Families Guide to Google Classroom

What is Google Classroom?

Google Classroom is a free Google App that aims to simplify creating, distributing and assessing learning in a paperless way.

Teachers can use Google Classroom to send announcements to entire classes, share resources, lesson notes, PowerPoints, diagrams, and home learning.

Pupils can use it to access learning in class, in school, at home or on the go and complete home learning.

Parents can use some of the features of Google Classroom to help engage with and support pupils in their home learning.

It is a free resource that can be accessed from any device connected to the internet, such as:
- laptop
- desktop computer
- chromebook
- tablet
- mobile phone

What is G Suite for Education?

G Suite for Education is a set of Google apps, such as:
- Docs
- Sheets
- Slides
- Drive
- Classroom

It is a suite of tools that can help increase opportunities for critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity, all while supporting the learning. Gmail will not be enabled for children at this time.

G Suite for Education tools are: free, ad-free, reliable and secure. These tools are already used by millions of pupils in schools around the world. There is no cost to use this service, but the best thing is that these tools are easy to use, and open doors to many new ways to learn.

If children are accessing Google classroom from a mobile device, we would recommend downloading the appropriate Google Apps to make best use of the shared resources.

Accessing Google Classroom

Pupils can access Google Classroom using the mobile apps (Android and iOS), or via a web browser by visiting www.classroom.google.com.

They should sign in using their unique username and password, that they have been given by their class teacher. They will also need a class code, which they will be given with their log in details. The class code should only be needed the first time a pupil logs in.

Once pupils have logged in, they will see the class overview page. From here they can see, a summary of any learning that has been assigned to them.

Learning at Home with Google Classroom

When home learning is set online, it can be submitted directly within Google Classroom online without needing to be printed.

As a school we have designed three different types of learning challenges for the children to complete via Google Classroom. These different styles of challenges will provide the children with a mixture of learning using the computer and learning that is completed away from the computer.

- Interactive Slides

These slides will be fully interactive and the children will demonstrate their understanding or learning by manipulating images, pictures, words or writing within the Google Slide to demonstrate their learning A copy will be created in the children's Google Classroom. When they have finished they click on 'Submit' and their teacher can see their learning. This learning is designed to be completed in Google Slides, in "edit mode".
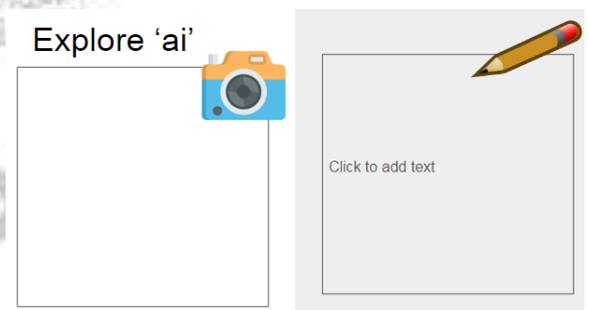
- Google Response

These slides will be provide instructions and examples for children. Children will upload and manipulate images to evidence their learning. They may choose from a selection of challenges. Children will evidence their learning for each challenge by uploading pictures of their learning (something they've made or drawn) and write or type (type or picture of writing) a blurb about what they have done. This evidence can be uploaded when the pupil is in "edit mode". Often, a copy will be created in the children's Google Classroom.

When they have finished they click on 'Submit' and their teacher can see their learning. This learning is designed to be completed mainly in Google Slides but with the addition of some practical learning.

- Upload

These slides will provide instructions and examples for children.
Children will complete learning on paper or with physical materials.
The children will share their learning by uploading pictures of their
learning (something they've made, drawn, created, written)
A copy likely will not be pushed to the children's Google Classroom as they will directly
upload a file (likely a picture) to the Google Classroom. This piece of learning is designed to
be completed completely away from the computer and then the final outcome uploaded to
Google Classroom.

Once the completed learning at home has been seen by your child's teacher, you and your
child will be able to see feedback and any comments made by the teacher by opening the
home learning task as before.

Becoming Familiar with Google Classroom
When your child logs in to their Google Classroom, there will be learning challenges for
them to explore with you. These cover a range of skills and will help you and your child
become familiar with the three types of learning challenges described above. These learning
challenges are intended to be completed by the following week.

On Friday 20th November, each child will bring home their log in details. They can log in with
you at home and complete the assigned learning. This should be completed by 9am on
Wednesday 25th November.

Every Friday a new weekly learning challenge will appear in each child's classroom. This
should be completed by 9am the following Wednesday.

E-Safety
Although many safety features have been enabled by our administrators within G-Suite, it is
still the responsibility of parents/carers to monitor what children are accessing online at
home.

We will continue to teach children the importance of being responsible digital citizens and
accessing age appropriate material and we appreciate parents/carers supporting this at
home with their children.

We would also advise that an adult is always with the child when they are using the online
learning platform, as they are on the internet and can easily click on something, exiting the
learning platform and be exploring the internet.

In school we have a significant filtering system in place. At home we would recommend
installing antivirus software, securing your internet connection and use Parental Control
functions on your home broadband for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to
block unsuitable content.

A useful website to show you how to do all of this is https://www.internetmatters.org/

Remember that parental control tools are not always 100% effective and sometimes unsuitable content can get past them, so don't rely on them alone to protect your child.

For more guidance on e-safety, please see separate sheet.

We are looking forward to sharing learning with the children using this new and exciting technology.

If you have any questions or need any support to use Google Classroom with your child, please talk to your child's class teacher, or if you prefer email the school office (office@beddingtoninfants.org.uk) and your child's class teacher will respond.

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