

After October half-term, we will be implementing the use of Google Classroom as a vehicle to set learning should we be faced with the prospect of an enforced local lockdown, as well as partial or full school closure due to any confirmed case of Covid-19 within school. This is a government requirement to ensure that, should any of these scenarios occur, the learning of children, who would be self-isolating or unable to attend school, continues and effective curriculum provision can be maintained. Please note, we only expect pupils to work from home when they are well, anyone who is suffering from illness should take time to rest and recuperate.

Google Classroom is a free and secure learning network for teachers, pupils and schools. It provides a safe way to share content, access learning at home and receive class information. This resource will be implemented in year groups 1 – 4. Reception will use Tapestry as a means to deliver remote learning.

In addition to this, we will also be setting some exciting home learning opportunities for all children through this online platform or Tapestry for Reception. Further information on this will follow in the forthcoming weeks.

Over the last few weeks, our staff have been and will continue to explore this software. Teachers are in the process of setting up their class pages. These class pages will include learning for your child to complete at home if absent due to Covid19 related reasons, links to helpful websites, fun activities and games for them to practise essential skills.

This week, during ICT sessions, the teachers shared Google Classroom with their classes and have set an introductory activity for the children to access and complete. The children have been given their login details and passwords (which have been stuck into their reading record books) and we would encourage them to continue exploring Google Classroom at home using the introductory activity set.

We will continue to hold staff training over the course of the academic year on how to best use Google Classroom and, in doing so, allow staff to have increasing familiarity and confidence with using the software. As this software is new to all of us at school, there will undoubtedly be times where we encounter technical hitches. Whilst we are confident these can and will be overcome, we must ask for your patience when such inevitabilities occur. Equally, we appreciate that the software will be new to many of you as well and, accordingly, it will inevitably take time for us all to become accustomed with it.

Google Classroom is accessible online and through any mobile devices with Internet capabilities, including iPhone, iPad and Android devices. We have set up a page on our school website that provides support on how to help your child access and use Google Classroom. On this page you will find a step by step guide and links to video tutorials and online training. Please note the sign in details for your child, for their username and password are to be used through a launch pad called RM Unify and not accessed directly through Google. The file path for this is www.rmunity.com

Many thanks for all of your hard work and support with your child(ren)'s learning. We hope that your child enjoys engaging with this exciting learning platform.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or problems accessing learning. If you have a specific issue with passwords/usernames, please contact our technical support Rachel Long rlong@verwoodfirst.dorset.sch.uk