

Friday 23rd October 2020

Google Classroom Home Learning made simple

Dear Parents/Carers

As a school we have decided to start using 'Google Classroom' to access learning whilst at home. It will be used every week for homework and messages. Google Classroom will also be used to support any child that has to remain at home while self-isolating. If your child is self-isolating you will be contacted by the school to inform you that daily home learning will be in your child's Google Classroom ready for you to access.

Please read the 'Parent Guide to Google Classroom' below on how to get started this week by accessing your child's spellings and maths homework.

As the year progress, more will be uploaded to the classroom. Children have been shown in class what their 'Google Classroom' looks like, so please waste no time by logging in with your child's unique username and password.

A Parent Guide to Google Classroom

Google Classroom

What is Google Classroom?

Google Classroom is a free Google App that aims to simplify creating, distributing and assessing learning in a paperless way. Teachers can use Google Classroom to send announcements to entire classes, share resources, lesson notes, PowerPoints, diagrams, and home learning. Pupils can use it to access work covered in class in school, at home or on the go and complete home learning. Parents can use some of the features of Google Classroom to help engage with and support pupils in their home learning. It is a free resource that can be accessed from any device connected to the internet - laptops, desktop computers, chrome books, tablets or mobile phones.



What is G Suite for Education?

G Suite for Education is a set of Google apps, including:

Docs	Sheets	Slides	Drive	Classroom	Calendar	Meet
A blue document icon with a white page and lines.	A green spreadsheet icon with a white grid.	A yellow presentation icon with a white screen and a yellow arrow.	A blue and green storage icon with a white triangle.	The Google Classroom logo, a green square with a white person icon and a white checkmark.	A blue calendar icon with a white page and the number 31.	A green speech bubble icon with a white video camera.

There are also many more designed with intelligent features that make work easier. It is a suite or collection of tools that can help increase opportunities for critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity, all while supporting the learning. G Suite for Education tools are: free, ad-free, reliable and secure.

These tools are already used by millions of pupils in schools around the world. There is no cost to use this service, but the best thing is that these tools are relevant to pupils, easy to use, and open doors to many new ways to learn.

Username & Password

Each child has a unique username and password to log on to their own class in Google Classroom. A separate email has been sent to you with this information for your child/children. Children sign in with their email address e.g. harrys@gsuite.stgabrielsprimary.co.uk and their password. If you need any help with this please call the school office.

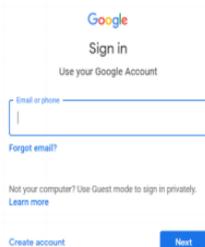
Although Gmail is required to access Google Classrooms, individual use for Gmail to email will not be enabled for children at this time.

Accessing Google Classroom

Pupils can access Google Classroom using the mobile apps (Android and iOS), or via a web browser by visiting www.classroom.google.com

To sign in

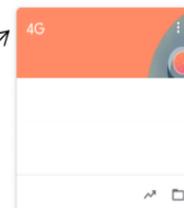
1. Your child should enter their username/email address (see separate email).



2. Now, enter their unique password and click next.



3. Click on the class title to enter the classroom.



You will see the following options as tabs across the top of the page:



Stream

This is where your child will see posts from their teachers. Posts may contain links to websites, classwork set by your child's teacher or simple communications between all the members of the class. Posts are always monitored by your child's teacher, as are any accompanying comments made by individuals, so we ask that children only use this feature if they are asking a question about their work or responding sensibly to a post.

Classwork

This is where your child will access homework/curriculum content set by the teacher. This is the best way of accessing the content set rather than having to worry about searching on the Stream. Any curriculum content added will be in the form of a Google Doc, Google Slide or other Google Suite app (If you are using a tablet, you may be required to download additional free apps) as this will allow the children to edit and hand in their work individually to the teacher. There may also be links to access, sometimes PDF documents e.g. for spellings, maths sheets etc.

How will Google Classroom be used for weekly homework?

Homework will be added every Friday, this will consist of:

- Weekly spelling lists
- Maths task (KS1 and KS2)
- Optional Creative Curriculum, Science or RE task (KS1 and KS2)

Tasks that are set to be completed online via the google apps e.g. in google sheets will be assessed by a teacher who will be able to see your child's progress and support them where necessary by adding comments to the children's work.

Homework will be due the following Wednesday. A short tutorial will be uploaded onto the school website to demonstrate how to upload a document and submit a task to the class teacher.

How will Google Classroom be used if your child has to isolate/a year group bubble has to isolate?

Your child will be assigned daily learning/tasks linked to the curriculum being taught in school

- A suggested daily timetable will be provided.

You don't have to stick to the suggested timetable rigidly as we understand that managing working from home and supporting children with home learning is a difficult juggling act, but we think this is a useful guide to help you and your child manage their time.

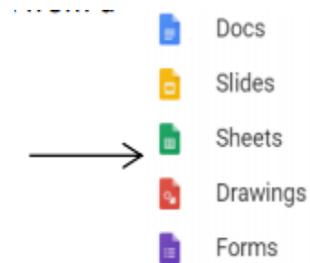
- At least 4 lessons per day which will comprise of:

- SPAG (phonics for KS1),
- English
- Maths
- and 1 task that is either; Creative Curriculum, Science or RE.

- In the event of a bubble isolation or school closure a recording of a lesson may be posted by the teacher which may consist of instructions to complete a task.

- BBC Bitesize may also be used and additional resources

- Some assignments will need to be completed using the following google apps (children will have completed lessons in school to support this)



- Due dates will be set and work is to be submitted (in the event of a bubble isolation this should happen daily)

- Contact time with the teacher during morning register (if a whole bubble is in isolation).

Class	Class 6	Class 5	Class 4	Class 3	Class 2	Class 1	Reception
Time	9-9.15	9.15-9.30	9.30-9.45	9.45-10	10-10.15	10.15-10.30	10.30-10.45

This live contact is for registers only, see below for any further inquiries regarding school work.

If your child is finding a piece of work difficult, they can post a comment using the private message function at the right hand side of the screen to message the teacher.

Please note that when children are individually isolating, teachers are working in school with their class so response will not be straight away. If the whole year bubble is isolating or the school is closed, teachers would aim to respond more rapidly, during school hours only (9-3.30pm) as teachers will be working from home.

It is important that your child engages with home learning. If they aren't, we will use the following strategies to provide additional support:

- Phone call home
- Home learning pack delivered, if Google Classroom cannot be accessed.