LEIGH
Primary School
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Google Classroom Platform

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

Google Classroom is a free and secure learning network for teachers, students and schools. It provides a safe way for us to connect, share content, access homework, participate in discussions and receive class information. Currently, the school leadership team and governing body are in the process of analysing all responses to the parent survey. One of the questions actively sought your opinion on the potential used of this platform beyond lockdown learning and in context of conventional school life. An overwhelming majority felt communicating learning/information through this platform would be beneficial particularly as it can be accessed on a phone. In the comments, many responses indicated that all possible uses would be welcome such as: blogging, sharing curriculum content/guidance, positing communications, event information and reminders. This excludes the possible uses inside the classroom. We have therefore decided to respond to this feedback and have included the wider use of Google Classroom on our school development plan.

Using Google Classroom allows you and your child to have access to homework and learning support at any time through the Internet and is accessible online and through any mobile device with Internet capabilities—including iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

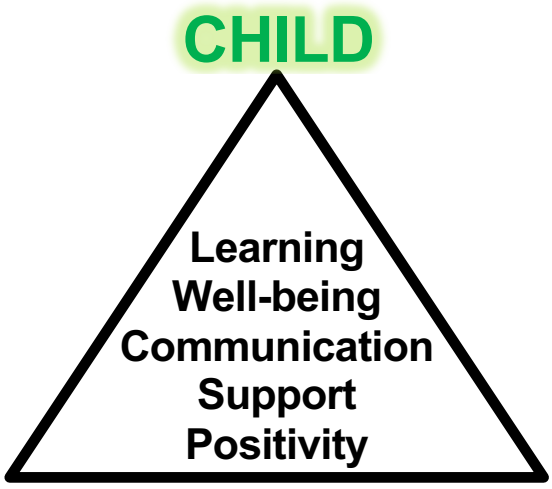
Additionally, the use of the classroom will help keep students and parents keep informed of due dates for homework, deadlines for consents and access class, school letters and information. Google Classroom is also useful to check on work missed when absent and to ask questions about assignments. Google Classroom used as an educational tool will be used strictly for educational purposes.

The benefits of using the Google Platform to share resources and class information rather than only the school website and email are as follows:

- The content is private to all except the parents and children of the class – rather than the entire world. This enables us to share images (with your consent) and blog about the classes activities, experiences and learning so you feel part of their education and school life.
- Teachers and leaders can access classrooms to post information and messages on the stream to keep you informed. Please note: this does not replace the school email service which will ensure that important/essential notices are not missed.
- Foster a culture of positivity and celebration of every child's achievement
- The continued used of an online learning platform over the course of their Primary Years supports their independence and transition to further education.
- Provides a platform and ready transition to home learning in the unfortunate eventuality that a child, class or the school needs to isolate and home learn once again.

We would like to evolve the way we use Google Classroom to triangulate the communication between the school, parent and child to support learning, improve communication, provide further support, nurture well-being and create a hub of positivity. Overleaf is an overview of how using Google Classroom in a new way could benefit all sectors of the school community.

- Able to develop independence by managing homework and deadlines
- Prepare for the autonomy of further education over a sustained period of time
- Resources can be posted readily by teachers including documents and media files in circumstances where specific differentiated support is required.
- Develop self-esteem through the class blogging about achievements
- Blog with the teacher and wider class to the parent body in a responsible way in line with e-safety
- Access sections of the classroom for self-study and further knowledge and skills
- Be part of an online community with children and adults where communication is respectful, informative and useful
- Keeping informed with access to letters and events alongside their parents thus experiencing writing for a range of purposes from good role models
- Share ideas and resources with their peers through the online classroom



SCHOOL

- To share information about the curriculum, events and learning in the classroom on a weekly, daily or termly basis using sections on the classroom as well as the stream
- To provide a user friendly, efficient, and rapid platform for sharing information enabling more information to be shared for greater impact
- To provide resources to all families and children and to manage consistency of delivery of support across the school from all classes
- To enable us to use the classroom to post resources in Upper KS2 to the classroom for use in lessons and reduce printing costs and help to become more environmentally friendly.
- Teachers can create sections of resources to support self-study targeted specifically for your child's needs that they can use throughout their year to support their development.

PARENT

- Enable parents and children to access relevant information centrally and readily through an app that can be used on any device including mobile phones
- To allow you to access information about your child's classroom learning any time with recommended ideas for self-study
- To allow you to ask a question about your child's homework through their classroom account.
- To see inside your child's classroom through posts made from the teacher and pupils in the classroom.
- To have greater information about your child's learning in PSHE, Mental health, Collective worship, British values and ACT RIGHT curriculums so you can support their development. Often called the 'hidden' curriculum.
- For information to be unobtrusive. You can select to click on the app and see additional information when you choose rather than being alerted to it.
- For you to be able to obtain greater information about what your child is learning in the wider curriculum.
- To help you keep track of deadlines on assignments.
- Copies of letters can be placed in sections on the classroom that are for the whole school but also class. This centralises information and makes it easy to find.

Goggle Classroom operation:

A platform that is used by three sets of stakeholders requires certain rules to operate effectively, for educational benefit and safely:

- The stream can only be posted onto by staff. However, students and parents can comment upon these posts. If a student or parent would like a post added to the stream they must make a request through email. This will help the stream to remain clear and uncluttered so the most important and celebratory information can be viewed easily and swiftly.
- No child will be pictured on Google Classroom blogs unless their parent has consented to their image being used in this private classroom forum.
- No photos of the children should be downloaded from the classroom and used in any other online or physical forum.
- Access codes to a classroom should not be given to any other party and should only be known by your child and you as parents.
- All comments and posts should be written in appropriate standard English using appropriate grammar and no texting language.
- The Classroom is only for school-related content.
- The Classroom is not to be used to raise concerns or make complaints this should be done through the school office email.
- Any post /comment that contravenes rules of the classroom will be removed.
- All parties posting are in full knowledge that the content can be viewed by the children, all staff and parent body.
- Parents can post privately to teachers in the child's assignment section of the classroom about homework. Naturally, teachers will only be expected to respond to queries during working hours.
- Any urgent queries or messages should be sent to the office email or addressed to the teacher directly as there will always be delays in responses through the Google Classroom as the teachers' priority is face-to-face teaching.

Rather than have a separate parent account for the classroom which restricts content that is specifically sent to your child we would propose that all guardians use their child's log in – in this way, you can see exactly the same content as your child can.

Thank you so much for being a part of our implementation of technology into our curriculum. At Leigh Primary we feel it is important to grasp new opportunities and to be open to new ways of working if it could potentially provide benefit to our school community. This is a new challenge for all so as we navigate the first term please, be patient with us as we set up these virtual classrooms. There may be some bumps along the way but if we work together and communicate, I am sure we can overcome any teething problems. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We will be arranging a drop-in session for you to attain support with Google Classroom and answer any questions on the 22nd of September where all teachers will be in their classrooms from 15:30 until 17:00 and school leaders will also be in school to talk to you.

To get you started some instructions on how to download the Google Classroom app and how to log in using your child's access information have been sent through the Office email. Have a go and if you have any problems, please do come to a drop-in session to receive our support. **PLEASE NOTE: If we have not received consent for Google Classroom you and your child will not yet be able to access the classroom content.**

We look forward to a great year and seeing you all soon,

Kind Regards,

Mrs Halfhide
Headteacher of Leigh Primary

Your child's log in is

Username:
Password:
Classroom Code: