

Wednesday 22 April 2020

Dear Parents

Google Classroom for home learning

Next week sees home learning, previously uploaded to the school website, moved to Google Classroom. Google Classroom is a simple and effective way for teachers to share resources and distribute tasks to their pupils, and can be accessed from any device connected to the internet. Teachers have received training on Google Classroom and, since then, we have been working hard to set up Classrooms for all pupils accessed through unique Gmail addresses and passwords.

Attached is a step-by-step guide to accessing Google Classroom. On Friday 24 April, you will receive your child's login details by separate Parent Mail sent to your email address. We have disabled the email option from your child's Google account, so no emails can be sent or received. If you need help or support to access Google Classroom, please email office@grangeparkprimaryelt.org with your question and a member of the school team will do their best to respond.

Home learning will continue to be available by the end of Friday for the following Monday. There will be a range of activities to consolidate knowledge and skills, and also activities that contribute to general wellbeing. Some tasks can be downloaded and completed on paper. In addition, each class will have communication from their teacher on the 'stream' page. However, as notifications are turned off, you will not at this stage be able to respond to these communications.

For those of you with more than one child at the school, all Classrooms will be set up in the same format for ease of navigation.

In order for us to maintain effective communication about your child's learning, it is important that you upload an observation to Look@Me weekly. The class teacher will then be able to add a personal motivational comment on this. Observations can be of any of the home learning assignments posted for the week, or any other activities you wish to share.

As part of our monitoring and safeguarding procedures, we will contact parents who have not uploaded an observation to check that they are safe and well.

In response to requests for more guidance on how to manage tasks and how long on average children should be spending on them, we are now providing a weekly timetable. This will detail what, when and the suggested length of time to spend on each task. However, this is intended as guidance only and is dependent on family circumstances. The timetable will also include hyperlinks to assist you in accessing recommended resources outside of Google Classroom including the new BBC Bitesize Daily lessons and the Government funded Oak National Academy Online classroom, both of which include virtual teaching.

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This is a new way of working for all of us and is likely to have some teething problems, which we will keep under review. However, we look forward to exploring ways of providing education for all our children that are manageable, safe and secure as well as developing closer communication between us.

Lastly, with the prospect of the school remaining closed for a significant period of time, the likelihood of children spending a considerable amount of time online will increase. I would like to remind you to manage and check privacy settings, set parental controls and filters on all devices, and that it is your responsibility to monitor who your child is communicating with online as well as the content of any material accessed or downloaded. For further advice, please see the parent tab on the school website.

Whilst we continue to adapt to new ways of working, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding. Little did we know how important a 'growth mindset' would be for us all during these incredibly testing times! Stay safe and stay healthy.

Yours sincerely

Sue Denny
Deputy Head teacher