Rock Solid Learning Home tutoring by a qualified teacher

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**Everything you need to know about online tutoring**

**Before the session:**

Payment must be made at least 48 hours before the online lesson. Please pay the agreed amount into the following bank account, giving your name and if possible the date of the lesson in the reference. Bank account: xx-xx-xx  xxxxxxxx Should payment not be made in time, the session may be offered elsewhere. Please help keep everything organised, perhaps by setting reminders on your phone etc. To receive the DAYTIME5 discount, the full £125 must be paid 48 hours before the first lesson. DAYTIME5 is only valid for lessons beyond any normal commitment.

If there are worksheets or scans of pages from textbooks needed for the session, I will send these in advance either by email or attached on the Skype ‘chat’ facility. If it is something I think is worth printing, I will send these in advance so you have time to print the sheets off.

If you have a small whiteboard and pen, this could be really useful to have ready for the session. Otherwise, paper and pen and maybe even a felt tip pen or thick black ink pen – these will help your child to share working by either holding their board to the camera or taking a photo and sending it through.

**Resources needed for the session:**

Skype allows us to see each other, show work on whiteboards and type words or sentences using the chat facility (This written conversation or sections from it can always be copied and pasted to print after the session – I will give you guidance as to whether this could be valuable each time.) My Skype username is xxxxxxxxxxxx but if you let me know yours, I’ll happily ‘add’ you.

Chrome/Safari or similar is needed so that we can access the online interactive whiteboard. [www.notebookcast.com](http://www.notebookcast.com) is the website I use. As soon as we are on Skype, I will send your child a link to the whiteboard I have already created for the session and we can both use this to write – especially good for maths working out. I use this on my ipad usually so that I can get more accurate letter and number shapes using my finger or a stylus, rather than trying to write with the mouse on my laptop. If we struggle with this, we can always go back to real whiteboards or paper and felt-tips but the great thing about the website is that one can see what the other is writing in real time. If we use something physical in front of our cameras, we have to keep turning it round and holding it up to the camera.

Skype and notebook can work quite well on the same device because Skype pops up in the corner over the top of notebook and it is not too hard to flick between the two facilities when needed. Nevertheless, I often use my laptop for Skype and a tablet for notebook.

The final thing that could be of use is access to WhatsApp. Should we need to share something where holding a piece of paper to the camera is not good enough, we can take images and send these through instantly on WhatsApp.

Undeniably, there are things we can’t do online – some activities are just better face to face, especially for younger children – but I am excited that, by learning online, we are improving many of your child’s skills in different ways than we could with home tutoring:

* organisation skills
* typing skills
* choosing the best method of communication at a particular moment
* speaking and listening skills (you can’t easily talk over each other on Skype!)
* using technology with a purpose, in the same way that university students do when they have online learning

Ultimately, we are pushing the children to grow in maturity not only in the style of their learning but in their attitude towards their learning. If only for a while, I see this as a great opportunity for training children in new skills and attitudes that will evidently be of value later in their education and careers.

**After the session:**

Should parents be around, I’m happy to feedback for a couple of minutes on Skype about what we have covered during the session or any strengths or areas for further work. Otherwise, I can send something by email or text later.

If there is any follow up required, such as sticking work into books, copying some of our Skype chat or completing a piece of work, I will send this in an email or text.

In the name of transparency, I would welcome parents to look through the Skype chat or the WhatsApp messages after the session. If the session is conducted using your child’s accounts, I suggest you prepare your child for handing over their devices! Otherwise, organise it so that we are always using your own Skype and WhatsApp accounts.

**What will we learn in the online lessons?**

We will cover exactly the same kinds of topics that we would cover in a face-to-face lesson. We will look at what your child has been learning recently in school and what they may be learning in the coming months. We will also continue to revise topics they should already know. I am most happy to support any work that is coming from school too, so feel free to send me links, attachments and photographs of anything that is happening with your child’s school work. We will try to be as creative as possible in our online learning, using the internet as much as possible to our advantage.

**Training session**

If you have not already arranged your 15 minute free training session, please get in touch soon so that we can organise an introduction to online tutoring using Skype.

**Questions**

Should you have any questions at any point, please let me know. Text and email are always the best ways of reaching me.