



Five Ways Primary School

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12th November 2020

REMOTE LEARNING AT FIVE WAYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

As you are probably already aware, the Department for Education (DfE) now expects all schools to have a contingency plan in place in case of a local coronavirus outbreak. In the eventuality of a group or groups of pupils requiring to self-isolate at home, or in the event of a local lockdown, also requiring schools to temporarily close, remote learning arrangements need to be in place.

The DfE's expectation for remote learning is a well-planned and sequenced curriculum that enables pupils to build their knowledge and skills and make progress academically. To do this we have been using our home-learning section found on our school website and for those groups or classes who have found themselves in isolation during this Autumn term, our home-learning has been supplemented with daily English and maths lessons via Zoom.

From Monday 16th November, our Year 5 and 6 classes who are currently in isolation, will be starting to use a new education platform – Google Classroom.

Google Classroom provides a safe two-way communication for pupils and their teachers to connect, share home-learning content, access homework, participate in discussions and receive class information. Using Google Classroom also allows you and your child to have access to class work at any time and is accessible online through any digital device with internet access, including mobile phones and tablets.

Through Google Classroom, parents and teachers can monitor the amount of work that pupils have done as well as having the facility for pupils to return their online learning by clicking on the 'turn in' icon, once they have completed their work. Google classroom also has a 'Meet' facility for pupils to see their teachers and class peers, virtually. Whilst we are in the early days of using Google Classroom, we will continue to use Zoom alongside this new platform.

Please be reassured that Google Classroom is an educational tool and will be used strictly for educational purposes, meaning that:

- Pupils will be required to use appropriate English grammar instead of texting language
- Tasks set using Google documents, will need to be 'turned in' and deadlines to complete these will be clearly given
- Where 'Meet' or Zoom calls are made, pupils will be expected to engage in class/group discussions, and uphold school codes of conduct as if they were in their classroom environment
- Pupils will be expected to engage in their learning that their teacher has set for the day



- A suitable learning space will be used to access the home-learning, ensuring high levels of engagement and concentration (this is particularly important when virtual Zoom calls or 'Meet' video conferencing is taking place)
- Although school uniform is not required to be worn, whilst learning at home, appropriate clothing should be worn for virtual meetings (similar expectations for a non-uniform day)
- The site will be used to discuss school-related content only

We would appreciate your support in sharing the above points with your child, as this will ensure that we are all in agreement with the expected code of conduct.

Your child will receive their log in details, from their class teacher. This will be communicated through the initial Zoom meeting and your child will then be taught and guided to re-set their password to something memorable. We recommend that your child uses their Home-Link Book to write down this memorable information.

To accompany this letter, there are the following documents for you to read:

- A letter from Mrs Mander entitled 'Google Classroom for Home Learning Agreement' that you will need to read, **sign and return to school via the dedicated email address:**

GoogleClassroom5JK@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk (for pupils in Miss Kershaw's class)

GoogleClassroom5HL@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk (for pupils in Miss Lane's class)

GoogleClassroom6PM@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk (for pupils in Miss Myatt's class)

Please ensure this agreement is signed and returned to the above email address by **8am on Monday 16th November 2020**

- Google Classroom for Education Notice to Parents (this details the Home Learning Agreement)
- The Parent's Guide to Google Classroom (pupils will find this useful also)

These documents, along with a copy of this letter, are also available on the school's website under the Home Learning Tab > Year – see Year 5 or Year 6 as appropriate.

To ensure we are well prepared for remote learning to begin, our Year 5 and 6 classes who are currently in isolation, will pilot the launch of Google Classroom week commencing Monday 16th November, 2020. Class teachers from Year 1 through to Year 6 (including the one Year 4 class currently in isolation) will start to introduce Google Classroom during the course of the school day. This will be taught as part of our computing curriculum and will help pupils to familiarise themselves with the navigation around this home-learning platform.

Screen Time: as Google Classroom is a digital platform, the work we are providing for pupils is accessed online, as this is the most straightforward way to do it. However, it is still possible for pupils to download and print their work on to paper, should you wish for your child to reduce the amount of on-screen time that they have however, this may mean that these pieces of work will go unseen by the teacher.

In order for you to access Google Classroom, you will need to download the Google Chrome browser onto your PC or laptop. For Smartphones and tablets, Google Apps can be downloaded through the Apple App store or through Google Play. We are assured that Google Classroom is accessible through all devices however, should you have any difficulties or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact myself through the office@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk email address, or alternatively, you can telephone the main office and ask to speak to me.



Thank you for your patience and co-operation; I do hope that your child enjoys this wonderful opportunity to make use of our new home-learning Google Classroom platform.

Yours sincerely,

J K Jones

Miss J Jones

Assistant Headteacher

