



Orleans Primary School

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Google Classrooms - Remote learning & Live Check in Events

Dear Parents/Carers,

We wanted to thank you for your continued support and patience during our first two weeks of remote learning. As a school, we are continuing to learn about the technology available to us and trial new ways of working with our pupils remotely. So far, this has included making use of Google Classroom as a remote learning platform; providing pre-recorded teaching videos from our own staff and using platforms such as White Rose Maths and Oak National Academy; and this week introducing a short live check in with teachers.

Teachers are continuing to upload the **pre-recorded teaching videos** available to pupils. These videos allow children **to pause and review learning** as many times as they need to. An additional benefit of this approach is that these videos can be accessed at any time of the school day to suit different family needs. It also offers parents, with more than one child at home, the flexibility to be able to use the same device and have additional support when needed.

Introducing live events:

We know that one of the greatest losses to pupils during remote learning is social interaction with both their peers and their teachers. Therefore, we have introduced the use of **'live check in sessions'** to reinforce the link between home and school, and further develop our remote learning offer.

These events will take place through **Google Classroom** and **Google Meet** and children must log in using their school account; they will not be admitted into the meeting if they are using a non-LGFL account. Teachers will share the Google Meet link needed before the session begins. This is to make sure that a member of school staff is present on the Google Meet before any children join the session. When a session ends, all children must leave the meeting and then a member of staff will close the session. We do need to remind pupils that we expect the same behaviour online as we would do in school and this is in regard to the stream and children posting comments on there.

These sessions are for Orleans Primary School teaching staff and pupils only. We do understand that there may be other household members nearby but we ask that they do not participate in the live session. Please also note these sessions are for the children and are not designed to be an opportunity for parents to ask questions regarding learning taking place. Please direct any questions you may have via the info@orleans.richmond.sch.uk

Live Check in sessions (10-25 minutes) – This is a chance for your child to catch up with their teachers and classmates to support their mental health and wellbeing. This may involve taking part in an interactive activity, discussing a PSHE theme as a class, sharing stories or poems or a general chat. These sessions will take place **once a week** at the times communicated by teachers. We will endeavour to keep these sessions at the same time each week.

We hope that these live interactions will help to enhance students' remote learning experience and wellbeing by having regular contact and interaction with their teachers and peers. However, please be aware that school staff reserve the right to remove students from a live session if their behaviour does not meet expectations and parents/carers will be informed if this is the case. We ask that parents remain in the same room as pupils during these sessions.

Why are you offering this now when you said it was not safe for children or staff before?

We have learnt a lot since the last lockdown and now have access to the technology to offer live sessions e.g. devices for staff with microphone and camera now enables us to use Google Meet. We have seen that some children's mental health and wellbeing has been affected due to lockdowns this year. Not being in school and seeing their friends and teachers is a key part of this. Live sessions may help children to connect with their peers and familiar adults in school. At the beginning of the last lockdown, live sessions were very new and there were concerns about keeping children safe online. To ensure that these sessions are successful and keep pupils and staff safe, we are asking all parents to re-read the Acceptable Usage Policies attached and the Google classroom user agreement.

Why are you not offering live lessons (synchronous education)?

Ofsted have summarised their findings in a document published on the 6th January named '*What's working well in remote education*' They have stated that live lessons do have many advantages, however they are not always more effective than asynchronous (pre-recorded lessons). As a school, we have chosen not to offer live lessons throughout the week for a number of reasons having looked at various models and research papers. Research from the (EEF) Education Endowment Foundation and the Ofsted findings document '*What's working well in remote education*' has concluded that:

- Teaching quality is more important than how lessons are delivered. What matters is that the elements of effective teaching are present, such as clear explanations, scaffolding and building on pupils' understanding.
- Asynchronous education (Pre-recorded lessons) can develop pupil's independence, encouraging them to pause, rewind and replay lessons as well supporting them in managing their own time.
- We cannot assume that all households are in a position for all families' members to have their own devices, to allow all children to be able to login in to different lessons at the same time, or whether families have sufficient broadband to cope with all members streaming at the same time.
- It is hard to build in interaction and flexibility during live lessons and giving feedback can be less effective. We have aligned all of our pre-recorded lessons with our broad and balanced curriculum and all lessons are quality assured by our senior leadership team.

Approaches to remote learning vary widely and have different strengths and weaknesses. Teachers and schools will always consider which approaches are best suited to the content they are teaching and the age of their pupils. We know that many secondary schools are offering live lessons as this is more suited to pupils of this age and it is easier for them to carry out these lessons independently.

As a school, we pride ourselves in our high quality teaching and learning and we believe this is the right way to provide learning for our pupils during this school closure period. Staff have received further training to support them in using the Google suite and we know that it worked successfully during the initial lockdown in 2020.

Our remote learning policy was agreed by staff and Governors and information was sent out to all parents regarding this in November 2020. For further information, please check via the school website on our remote learning page and via the link below. <https://www.ortons.richmond.sch.uk/page/?title=Remote%2FBlended+Learning&pid=250>

Thank you for your support as we move into yet another new way of working on this journey.

Best wishes,

Beckie Bennett
Remote learning leader
Deputy Head