

Whytemead Primary School Newsletter



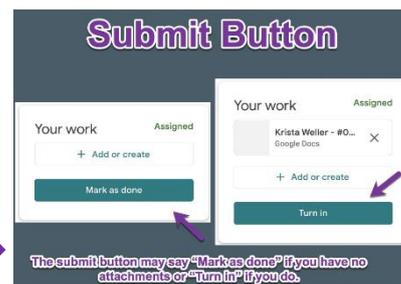
Message from Mr Waddington and Mrs Mavin

Week three is complete and we are now half way through the first half term! Your response on Google Classroom have been increasing as the weeks go on, thank you for your continued engagement with this. It will be very helpful for your child when schools reopen.

Teachers spend a very long time planning work so that it can be completed at home as easily as possible whilst maintaining the challenge necessary in learning. Please, can we ask that you ensure your child 'turns in' the work that they have attempted and that they try, depending on your home circumstances, to do as much as your family can manage.

Teachers are trying to set work online so that can be completed on 'Google Slides, 'Docs' or 'Quizzes'. This work does not need to be completed on separate paper. Children can edit the 'doc' or answer the quiz online. When they have finished, please ensure they 'turn in' the work. That way the teacher can read it and offer feedback.

This graphic may help you when trying to turn in work



We have had some lovely pictures of learning and work from home sent in recently, we would like to celebrate some of it here;



Emily A from year 2 created this amazing jungle scene



George W from Apple class made the Gruffalo!

Screen Free Friday!

We realise that home learning means that children are now 'plugged in' more than ever. Often, their down time also include screen time when they socialise online with friends. In light of this, every Friday from now on during lockdown will be 'Screen Free Friday' for all those children from year 1 to year 6.

Work will be set via Google Classroom, but all the tasks will be completed away from the screen. This will always include reading. The library opposite school is still open for you to collect books if you feel that you may need some new reading material. You can join the library online via this link; <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/join-the-library/>

It will also always include an exercise element, which may involve going for a family walk or getting out of the house; this does not have to be completed on the day set but at a time that is convenient for you.

We hope that you agree that this will be a little relief from the plugged-in element of home learning!

The first 'Screen Free Friday' work will be posted on Google Classroom from next week.

Once again, we would like to thank you, the children, teachers, LSAs, office staff, site staff for your commitment to keeping learning at Whytemead going through these unprecedented times.

As you may have seen on the news, the Government are making Lateral Flow Tests available for all staff in primary schools across the country. The idea behind this is to slow the transmission rate in schools. It means that if a member of staff at Whytemead tests positive, we are likely to need to close their bubble. This could result in more bubbles being closed than before but we feel it is important for us to do our bit in slowing the transmission rate of the virus.

Stay safe, Mr Waddington & Mrs Mavin

During this time, we know that children are spending more time online. We thought this poster of age limits for access to some popular platforms might be useful for you. You will note that every app has a minimum age that is above all primary age children.

It's good to know...



Facebook (minimum age 13) – lets users create their own profiles, share status updates, pictures, videos and chat with other users, and also has a messenger app.



Instagram (minimum age 13) – allows users to alter photos, upload them to Instagram and share them to other social networking sites. Photos and videos can be sent directly to specific users.



Snapchat (minimum age 13) – a photo-sharing app where users can send photos or videos to their friends. These will display on screen for up to ten seconds before being deleted, although it is possible to take screenshots of messages and download other apps designed to capture and save Snapchat content.



TikTok (minimum age 13) - TikTok users can make their own short videos on the mobile app, and often like to have music accompany their videos. The users have creative control over the videos. Other TikTok users can 'react' to videos they see by filming their responses alongside the original video; or 'duet' by making a video alongside another video.



Twitter (minimum age 13) – a social network that lets users send and read 'tweets', messages limited to 280 characters.



Tumblr (minimum age 16) – a social networking site where users can post blogs and follow other people's blogs. Some of the content on this site contains sexual or pornographic images.



WhatsApp (minimum age 16) – free-of-charge, real-time messaging. Users can share images and videos, take part in 'group chats' and share locations. As it's based on knowing the user's phone number, you can only message users if you already know their telephone number.



YouTube (minimum age 13) – allows users to watch, create and comment on videos. The dislike button can create insecurities with content posted even if comments are turned off for the video.

For more useful information regarding these sites and apps including how to add restrictions and safety features check out <https://parentzone.org.uk>

West Sussex County Council have also produced a guide for parents about keeping children safe online. Please follow this link;

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/11085/online-safety-guide.pdf>

FUN CHALLENGE!

Everyone is invited to take part in our fun challenge! We hope you enjoy!
Try to build a tower of cards that is as tall as possible

Please email a photo of your tower to office@whytemead.school

Thank you and good luck!

