



THE FEDERATION OF MOWDEN SCHOOLS

GOOGLE CLASSROOM REMOTE LEARNING

JANUARY 2021

In recent months, digital technologies have served an increasingly important role in your child's education.

We have chosen to use Google Classroom as our preferred platform, partly because the staff already use aspects of G:Suite and partly because we hope it will prove to be simple enough to use. G:Suite includes many different



features: 'Gmail' for email; 'Docs' for word processing; 'Slides' for presenting; 'Meet' for virtual meetings; 'Drive' for storing your documents; along with 'Classroom' for your teacher to share work and tasks are all aspects of G:Suite with which you will become familiar.

G:Suite can be accessed from any device – desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone. If you are using a touch screen device such as a tablet or phone, I would advise you download the apps for each of the features (Gmail, Docs, Meet, etc.) This seems to make it all work a bit smoother. Desktop or laptop is best.

We are all aware of the dangers associated with being online. Please regularly check how your child is using G:Suite and the internet. We want to be able to provide children with homework, and if required again, an excellent learning experience if they have to be off school; for this to happen, we must work together in order to keep them safe.

Feedback from parents is tremendously positive but we also understand that some aspects of this new way of working have presented challenges at home.

We have compiled the most frequently asked questions about the technology your child will be using in the classroom and at home over the course of the academic year.

We hope that this information is useful and that it leaves you well-placed to continue to support your child throughout the course of this academic year. If you have any questions about the learning provision currently in place, please contact family@mowden.darlington.sch.uk and we will try to answer your query.

On our website we have a 'Remote Learning' page which has all the resources you will need to access Google Classrooms and including classroom codes. In this guide you will also find the following:

- Tips for creating a "classroom" environment at home
- Rules for using Google Meet
- How to use Google classroom
- A list of non-digital and meaningful activities that spark children's curiosity and creativity



Thank you for providing your child with support during this time. If you need additional tips, resources, or support, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.

Please enjoy this time with your children and stay healthy!

Creating a learning environment in your home

- **Set up a learning routine and structure:** Routines and structures may help children transition from learning at school to learning at home. While learning at home may look very different than learning at school, you can still create a predictable routine that helps maintain consistent expectations and help pupils feel safe. To create a routine that works for your children, consider the sort of routine that they would normally have at school in terms of learning and breaks.
- **Create a Physical Learning Space:** Set up a designated workspace for pupils before starting every day. Make sure your child has all his or her materials ready including pens, pencils, books, digital devices etc. Although some children may be able to work in various areas around the home, other children may work better in a consistent work area. While pupils are working, be sure to limit the distractions including the TV and additional devices.
- **Provide Mental Breaks:** People of all ages need time to reset and refocus. Younger pupils may need more breaks than older children. Gauge your children's level of attention and focus during specific tasks and offer "brain breaks" as needed. You might also help break the task up into smaller chunks to make it more manageable.
- **Make Learning Fun:** At-home learning provides a great opportunity for you to connect with your children and make learning fun. There are a number of digital resources and documents on the internet. Think about what your child is most interested in and most excited to learn about and explore some of those topics with them. Sometimes when we let our children take the lead, they learn the best.
- **Give Space/Check-In:** Show that you believe in your children's abilities and independence by giving them space to learn and complete their assignments

and tasks on their own. Check-in every 15 to 30 minutes to check their work, offer feedback and give additional instructions.

• **Offer Positive Reinforcements:** Give your children praise. It's not always easy to stay focused and motivated to learn when life seems so much more unpredictable than usual. Consider praising their effort rather than their accomplishments. Praising effort sends the message that you value their learning more than their performance, which can increase their growth mindset and overall effort. If necessary, offer small rewards.

Rules for Using Google Meet

- Be out of bed and ready – don't be late if a meeting has been scheduled to start at a certain time.
- Be dressed properly in day clothes.
- Make sure you're presentable - brushed hair and teeth, for example.
- Be prepared for the length of the meeting – no leaving half way through.
- Have the camera on the device switched on but the microphone on mute unless a teacher asks you to turn your microphone on.
- Treat the meeting like a lesson – the same rules and behaviour expectations apply.
- Meetings must not be recorded by children or parents. The teacher may decide to record it for monitoring purposes; if they do decide to do this, they will tell the children first and there will be indication on the screen once the recording starts.

How to Use Google Classroom



How do I access Google Classroom as a parent/carer?

Parents/Carers do not have a login to be able to access their child's Google Classroom. We recommend sitting down with your child and walking them through their Classroom with them to discuss their learning, their upcoming assignments,



classwork and any notifications from teachers. To access the Google Apps on a web browser, go to [google.co.uk](https://www.google.co.uk) and then your child will need to sign in using their school login details. It is also recommended that your child downloads the Google Apps onto their mobile device too via the App Store/Play Store.

How does my child sign into Google Classroom?

To access Google Classroom, your child will first have to verify that they are logged into their school account. The Google Apps for Education will not work from any external Gmail account. After this they can easily navigate to their Classroom via the menu which can be accessed via the 9 dots icon at the top right of the web browser. If you bookmark the page in your browser then it will be easy to find the next time. For a step by step guide to using Google Classroom, click here to watch the short instructional video

<https://youtu.be/hhti35tLcAY>

Where can I see my child's assignments, missing work and work that needs to be submitted?

Google Classroom is where your child can see all their assignments (including late or missing work) and future deadlines in their calendar. To view all assignments assigned to your child, with their due dates, you can either view the 'To-Do' tab in the Google Classroom or individually select a class and check under either the Stream or the Classwork page for upcoming assignments.

Why can my child not see a link to the live lesson?

Teachers will post their online lessons link at least 5 minutes before the session. Please ensure you are in the correct classroom for the lesson. You can find either 'year group' or 'class' in the main menu bar. We hope that children are on time to their lessons however we understand that this may not always be possible. If your child misses the live lessons, please look out for the recorded version on the dashboard after the lesson has ended.



Non Digital Activities

In addition to the digital learning activities, we would encourage pupils to make the best use of their time by completing other activities around the home. Here are some suggested ideas:

- Make dinner with the family
- Create a dance to your favourite song
- Write your own book or comic book strip
- Call a grandparent and check on their welfare
- Play a board game or create your own
- Organise bookshelves, bins, drawers, or cabinets
- Write a list of things you are thankful for
- Design different paper airplanes and see which one flies the best
- Plant some herbs or flowers in your garden
- Draw a family tree
- Take pictures of everyday items using different angles
- Build something new using recycled materials
- Write a poem
- Create your own jokes
- Ask your family to go for a walk
- Learn a card game

Staying safe online – guidance for parents

https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides?utm_source=Twitter&utm_campaign=Free-Guides-Subscription

Don't Forget: Children also have access to



Times tables Rockstars (Yr 2 – 6)

<https://play.ttrockstars.com/>

Spelling Shed (Yr 1 – 6)

<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb>

Numbots (Rec - Yr 2 – same log on as TTRs)

<https://play.numbots.com/#/intro>

Education City for children in the Infant school

https://ec1.educationcity.com/?_ga=2.165802237.2113471938.1585128544-1290078927.1583758979

COVID-19

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like COVID-19 and flu.

What are the symptoms?



Fever



Cough



Shortness of Breath

How is it prevented?



Wash hands often



Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands



Avoid contact with sick people



Stay home while you are sick; avoid others



Cover mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces