



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back after the second full week of home learning. I feel like my office is a TARDIS as the days seem to merge together and I lose complete track of what time it is! But today is definitely Friday and it's definitely time to look back at the achievements of this week. Despite most of us not being physically in school, we still have lots to celebrate. I hope you all get to see the end of week celebration assemblies and look through the Hall of Fame where we're showcasing a small proportion of the amazing work that's taking place. Our children are proving to be both versatile and adaptable.

Jamboard

Some of our older children have started using the Jamboard App. It's an online board where children and teachers can share ideas and work together, like on a virtual whiteboard. I've seen some innovative uses for this so far and it has huge potential. Children can access their Jamboards through their Google Classroom, or the App is available from the waffle (9 squares at the top right.)

Gmail

Most children have now worked out how to access their emails. These can also be accessed through the waffle. Children can only email each other and their teachers. I'm sending home a Code of Conduct contract for children to read and sign to make sure they use it effectively. This is also a place you can start 'Hangouts'. I saw this being used effectively in the Hub this week as a group of Year 6s were working on their maths at the same time, together. This shows the maturity of some of our learners and as long as it's being used properly it can be incredibly powerful. Virtual classes will happen through Google Meet, organised and led by the class teacher.

Google Classroom

We continue to improve the way we use Google Classroom as pupils and teachers increase their skills and knowledge. We're also continually listening to feedback from parents to make it work as well as possible. It's difficult for one platform to replace all physical teaching but for the majority of our pupils it is working well. We've realised children need to open their work in a new window to check their marking; teachers are leaving comments on the work but this isn't visible in the preview. Do check work when it's returned to read comments by the class teacher. How you manage your learning is up to you. Resources, devices, support, personal preference and weather can all dictate how you structure your days but I would encourage everyone to complete the core learning - that is, Maths and English including spellings. I know most of our students are also working hard in the Foundation subjects such as music. I'd like the children to work on everything we set, but feel free to prioritise in your household to make it work for you.



Top Tips for Using Google Meet

- Login just before the start time
- Ensure your microphone is muted when you're not talking (click on the microphone logo)
- Make sure the camera is enabled and you're sitting in a well lit room - your face should be in the middle of the screen
- Raise your hand if you want to speak; the teacher can then ask you to unmute your microphone
- Take turns, it doesn't work very well when people talk at the same time!
- Download [Google Meet Grid View](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/google-meet-grid-view/bjkegbgpfpgpikgkfidhjihflbjgic). (<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/google-meet-grid-view/bjkegbgpfpgpikgkfidhjihflbjgic>) This will allow you to see everyone's faces on the screen at the same time.

Live assembly, Quiz and #shareyourshakespeare

Yesterday, we held our second YouTube Live assembly. Over 50 people were watching at 10:30 which is our normal time for a whole school assembly. I've been told by numerous people that, as far as possible, trying to keep to a normal timetable is important. It's absolutely nerve wracking to go live on the internet with no chance to re-record it, but I know that a number of you enjoy tuning in at the same time and being part of the experience. It's lovely that some of you now get to share the experience with your families. Please remember that the screen adds three pounds!

TTRS and NumBots

Your child now has an account for NumBots and/or Times Tables Rock Stars. Your teachers can help with this if you're struggling to access it. We'd recommend that children use these for at least five minutes a day to improve their maths skills. This should have a huge impact on their progress and I hope it gives caregivers an opportunity for a quiet five minutes and a cup of tea.

Certificates and Physical Resources

I've already sent you a set of certificates, which I hope you've started to use, and attached to this update is the second project pack for the children. We're also working on more physical resources to send to the children as we know that some people like to have 'hands-on' resources. We have workbooks for some of the younger children and we are currently developing our plans for safe distribution. I hope this will be next week. There are lots of resources out there on the internet and I know that some of you have been busy finding additional resources for the children. This is fantastic. I know that the teachers would always like to see what you've been doing and do feel free to share those resources with the class and other parents. You may if you wish send completed work to your class teachers so they can track what you're doing but they may not be able to give you feedback on every piece. We're so proud of everything you are doing and the teachers are working exceptionally hard to plan, prepare, teach, assess and keep in touch with you all.

The sun is shining, we are due to have a beautiful weekend and I hope you all get to enjoy it. In the words of Miranda last night on the Big Night In, "I hope you're remaining safe, sane and sanitised!"

Regards

Mr Thomas