



Christ Church C of E Primary School

'Let Your Light Shine!'

School Newsletter - April 2020

A big hello to our families from the School Leadership Team. We hope that you are keeping well during these strange and challenging times.

We are watching and waiting for news of a date for school reopening and will promptly share any developments with you. Currently no plans for school reopening have been announced for the Summer Term.

Carrying on with home learning is now key. We expect that the packs and learning resources that we sent home in March are near completion and so we have set up a home learning platform in Google Classrooms. Your child has been sent their login details. Please see attached 'How to Login to Google Classrooms.' Their teachers are posting work for them to complete weekly. Please see below, the advice on home learning issued by the Department for Education.

Below are some of our favourite links to help support you with home learning,



Who is School still open to ?

We have joined forces with Grace Mary Primary School in Tividale to provide day care for children of Key Workers and other groups outlined by the Government. Please continue to let us know if you require a place for your child/ren.

Please join us in prayer:

Gracious God,

Give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.

Strengthen them with your Spirit that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Lockdown Reading Challenge.

Can you make a reading den to read your favourite books in? Do take a photo and share. Staff have been reading some of their favourite stories too and we will be sharing these videos with you next week on Google Classroom.





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We have added three attachments on local services which you may find helpful.

Hartbeeps

Those of you with babies and young children may be missing the Hartbeep classes run in SinglePoint and may like to contact Chelsea for further information on how she is able to support (please see attached flier).

Keeping in touch

Next week staff will aim to call to keep in touch with families as well as report back any issues you need support with. Please note that this may be from a withheld number. Once we have made initial contact, we would like to explore doing weekly Google Meets (video calls) at a day and time to suit you. Can you please ensure that your contact details are up to date by leaving a message on the school mobile.

Vouchers

If you are eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium (not Universal Free School Meals) you should have received your Sainsbury's voucher. Moving forward, we have registered for the Government's voucher scheme which should give you a wider range of supermarkets. You will hopefully receive an email next week with your voucher code. If you think you are entitled to Free School Meals / Pupil Premium and haven't already claimed, please contact the Benefit Office.

Well being and emotional well being

This is a very difficult and strange time for us all, it is really important that we stay physically and mentally well. Your children may be upset that they can not see their friends and family or are worried about the situation and the fact that things are still so unpredictable. I am sure you are trying to keep things as positive as possible at the moment and are finding lots of things to keep your children well and happy. However if you do need a bit of extra support this may help.

We all know about ways we can stay physically active either by going for a daily walk or following Joe wicks but ways to stay emotionally well aren't always so obvious. There are lots of things that are available to help with this and I hope some of these will spark ideas for you to think of things of your own.

Mindfulness games

Using our senses is very important to help with this and some activities that you can play with your children and involve 3 of our senses are below

Touch

Put a variety of objects in a bag and take it in turns to feel one object at a time and try to guess what it is. This helps to use the sense of touch and develops communication and language skills too.

Sight

Look around the room or garden etc in silence for a few minutes, point to things you have noticed for the first time.

Sound

Again in silence listen for 1 minute and name all the sounds you can hear.



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Other good activities that help with mindfulness are cooking and baking, making dough that can be kneaded and pulled and pushed, colouring in, looking at the clouds and saying what pictures you can see.

There are some more activities available online. Try Mindfulness Activities for Kids

25 Fun Mindfulness Activities for Children and Teens (+Tips!)

25 Simple Mindfulness Activities Kids Will Actually Want to do

Or just google mindfulness.

If you need more support there are organisations you can contact or get advice from. There are a number of web-sites to help you know how to approach things. Some of these are:

For Parents Supporting Your Child During The Coronavirus Pandemic Tips, advice and where to get support

Blog Talking to your child about coronavirus If your child is worried or anxious about coronavirus

BEAM are a self referral emotional health and wellbeing service for young people aged 5-18. They can provide advice and support for families that are struggling to cope at the moment

You can also Contact BEAM on askbeam@childrensociety.org.uk

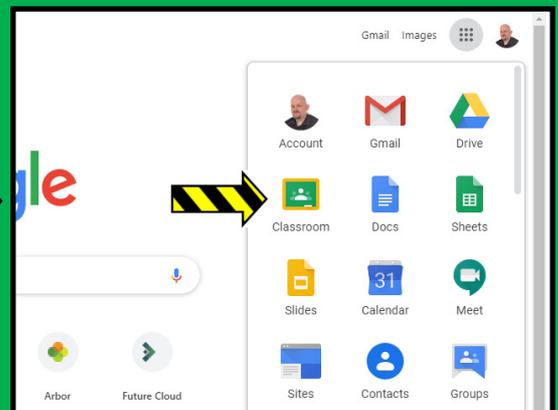
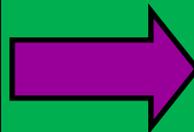
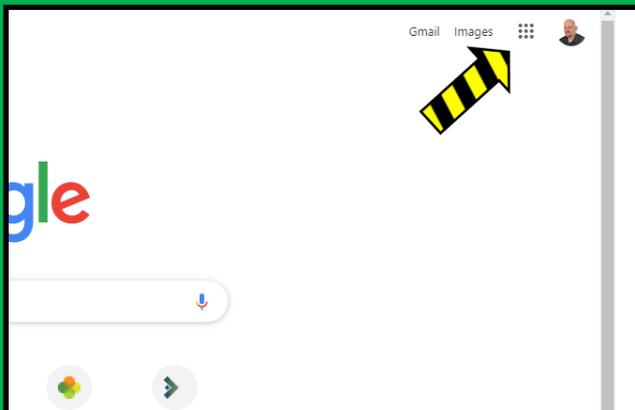
The most important thing is that you all stay safe and well and I hope we are back to normal as soon as possible.

How to Login to Google Classroom

We have set up a virtual classroom for every class where you and your teacher can keep in touch. Here you will find resources to assist you in your home learning as well as videos messages and lessons.

It is very simple to login, just follow the steps below.

Step 1. You will have been sent a Google email address and password. Go to www.google.co.uk and select 'sign in' in the top right corner of the screen. Once you have signed in, select Google Classroom from the Apps section (see below)



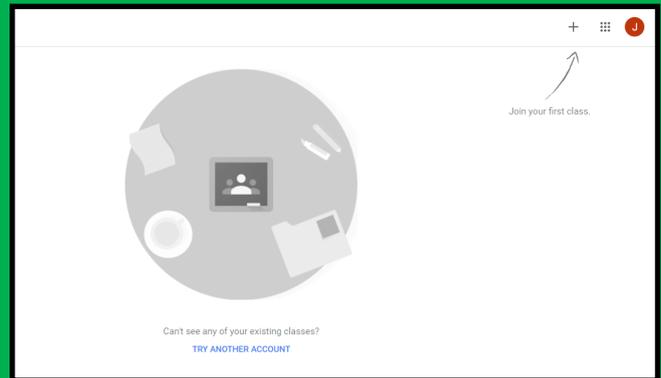
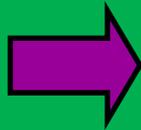
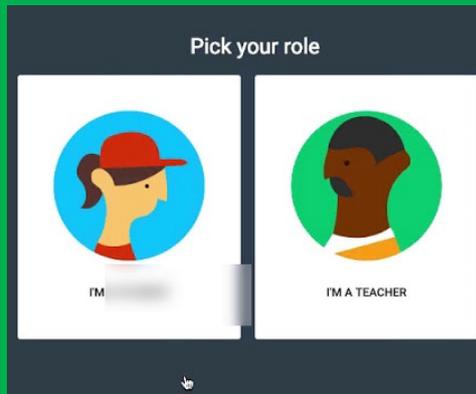


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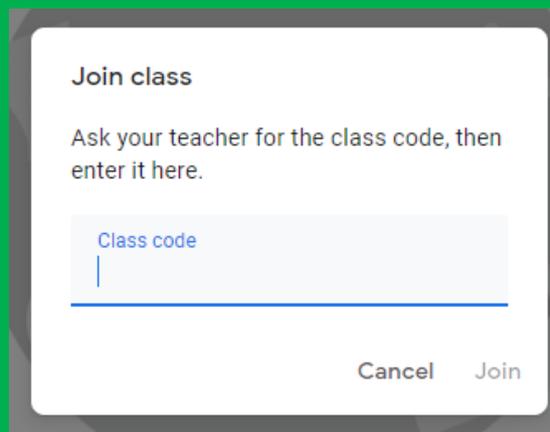
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Step 2. You will be asked to pick your role. Select student and continue. On the next page, select + to join your class.



Step 3. Enter the class code you will have been provided (if you haven't got access to a class code, please contact the office).



You should now have access to your class page.



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Free Resources

Well-being and thinking about faith

<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/prayer-spaces-at-home>

Activities include:

Be Still

Calm Jar

Fizzy Forgiveness

Pray for the World

BBC Bitesize Daily Online Lessons

Access using BBC I Player, Red Button, BBC Bitesize Website and app, BBC 4, BBC Sounds.

Week 1				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths 	English 	Science 	Maths 	English
History 	Geography 	Wellbeing 	Music 	Computing

Primary schedule

The Oak National Academy
Online lessons for each year group.

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

Twinkl Home Learning Hub

[https://www.twinkl.co.uk/re](https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/age-specific-resources-parents/english-main-subjects-parents/fiction-and-stories-english-main-subjects-parents)

[sources/age-specific-resources-parents/english-main-subjects-parents/fiction-and-stories-english-main-subjects-parents](https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/age-specific-resources-parents/english-main-subjects-parents/fiction-and-stories-english-main-subjects-parents)



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Stories to listen along to

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

(Amazon)

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

(Go to Books and Reading Homepage)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/bedtime-stories>

(Choose an episode)

Michael Rosen:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7D-mXO4kk-XWvH6lBXdrPw>

For children with SEND

Brain Parade

<http://www.brainparade.com/products/see-touch-learn-free/>

Help Kidz Learn

<https://www.helpkidzlearn.com/>

Sensory App House Ltd

<https://www.sensoryapphouse.com/>

Visuals 2 Go

<https://www.visuals2go.com/>



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Advice from the Department of Education

No one expects parents to act as teachers, or to provide the activities and feedback that a school would. Parents and carers should do their best to help children and support their learning.

In terms of **structuring the day** the guidance says: 'do not worry about trying to maintain a full routine for your child like they had at school.'

• It recommends:

- get up and go to bed at the same time each day;
- have regular meal times;
- have regular breaks;
- make time to be active - children are used to regular play at lunch and break times.

In terms of **using digital devices**, it recommends that parents 'set appropriate parental controls on any devices your child is using and supervise their use of websites and apps'. However, it goes on to recommend reducing screen time:

- use books and other printed materials that school has provided or that you have at home;
- write by hand – try asking them to complete work by hand, write a diary, a summary of things they have learned or done each day or 'to do' lists;
- be active and get away from the screen regularly – see a selection of physical activity resources for primary school children;
- stop using digital devices at least an hour before bed.

The guidance goes through appropriate ways to work with **Reception, Y1 and Y2** and it encourages:

- sitting with them while they work and breaking down activities;
 - talking and explaining new words;
 - reading together and techniques for this;
 - phonics;
 - writing;
 - numbers.

• The guidance goes through appropriate ways to work with **Y3-6** and it encourages:

- encouraging independent work, including active and practical things;
 - talking about what they have learned;
- reading and asking questions about what they have read;
 - writing.

For children with autism:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachemnt/Supporting%20Children%20with%20LD%20%26%20ASD%20with%20COVID%20Isolation.pdf>



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**SANDWELL BEAM HAS
LAUNCHED A PHONE SUPPORT
SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

**We're an emotional health and
well-being service for 5 to 18 year olds
and up to 25 if you're a care-leaver.**

To access this service or to hear
about other ways Beam can
support you, please contact
askbeam@childrenssociety.org.uk

Our inbox is monitored regularly,
but please note this is not a crisis
or instant response service.

**We're here to listen
and support you.**

[childrenssociety.org.uk/
beam/sandwell](http://childrenssociety.org.uk/beam/sandwell)





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For confidential text service to school nurses
Contact a School Nurse by texting ChatHealth on:
07480635486

There are local services that can provide you with confidential advice and support.

For free, safe and anonymous online support for young people
Visit Kooth online at:
www.kooth.com

For sexual health clinics
Contact Sandwell West Birmingham Hospital Trust by:
Texting: **07950080794**
or
Calling: **0121 612 2323**

For in school advice and support
Speak to your school pastoral team who are always on hand to help you.

For emotional health and well-being drop-in service
Find your local Sandwell Beam drop-in at:
🐦 **@BeamSandwell**