



15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We are now ready to move all our learning resources online to Google Classroom (GC). We began to roll it out this week, and Acorn, Hazel and Maple classes are already up and running. The other classes will begin working fully from GC from Monday 18 January 2021. All parents have been sent their children's login details. If you have not yet accessed GC, please log on before Monday so you can see how it works. There is a practice activity to complete.

The teachers have worked non-stop to provide high quality lessons for children who are working remotely and in school, as well as setting up Google Classroom. This is brand new to all of us, and we will continue to improve and refine it. I will seek feedback via an online survey within the next two weeks. Vince Chaney, Chair of Governors, and I will hold a Zoom parent meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 20 January to outline the current position and answer questions you may have after GC has been running for a few days. A link for this will be sent to you Wednesday morning.

I have set out below the answers to some questions which have been asked.

**Where will I find work set for my child now?**

- Work will now only be accessed through GC. It will not now be on the website or emailed to parents. Your child will need to log in to GC every day to find their work.

**How much work will my child have to do?**

- There will be a selection of lessons each day. These will roughly equate to 4 hours of activity for KS2 and 3 hours for KS1 as per government guidelines, but this does not mean that your child will need to be at a screen for this long.
- We know that accessing all of this work might be difficult every day, so please use your judgement as to how and when you use these resources.

**Do we have to do the lessons in the order they are listed?**

- No, the lessons will not be 'real time', so you can decide in which order to do the lessons to suit your own circumstances.
- You can split lessons up, take a break when you need and as they are not 'real time', you will be able to re-visit parts of the lesson again if you need to.



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### **When will the lessons be available?**

- Work for the next day will be uploaded to GC at 6pm the evening before. This is so that parents can look at what is planned for the next day – not for children to start work on! (Some work has already been scheduled for a different time, but future work will be scheduled for 6pm).
- There will be a folder in the 'Classroom' tab for each day which will contain all the work your child needs.

### **What format will the lessons take?**

- There will be a mixture of videoed lessons, narrated lessons, powerpoints, links to Oak Academy, White Rose and other videos, quizzes and tasks that can be completed on line as well as others that will be done on paper and uploaded.

### **Do I have to print out lots of resources?**

- Wherever possible, lessons are planned to reduce the need for printing, but children may need a book or pad of paper to work on. If you are unable to provide this, please let us know. If you want to print, of course this is fine.
- Children will be able to complete some of the activities directly onto the documents provided on GC, others may need to be uploaded.

### **Do I have to sit with my child while they complete the work?**

- This will depend on the age of your child, but we would like the children to work as independently as possible, working through problems themselves rather than expecting help with everything. Be careful not to make your child dependent on 1-1 help when working at home, as they will need to go back into a classroom setting where they are expected to use their initiative, be self-reliant and wait their turn.
- You will also need to be able to supervise other children, work from home, do tasks around the house etc, so you will have to let your child get on with work themselves – do not feel guilty about this! If you are having difficulty getting your child to do their work, let the teacher know and they will follow this up with your child.

### **How will my child's work be marked?**

- As in school, not all pieces of work will be 'marked'. Teachers will specify in the Task Instructions which work they will give feedback on. This work will need to be completed directly on Google Classroom, depending on the task (or uploaded to Google Classroom if a written task). Feedback for this work may include voice notes as well as written comments.
- Other work that is 'turned in' will be reviewed by teachers, but will not result in written or verbal feedback to the child. These tasks also help the teacher determine future teaching.

### **Can I mark my child's work myself?**

- Children/parents should self-mark maths – but don't worry, the White Rose and Oak Academy materials provide answers. Some powerpoint slides give the answers as they go on. It is very beneficial for children to be able to mark their own work, work out where they have gone wrong and put it right straightaway – this isn't cheating, it's learning!
- If you yourself want to 'mark' any other work your child has done, the simplest and most motivating approach is to use is '2 stars and a wish', ie 2 things they have done well and one thing to work on. Make these simple, easy to understand and achievable.



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### **Can I email or upload any other work my child has done?**

- Please do not email any work to teachers or upload any work that has not been set by the teacher. Teachers will not have the capacity to respond to anything not set by them so they will not be able to respond.

### **What should I do if my child is finding the work difficult, or they will not do the work?**

- If your child is finding the work difficult, please access the after school Zoom Surgeries. Your child's class teacher will have already informed you of the dates for these. You can ask for help about the work set.
- If your child is not engaging with the work and is difficult to motivate, please email the class teacher. She will then contact you and decide with you how to resolve this issue.

### **Do I have to sit with my child while they are on Zoom calls?**

- Children need to be supervised, but we would prefer you didn't sit with them during these sessions. We ask that parents are within eyesight and earshot of children on Zoom. Please can you teach them how to mute and unmute themselves and use the raised hand button.
- For younger children, please monitor behaviour as needed until they are able to sit for the session by themselves with as little input from you as possible.

### **Are the children at home getting the same content as those in school?**

- Yes, all the lessons posted on Google Classroom are the same lessons that the children in school access. If a bubble has to close, or a child in school has to self-isolate, they will switch immediately to Remote Learning through GC.

### **I am not a teacher – how can I best help my child?**

- Firstly, do not worry – you are again being asked to educate your child/ren at home and we know this is a difficult job. Your best is absolutely good enough. Have a look through some of our Teachers' Top Tips for working with children:
  - ✓ When frustration is building, stay calm and count to 10/ take deep breaths before speaking/walk away. The fewer words the better in these circumstances.
  - ✓ Encourage children to work through being 'stuck'. If you always give them the solution, they will always expect you to do this. They don't have 1-1 attention in school, so it is ok for them to wait until you can help them, but even better if they find their own solution (even if it isn't quite right).
  - ✓ Make a big deal of children working independently. Can they log on to GC themselves? If not, show them how to do it – don't do it for them. The more they can do themselves, the fewer demands they will place on you.
  - ✓ Give them a bit of space to work at their own pace. If they work slowly, break a task into smaller chunks with rewards of praise eg say, 'let me know when you have done 2 sentences' and let them get on with it. We know from experience that motivational encouragement works a lot better than a stern telling off. Give praise and rewards (stickers/time to play/snack etc) when the task has been completed.
  - ✓ Keep them reading – don't forget that all children have a Rising Stars log in and access to Oxford Owls is now free of charge.
  - ✓ If one lesson goes badly, let it go and move on. If one day goes badly, let it go – tomorrow is a new day. Don't take it too seriously.
  - ✓ Have fun wherever you can – there's little enough of it around at the moment J

### **What would you like feedback on?**

- If there are technical issues, (such as sound, video, access to resources, log in issues which prevent your child from accessing their learning) please do let us know as soon as possible.



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- We will be sending out a survey so you can feedback more generally about how Remote Learning is working after GC has been running a little while.
- Teachers now have a very heavy workload and may take a little longer to respond to emails.
- Positive feedback makes it all worthwhile and constructive feedback helps us improve!

Please bear in mind that the lessons you will see are different to how lessons are normally delivered. The teachers are having to condense material and teach in a way that does not reflect a live classroom environment. The content of lessons is carefully planned by experienced teachers, and we will be continuously refining how we deliver these lessons as we gain experience in teaching this way.

I would like to thank parents and carers for your ongoing support for the work the school is doing. It has been an extremely fast paced start to the term for us and the teaching team (both teachers and teaching assistants) have achieved an enormous amount. Setting up GC has been an almost vertical learning curve and I am very proud of what the team has achieved in such a short space of time. I really hope that you and your children will find GC to be a positive learning space and that the lessons planned for your children will keep them occupied and learning.

Best wishes,

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