



Education Resources
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Dear Parent/Carer

Online Learning – Our Next Steps for Week Beginning 25th January 2021

I hope that you and your children have enjoyed the online learning on offer this week. This week, our key focus was to invite all of our children attend at least one Google Meet. Google Meets are video conferencing meetings that allow the children to see and interact with their class teacher on a virtual basis. I was lucky enough to be part of some of these meetings this week and it was just wonderful to see all of the children again. Their smiling, happy faces and the joy that they got when they saw their peers and their teacher on the screen was absolutely priceless! Given that this was a totally new experience for almost all of our children and staff, I thought that everyone did fantastically well. Thank you to all our parents/carers for supporting your children with this. I appreciate that this is not easy, especially if you are also trying to work from home or care for other siblings at the same time.

As you know, each class will have 2 Google Meets this week. After we had done the first one with each class, 71% of children had participated which was absolutely fantastic. If your child has not yet become involved, guidance on how to access Google Meet has been posted on our Google Classrooms, as well as on our school app and on our website. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you are unsure about what to do and we can talk you through process over the phone.

Please also remember that there are clear rules that everyone must follow in relation to Google Meet and that children need to behave appropriately and follow the teacher's instructions at all times. A copy of our User Agreement is contained in our 'Guide to Video Conferencing for Learners, Parents and Carers' which is available on our school app and on our website. If children do not conduct themselves appropriately, the class teacher will remove them from the meeting and this will be followed up by a senior member of staff. It is important to note that only the child who is allowed to be on the videoconference and so no other family members should be on the screen at any time. If you can see yourself on your child's screen, this means that everyone else can see you too. It is, however, desirable that a parent/carer remains close by whilst the Google Meet is taking place, particularly with our younger children. Parents/carers should not attempt to participate in online meetings with learners. This is to protect both the adult's privacy and that of others. If you do need to speak to your child's class teacher, please do not speak on the Google Meet, but use the usual means of communication, such as phone or e-mail, to do this.

During week beginning 25th January, teachers will continue to post up daily tasks for the children to do. This learning will continue to be progressive and differentiated to suit the different ability groups in the class. We have, however, listened to some of the comments that we have received from a

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few families and these shall not be as extensive as they were last week. There will also be much less that involves the use of physical resources. Each day, there will usually be 2 Literacy tasks (one of which will be spelling), 2 Numeracy tasks (one of which will be mental maths) and one interdisciplinary task, apart from the day when one of our CCC teachers will be covering the class. On this day there will only be one Literacy task and one Numeracy task, as well as a Health and Wellbeing (PE) activity, and an RME (Religious and Moral Education) activity for your child to do. Please remember that you and your child should only do what you can manage given your individual family circumstances. If you cannot do everything, it's probably best to prioritise the Literacy and Numeracy tasks if you can. Remember, too, that children need to have regular breaks and the opportunity to play during the day, too. There is no expectation that any of our children should be sitting at a screen or even at a table for lengthy periods each day. All of our challenge tasks are optional. Please bear in mind that you do not need to post up absolutely everything that your child does either, so you can just select a couple of things if that helps? If you are struggling to organise things at the start of a day because of your own work commitments, you may find it easier if your child completes tasks a day behind? As I've already said, please do what suits you and your family best. The most important thing is that we look after our own and others' wellbeing, so try not to become anxious if there is something that you cannot do.

Each staff will continue to have 2 Google Meets next week and the support staff who work in their classroom will also be involved too. The dates and times for these Meets will be posted on Google Classroom. Starting from Monday, we will try our best to keep the same times for your child's Google Meets each week as we are aware this will probably be a great help to those of you who are working from home.

Class teachers will continue to be on Google Classroom to answer any questions and to give feedback on children's work for 2 separate hours per day: one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. Rather than being set times across the school, these will now vary from class to class so please look on Google Classroom on Monday morning to find out when these will be for your own child. Please remember that anything that is posted up after the time when the teacher is finished on the livestream for the afternoon will receive a response the following day. Could we also ask that children only post up work on the Stream or under the Classwork tab, attached to the assignment, not both. If your child's class teacher has a particular preference for one or the other, he/she will let the children know in a post on their Google Classroom. If you are unsure of how to access these different areas, please look at the 'Submitting Your Work on Google Classroom' document on the January 2021 section on our school website. This document has also been posted on all of our Google Classrooms, but we will do this again in case you missed it.

As you know, staff are upskilling themselves every week as we all become familiar with a new form of teaching. This week, all staff have been learning how to record themselves speaking over a PowerPoint presentation and so this is something for the children to look forward to as part of their daily learning on Google Classroom one day next week. As this will be recorded, it will be available to watch at any time, regardless of when your child logs on.

If you have any problems accessing Google Classroom from home, please email Miss Lattimer (Acting Depute Head Teacher) and she will do her best to help (gw07lattimerjennifer@glow.sch.uk). We also still have a small number of devices that we are able to loan out to families to support them with learning at home should you not have anything of your own. Please either phone or email Miss Lattimer if this is something that you require. Last week, 82% of our school posted up work, so let's see if we can beat this figure this week. Come on everyone! We can do this! On Friday, 22nd January, we will post up a Google form on our school app to ask for your feedback on our remote learning provision thus far. If you can find the time to complete this form, we would be very grateful as this will help to inform our next steps.

I know that this is a very anxious time for everyone, but please remember that this will not last forever and there will come a time in the near future when we can all be back together again. As always, if you have any questions or concerns in relation to remote learning and/or your personal family circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact me by either phoning the school (01698 823680) or by emailing me directly (gw14dlmpsht@glow.sch.uk). We are here to help if we can.

Yours sincerely

Linda Callender
Head Teacher