following networks have indicated that there are schemes that can be accessed to support children at this time, other mobile providers may join the scheme at a later stage:

- Three
- Smartly
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile

To request extra mobile data, we will need to collect the following information:

- The account holder's name.
- The mobile phone number (beginning '07')
- The mobile network (usually displayed on the top right or top left of the screen).
- Whether you pay monthly or pay as you go (if you top up your phone credit at a shop, it is likely you are a 'Pay-as-you-go' customer).



The government have asked us to share their **Privacy Statement** if you are applying for additional mobile data support:

1. For the purposes of data protection, I need to let you know that the Department for Education (DfE) is running the Mobile Network Offer through schools and their trusts or local authorities.
2. If the offer is taken up by an adult account holder, the school or social care team will share the account holder's name and mobile phone details with the DfE, who will share these with the relevant mobile network operator.
3. The mobile network operator will use that information to increase the data available for the account holder's mobile device, as long as they qualify for the offer.
4. The adult account holder's personal data is only shared with their mobile network operator for the purposes of the offer. No names of children or other adults, other than adult account holder, are shared with the DfE or the mobile network operator.
5. No personal information will be shared with the DfE if you do not want to take up the offer.
6. If you want to know more about how your personal information will be used before you take up the offer, we can send that to you first.
7. If you decide to take up the offer, you'll get a text message from the Department for Education with more information about your data protection rights.

If the account holder wants to receive some written information first, please follow this link to the [privacy information](#).

Increasing Internet Access Scheme – Who can get help?

If increasing mobile data is **not** a suitable option for some children, we are able to apply for a 4G wireless router but **only** if the mobile data increase option is not suitable. 4G wireless routers are compact digital devices, sometimes referred to as 'dongles' or 'mobile wifi', that provide an internet connection wherever there is access to a mobile network.

This option is available if:

- The extra data for mobile devices option is not suitable for students.
- There is more than one child in the household who needs to learn remotely.
- A mobile phone or tablet (tethered or not) is not regularly available for the child's use.
- Frequent phone calls to the mobile phone being used tend to interrupt school work.
- The child is likely to access the internet without supervision.

If you would like to access either of these options for additional support for remote learning, please email the school office and we will be able to support your application via the government's portal service.

Kind regards,

Mr C Chamberlain
Assistant Headteacher.