



Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

Dear Parents,

## **Re. Google Classroom to support home learning**

With lockdown continuing and little clarity around potential dates for school reopening, we have been looking into different options for how home learning tasks can be shared with you. We appreciate all the feedback we have been receiving from our parent community regarding the quality of tasks being sent out, and have had some very helpful suggestions about ways that we can make home learning easier for you as parents to manage.

We recognise that multiple emails can be overwhelming, especially for those of you with many children, and it can be hard to get your head round the numerous communications being sent out by school right now. We also know that whilst Parentmail has been our saviour in these first few weeks, there are limitations with both the size of files we can send out, and also the format of these files.

In light of all this, we have looked into google classroom and intend to start using it to share home learning tasks with you by the end of next week, with Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May being the date that all work for the upcoming week will be available. Tomorrow, our staff will still use the Parentmail system to share work with you as normal, but you may see that during the next week, once you have access, they also upload this on to google classroom as they play and become more familiar with the system before its official launch date.

Tomorrow, we will email each year group and share your google classroom code. You can set up and access google classroom by visiting [classroom.google.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfgqtCi7hdo) and entering the provided code. We promise that the system is very easy to use but should you want to know more, you can find videos available on you tube to help such as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfgqtCi7hdo>

Unfortunately, moving to this work sharing system requires everyone to have a google email address. We apologise that this causes a slight inconvenience but hope that those of you who currently don't use gmail are happy to create an email account to make life a little easier for all during this time. We wouldn't ask this if we didn't think it was a better system for all and of course you don't need to use the email address for anything else, nor keep it once this is over. We don't need to have this email address on record – it is simply a tool to give you access, so that we no longer need to email work out. You also don't need separate accounts for each of your children – one account will enable you to set up each classroom.

In sharing this news, we also wanted to use this as an opportunity to again stress that any work shared is there to support and help. There is no expectation that you must complete everything, or anything, if it is proving too much or too difficult to do. Dip in and dip out as you choose and as works for you. We continue to face an unprecedented situation which challenges everyone in unique ways, and in setting work, we do not want to cause worry or anxiety

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# Brookburn Primary School



Brookburn Road  
Chorlton-cum-Hardy  
Manchester, M21 8EH  
T: 0161 881 8880 | F: 0161 861 7960  
Email: [admin@brookburn.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:admin@brookburn.manchester.sch.uk)

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for anyone finding that they are struggling to get through things. We are not checking up on you, we are not asking for work submission or setting deadlines, but we are providing suggestions, ideas and guidance which we hope takes away any pressure on you to help your child with learning at home.

It is so important right now that everyone takes stock of their own capacity to manage, and in the interests of being kind and supporting each other, it also crucial that no one feels stress, worry or anxiety because of pressure to keep up with the work being set. Please take care of yourselves, and know that whatever you are doing, you are doing enough.

We hope everyone continues to be safe and well during this time and we will be in touch again tomorrow to share further details about access to google classrooms.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school office, where we are happy to help.

Very best wishes,

The Senior Leadership Team

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