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Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## Google Classroom

Dear parents and carers,

I am pleased to say that your children now have access to Google Classroom. This is a new way of learning for your children and a whole new experience for our teachers too.

Your child's log in details are their first name and surname with a full stop between followed by @ernesfordgrange-coventry.org.uk. all lower case. For example:

UN: [ian.taylor@ernesfordgrange-coventry.org.uk](mailto:ian.taylor@ernesfordgrange-coventry.org.uk)

Password: welcome1

As soon as you have logged in for the first time, change your password immediately and write it down and keep it in a safe place. We cannot guarantee we will have technical support on hand to reset any forgotten/lost passwords.

### What is Google Classroom?

Google Classroom is a platform that ties together Google's G Suite tools for teachers and students. It also acts as a digital organiser where teachers can keep class materials and share them with children, all paperless-ly. The primary purpose of Google Classroom is to streamline the process of sharing files between teachers and students.

### How will we use google classroom during the school closures?

#### Maths and English

We will use Google Classroom to provide daily maths and English activities. These activities will come with short and concise instructions. The maths and English lessons could come with a presentation, a video clip, a sound bite and supporting resources (depending on the nature of the lesson). There may be an extension or challenge for the children who need it (depending on the nature of the task). There will also be differentiated work for children with SEN. These activities will come with a completion time and date.

For maths activities, the answers may be uploaded the following day and the children can mark their own work (depending on their age, they may need some support with this). Children can upload photos of their work or can type their work using Google docs and send back to the teacher (depending on the type of task).

Teachers will respond to learning tasks as and when appropriate. All tasks will be looked at by the teachers so please reassure your children their work is valued by their teacher even if they have not had an immediate response.

### **Science and Foundation Subjects**

Activity ideas for science and the foundation subjects will be uploaded on a regular basis and can be done at your convenience with no set completion time and date.

There will be instructions and resources provided but these home learning tasks will be more open ended.

We will continue to provide home learning projects and any work children complete can be uploaded in the same way as the maths and English work.

Teachers will view the children's work but may not always respond with text. Again, please reassure your children their work is valued by their teacher even if they have not had a written response.

### **Please remember:**

We have decided to use Google Classroom to help support learning at home as best we can due to a national emergency.

This system cannot be perfect and at times may not be suitable to your own family circumstances. Everyone's home life is different, but we are doing all we can to make sure children can learn!

Using Google Classroom is new to us all, how it is used will improve as time goes on.

We will protect our children and staff online by ensuring all the necessary Google Classroom privacy settings are in place. Teachers will not be reading and responding to any questions or queries sent through the google email system.

Any misuse of Google Classroom through inappropriate and unreasonable messages to teachers, **threatening, aggressive or abusive behaviour will be reported to the police. In the event of misuse, the account will be disabled whilst under investigation.**

For more information regarding the privacy notice please read:

[https://gsuite.google.com/terms/education\\_privacy.html](https://gsuite.google.com/terms/education_privacy.html)

### **It is also worth bearing in mind:**

Every teacher has different personal circumstances. Some will be supporting home learning themselves with multiple children of their own. Some may be on the rota to support childcare at school on any given day. Some may be self-isolating with Covid-19 symptoms.

Google Classroom can never replace the learning experience of being at school, it is merely a platform that enables children to continue to learn at home and keep in touch with their teachers.

At school maths tasks are daily, the actual tasks usually take between 20 and 40 minutes in maths depending on the children's age and ability. English tasks can take a bit longer when completing extended writing.

**Average attention spans work out like this:**

- 2 years old: four to six minutes
- 4 years old: eight to 12 minutes
- 6 years old: 12 to 18 minutes
- 8 years old: 16 to 24 minutes
- 10 years old: 20 to 30 minutes
- 12 years old: 24 to 36 minutes

So, don't worry if your child loses concentration during a learning task.

Children don't spend every minute of the day at school working on tasks. Part of the time is spent working in discussion groups and learning through talk and play.

Maths and English is always taught in the morning at school because that is when children's concentration is at its best. As children get older, they can listen and concentrate for longer. If your child is struggling to concentrate, take a break and return to the task later.

We are not asking you to home school children but to support their learning. We will aim to make instructions clear and concise but obviously, younger children will require more support.

**Mental Health and Well Being**

This is a challenging time for everyone and supporting learning at home is not easy. This time will be difficult for children too. They will be missing their friends, the social part of school life and working collaboratively with others.

Many school set tasks are geared towards working with a partner or as part of a team. Children will be missing these experiences despite having online learning.

Children's mental health and wellbeing must come first, the learning tasks set through Google Classroom must not put children under further unnecessary pressure during this difficult time. After tasks have been set, how you manage their home learning is then up to you. You know your child best.

During this challenging period when the schools are closed, children's mental health could suffer. It is paramount that fun activities at home continue and please take the opportunity to do plenty of creative and fun things... cook, climb trees, ride bikes, paint, make things, play games, exercise, laugh and have fun!

This is a hard time for everyone, thank you for your continued support. We will continue to do our best to support you however we can.

Mr Taylor  
Headteacher