

Hambrook Primary School

Newsletter

Issue 3
5.2.21

Whole school. Whole child. Whole hearted.

Dear Families,

Firstly, well done to you all – we are now nearly at the end of term and I have been so impressed with the children's engagement with their learning at home and at school. We would all like to say a huge thank you and well done for the amazing job you have all done supporting your children with their learning. Thank you also to our critical worker families for all they are doing to support us through another lockdown.

Whilst some of you may find that your children are really getting into the routine and continue to be motivated to work, others may be needing a lot more encouragement to complete the work that is set. Some days the children may want to work, others they may not. We just want to let all families know that we understand – this period is tough for everyone, you and your children. We also understand the difficulties juggling supporting learning at home and your own work.

As you know, we are required by the government to provide 3-4 hours of learning for the children each day. If your children are struggling with the amount of work, we ask that English and maths work is prioritised. There is an expectation that all children engage with daily remote learning and complete the morning English and maths work set by their child's teacher. However, we understand there may be the occasion where your child is struggling to work independently and your own work commitments may make it difficult to support your child. We have provided some websites which may be useful to use independently by your child to keep them engaged with learning, including our new reading eLibrary, Maths Factor and Spelling Frame.

Hopefully, with the recent news that the government plan for pupils to return to school on 8th March, if it is deemed safe, means there is some light at the end of the tunnel. I know I speak on behalf of all staff when I say that we can't wait to reopen the school to all children again.

You are all doing your absolute best, and that is different in each of our situations so please don't compare yourself to others. Be kind to yourselves. Take care everyone and look after each other.

Best wishes

Emma Cholmondeley
Acting Head Teacher



Important Information

The start of the New Year is always difficult financially after the expense of the festive period; if you are in need of any kind of support in that way and have not accessed the Church Fund donation previously, please contact the school office and I will see if we can help. If you have already contacted us about this, please be reassured that we will be in contact soon.

If your child does not currently have income-based Free School Meals, but you feel they may be eligible for them, please see the criteria on the [government website](#) and apply.

If you are struggling and need a listening ear, please reach out to us as a school or there is the offer from Malcolm and Jo Strange who have a group of 'trained listeners'. This could either be over the phone or online, whichever suits. Please contact Jo Strange direct if you feel this would be useful on 07854710507 or email jofourleaf@gmail.com.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead via the school office at office@hambrookprimary.org.uk or 0117 9568933



Remote Learning

Provision for Children While Learning at Home

Remote Learning Survey Feedback

Following a feedback questionnaire we sent out based on our remote learning provision, we would like to share and clarify a few things related to remote learning.

Throughout the feedback, the use of recorded video lessons provided by the class teacher was celebrated as something that supports new learning and engages children with their work. Although at the time of the survey we were in the early days of remote provision, those whose children had already received timetabled small group academic and social support sessions commented that these were particularly beneficial and motivating for your child.

It was really pleasing for all staff to read the comments and hear the benefits of what they have put in place on the children's wellbeing and academic progress. Thank you so much to everybody who has taken the time to respond to the survey. Here are just a few of the comments, but there were so many and it was great to see that the efforts being made are well received by so many of you. If you haven't already completed our feedback form, or have any further comments to make, please find a link to the Google form [here](#).

"The morning meeting is really good as it sets the day and the small group meetings are a lovely way for my child to work, as it offers the opportunity for teacher interaction, structure and a social aspect with her peers."

"Google Classroom appears to be a really fantastic platform! It is extremely easy and intuitive to use. The assignments are filed logically under different headings."

"I have genuinely been really pleased with all of it now I've got used to the platforms. I'm happy that nothing needs changing. Thank you SO much for all the hard work that is being put in by the teachers."

"I thought the meet and greet sessions would interrupt/interfere with my own work meetings but again, the classroom is so easy to use."

75% of families who responded stated that the amount of work set by their child's teacher was 'the perfect amount.' We appreciate that for some it may seem too much or too little. For those who commented that there was not quite enough work, please see the links provided in the Remote Learning information attached. Sometimes teachers may refer to extra 'optional' activities. In the classroom, teachers provide support and differentiation to all children. This is harder to achieve in a remote learning context and, whilst every effort has been made to ensure the work provided is appropriate for all children, there may be 'optional' activities for those who want more of a challenge.

18% of responses stated that there was a little too much work as they were juggling full time work commitments. For those children who may be struggling with the amount of work set, or parents who are juggling their own work commitments alongside supporting home learning, please do not put pressure on yourselves and your child to complete everything if this is a struggle. As I said above, prioritise English and maths where possible and dip into the self-led activities provided on Maths Factor and Spelling Frame and ensure your child reads as much as possible using the eLibrary if needed.

Many of you stated that your children like the comments provided by their teachers. All core learning submitted will be marked by a member of staff. Unfortunately, staff are not able to leave comments for non-core subjects, but please be assured that this work is looked at by your child's teachers.

We would like to reassure you that children who are not in school at the moment are not ‘missing out’ on their learning. Teachers spend some mornings in school and the rest of their time at home. This is so that all children, whether at school or at home, can spend time with their teacher during the week.

All teaching staff recognise the importance of maintaining regular contact with the children unable to attend school during this time. Please find below details about what is in place to help support your child’s social and emotional wellbeing and academic progress during this lockdown. We appreciate that it may be difficult to navigate through the various letters and information sent over the past few weeks, so I have summarised this here and provided an attachment. All information related to Remote Learning can also be found on the school website [here](#).

It is important that during the small group sessions children have the opportunity to interact with their peers and teachers. Once your child is set up on their remote learning device, it would be beneficial to allow them to work independently with the adult led group so it would be appreciated if parents do not take an active part in the sessions.

LIVE Meet & Greet

All children will have a LIVE Meet & Greet (every morning for Years 1-6 and twice weekly for Reception) children to see their friends and say hello. This is a chance for teachers to check in with pupils and take a register. It will last 10-15 mins and uses the ‘Meet’ function in Google Classroom.

Whole class Meets can be accessed within your child’s virtual classroom.

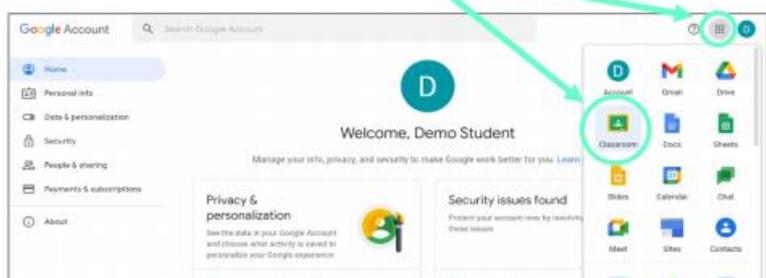
LIVE Drop In Sessions

These are for children in KS2. During these sessions, children have the opportunity to go through any challenging work/questions with their teacher or just share what they have produced.

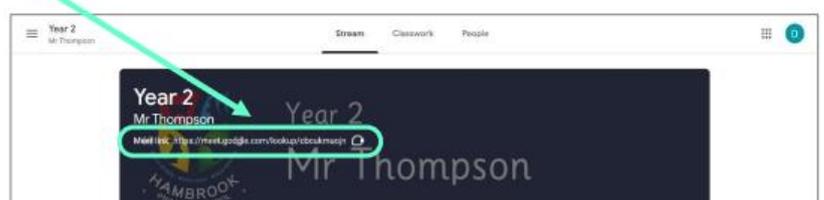
Your child’s teacher will inform you via email of the timings of these sessions. This will also be visible on the Google Classroom page.

How do I access a Meet & Greet or Drop In Session?

Navigate to the Virtual Classroom by selecting the **9 dotted grid** in the top right hand corner of the screen and choosing the Google App – **“Classroom”**



Once in the **Virtual Classroom** you simply need to select **“Meet Link”** and then “Join Now” when it prompts you to join the meet



LIVE Small Group Academic Support

Teachers and Teaching Assistants will timetable small group academic support groups to help your child's academic progress in either KS1 or KS2. These sessions will involve children working with an adult on an activity that has been planned for the day or an activity that supports a child's specific learning needs. Parents do not need to be present during these sessions.

LIVE Social Groups

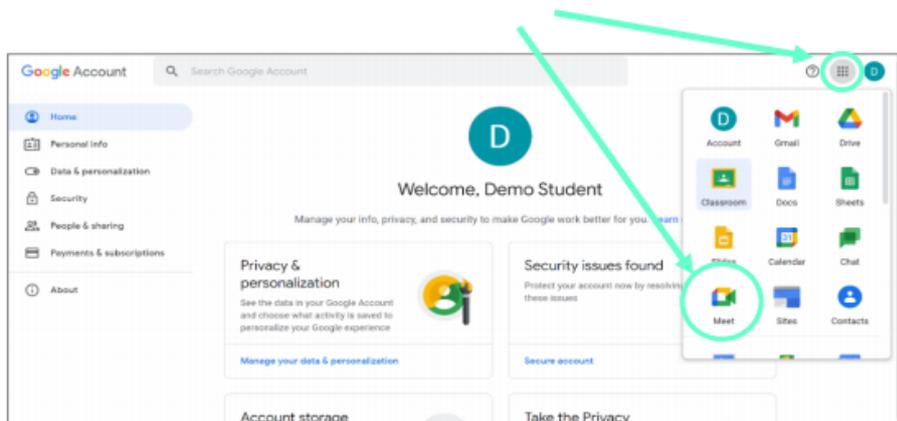
Teachers or TAs will host a LIVE Meet for children to have an opportunity to see their friends socially and chat informally over Meet. This will typically occur weekly.

How do I access a Small Group Academic or Social Group?

If your child is invited to a small group session, either an academic or social group led by your child's class teacher or a teaching assistant, this will be held through the 'Meet' section of your child's Google account.

If your child is invited to a small group support session, it may be more beneficial for your child to access this independently once you have supported setting your child up onto the Google Meet function. The teacher or teaching assistant will be leading the session so this will provide parents with an opportunity to have a well-deserved break from supporting home learning and will also develop your child's independence.

After logging into your child's Google account, please navigate to the "**Meet**" app

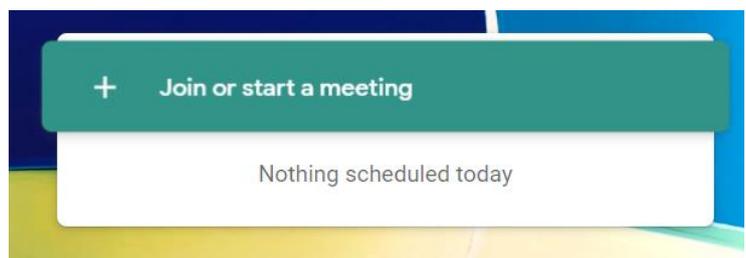


You will need to select the option to enter a code

You will then be prompted for a Meet Code.

Enter the name of the adult you are meeting with in the format:

mrsevans or **mrscox** or **mrsquest**



No Screens Day

Your child's teacher is setting a range of wider curriculum activities through the Google Classroom. However, we have also been discussing as a staff team about how we can find opportunities for your children to be away from the screen and to take part in an activity that can bring the whole school together during this lockdown period. Therefore, on Wednesday we will be having a 'No Screens Day' based around a project for the whole school. Last week was Children's Mental Health Week so we thought the project below may be a great first activity to try next week to promote children's wellbeing.



At this time many children and young people may be feeling more anxious due to the coronavirus lockdown. This project offers space to notice and explore these feelings. The four creative activities encourage children to spot, settle, soothe and share their worries so these feelings do not become overwhelming. By doing this children can be helped to feel calm.

There are 4 activities in this project. Each one offers a different way of supporting children to manage anxiety and worry, described in 'Activity Aim'. Feel free to choose which activities would be most helpful for your child.

There are lots of examples of activities your child can choose from and this link (also found in the PDF attached) takes you to a document for more images, stories, activities and music which can be calming to listen to while your child creates their chosen project. It contains extra ideas alongside the project sheet to help inspire the children's art.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/media/wcpje2az/the-art-room-at-home-calm-additional-resources.pdf>

Please send in photos of work your child would like to share and these will be included in a celebration poster of this project and shared with the school community. Send to office@hambrookprimary.org.uk with the subject 'CALM PROJECT.'



This website '[Children's Mental Health Week](#)' is an excellent resource for further wellbeing ideas and a virtual assembly to go alongside the ideas in the project above.



SAVE the DATE

Safer Internet Day

2021 | Tuesday
9 February

www.saferinternetday.org



Safer Internet Day will be celebrated around the world on Tuesday 9th February 2021. With many children learning remotely at home, this is more important than ever.

Have a look at the tips and links below with some suggestions on how to get started with supporting your child to stay safe and positive online. On Tuesday 9th, teachers will be setting morning work related to Safer Internet Day, so there may be some changes to the usual morning work on the remote learning platform. This is to ensure all children have time to take part in the Safer Internet Day activities.

Mr Noone and Mrs Wong have also put some activities together and an assembly for the children. These will be posted on the online learning platforms (Google Classroom and Tapestry).

Useful Websites for Keeping Children Safe Online

[Think u know](#) – Thinkuknow is the education programme from the NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

[Internet Matters](#) – Helping parents keep their children safe online.

[Parent Info](#) – Help and advice for parents in a digital world.

[NSPCC](#) – Online safety page.

[Childline](#) - Online safety tips.

[Online Safety](#) - Information and online resources for Parents

[Parents and Carers](#) - Fun things to do

[Internet Safety Plan](#)

Online Safety Guides to Read with your Children

[Dos and Don'ts - Online Safety Tips for Children](#)

[Age Appropriate Apps](#)

[Be Kind Online](#)

Get involved in the day

We have films, free resources,
top tips, a quiz, posters and more.

saferinternetday.org.uk

Safer Internet Day 2021

UK Safer Internet Centre

Letter to all the children at Hambrook

Well, where do I start? It has not quite been the start to 2021 that we had all hoped, but you should all feel incredibly proud of yourselves. I cannot describe how impressed I am by all of your amazing work you have been submitting on your online classroom and producing in school. I have also seen some photos of delicious food being sent into our school emails – we have some amazing chefs in the making!

It has been a really busy few weeks for us all, but I am very eager to pop into your Meet & Greet sessions with your teacher when I can. I will let your teacher know when I can join and it would be lovely to hear about what you have been learning about and see lots of smiling faces.

This Wednesday, your teachers will be sharing some activities with you based on 'The Calm Project.' Have a look at some of the ideas in the information I have sent your parents. There are some lovely pictures of artwork. Why don't you choose one and try it at home? It would be fantastic to see some of the work you produce from this project.

Please email in a photo of the fabulous work you want to share and tell me a little bit about what you did. I will include these in a celebration poster of our whole school project to send to all our families. If you have any other work you would like to share, or perhaps a new skill you have learnt, send a picture of this in too.

Remember – you are all doing a super job! Keep up the fantastic effort and keep smiling! 😊

Miss Cholmondeley