



Madginford Primary School

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www.madginfordprimaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Amanda Woolcombe

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for bearing with us while we have worked to get our systems set up to support communication and learning at home.

Class Dojo

Hopefully, everyone has now been able to access Class Dojo which will replace our home/school contact books for the foreseeable future. Please use the app to contact your child's class teacher and share those messages that you would previously have written in the contact book (e.g. a query about homework, worries your child may have or a change to the usual end-of-day arrangements).

Please contact the school office via email or leave a message on the absence line to notify us of children who are absent. This might be due to illness, attending a medical appointment or for other reasons.

- We have a new email dedicated to the recording of absences
absence@mps.kent.sch.uk

Class Dojo will also notify you when your child has received a 'monster point' for showing positive behaviour in class or on the playground. These are often the little things that you as parents do not always get to know about so we hope you enjoy having the opportunity to celebrate these successes with your child.

If you are not yet connected to Class Dojo or are having issues with sending or receiving information, please let us know. Contact the school office via email or phone and your child's teacher will be in touch.

Class Dojo accounts will be monitored between 8.30am - 4pm and school adults will try to respond as quickly as possible to any comments or concerns. You can still send a message outside these hours but it will not be responded to until 8.30am at the earliest.

Homework

Homework will be set on a Friday and in most cases should be completed by the Wednesday of the following week.

Homework will include:

- Reading: we ask that children read to and with their parents as often as possible (ideally, this should be every day).
- Spelling: children will be set activities on Spelling Shed and complete activities linked to the spelling rules they are learning in class. Children in Y1 will receive work linked to their phonics learning.
- Times Tables/Number facts: children will be set activities on Maths Shed to support them in developing their fluency and recall of times table and other number facts.
- Maths: children will be set a maths activity that will allow them to practise the knowledge they have been learning over the previous week in class. **
- Reading Comprehension: children will be set a reading comprehension activity that will help them to develop their ability to retrieve information from a text.**

** Reading and maths activities will be set on alternate weeks (this is a slight change to the arrangements mentioned in the letter sent earlier this week).

Within the next few weeks we will also introduce weekly 'flashback' quizzes to help children revisit their work of the previous week and help them to remember their learning.

If your child is finding their homework challenging, please let their class teacher know via Class Dojo.

All homework can be found on **Google Classroom** which is our new online learning platform (and is replacing Seesaw).

Google Classroom

What is Google Classroom?

Google Classroom is a free Google app that can be used to send announcements, share resources and complete home learning. Children can use it to access work in school, at home or on the go. Parents can use some of the features of Google

Classroom to help engage with and support children in their home learning. It is a free resource that can be accessed from any device connected to the internet.

What is G-Suite?

G-Suite for Education is a set of Google apps which are free, ad-free and secure. These tools are already used by millions of pupils in schools around the world. There is no cost to use this service but the best things are that these tools are relevant to pupils, easy to use and open doors to many new ways to learn. Gmail will not be enabled for children at this time.

This is a really useful video that will introduce you to Google Classroom and all of its different features.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgS-hoSIjnw>

Over the course of the next term, we will roll out more of the features mentioned in this video but currently we are focusing on the setting and returning of work.

Google Passwords

Please go to the Home Study page on our school website where you will see a Google Classroom box with a secure link where you can retrieve your child's password (children have also been sent home with a paper copy of their log-in & password).

Please use the attached handout to help you log on to the site for the 1st time.

Completing Homework

All homework activities can be accessed through the Google Classroom site and directly uploaded once they have been completed. The link above shows you how to access and return assigned homework if you should need further help.

If you and your child are having difficulties and are not able to complete the set tasks, please contact your child's teacher for assistance. We completely understand that, initially, this may result in homework being submitted late.

Home Learning

We appreciate that whilst children are in school, there may be occasions when your child has to remain at home. When this happens, home learning will be available for children via Google Classroom.

Where possible, the work set will reflect the learning that is taking place in the classroom. If this is not possible, alternative links will be signposted by your child's teacher to resources covering the topic in a way more suited to home learning.

Teachers will set several pieces of work for each day including maths and English. They will check and regularly respond to maths and English work and will respond to other work as soon as they are able. It is important to note that members of staff other than your child's class teacher may respond on the site.

If a class bubble needs to be closed, home learning will be made available on Google Classroom

We know that every family's circumstances are different so please keep in contact with us so we can help make sure that your child is able to successfully access and complete their learning at an appropriate level.

We appreciate that there is a lot of information contained in this letter. This is a new way of working for all of us so please keep checking the home study page on our website and use both Class Dojo and Google Classroom to keep in touch. We look forward to working with you to set up a system that is effective and easy to use.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs A Woolcombe', with a circular flourish at the end.

Mrs A Woolcombe
(Head Teacher)