

Dear Parents

We have just finished our first full week back at school, or learning from home. I need to say a massive thank you to the children, parents and staff for making what has been a real challenge into a successful start.

We are constantly reviewing what we are doing both with learning in school and at home. The staff have been amazing, with google meets, live lessons, recorded lessons and responding to questions online. They are all learning and adapting day by day and the progress in what they are doing is incredible. What has also helped in this process is feedback from children and parents who are the ones receiving and attempting to do the work. We do listen and have adapted where we can and will continue to do so.

By now, everyone should have collected books and have devices, so that they can access all the work that is set. If you have not, then you must contact the school as soon as possible. Your children cannot afford to miss another half term or more of learning. If you are finding it a challenge, please do not put your 'head in the sand'. Get in touch and we will try and help. We will not judge, and you will not be the only one!!

Early Years, the Nest and years 1 and 2 will all be continuing to set the work on Class Dojo.

Following feedback and reflection, from Monday, years 3, 4, 5 and 6 teachers will be setting the work on www.classroom.google.com

This will mean teachers can set all their work in one go each day and you will not be interrupted with an email every time an aspect of work is uploaded.

The teachers will send a code to you via Dojo and the pupils will need to follow the instructions below.

They will need their login details that they use to access the computers in school. If they do not know their login details, then they must get in touch with their teacher through class dojo. The instructions are;

1. Go to the internet browser
2. Go to www.classroom.google.com
3. Enter your username, which is the same as you use to access the school computers and then add @gilbert-scott.org (don't worry, this looks like an email address, but it isn't!)
4. Enter the password you use to access the computers at school
5. You then need to click on your current class

Please try this before Monday so that you know that it works. Children will be able to upload their work and photos etc as well as still message their teachers. Classes will continue to have Google Meets sessions.

This will be new for staff as well as for the children and so please allow for teething problems. Do please continue to give feedback as it is one of the ways we know things are working or not.

If you or your child is not engaging with the learning, then we will be in touch to initially help but if there is still not any engagement, then we will ask our Education Welfare Officer to get in touch. As I have said already, we want everyone to be safe, we want all our children to be learning and we want to support you in doing this. It is challenging, it is incredibly difficult, but you cannot close your eyes and wait until it ends. We could be back to normal in school after February half term, but equally, we may not be back until after Easter. Please do not wait. Your child cannot afford to wait.

Keep safe, keep smiling.

Paul Thomas
Principal