



Parental guidance for the staggered start to the spring term and online learning - January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware from the national news (4th January), the government has announced a national lockdown. This means that school will be closed for the majority of students until further notice and lessons will be online. The small number of students who have a confirmed place to work in school, will be able to continue to do so.

When students are having online lessons, during their normal timetabled lesson time slots they should log on to Google Classroom and complete the tasks that have been set by their teachers. To support you with this, we have put together the following guide for you.

How can I log on to Google, like I can with Connect, to see what my son/daughter has been set?

Google doesn't support parental log-ins for student accounts in the same way that Connect does. The best way to overcome this is to:

- (a) Ask your child to log in and show what work they have 'to do' and 'completed' on a daily basis.
- (b) Ask your child to share their log in details with you.

Leaders at the school are monitoring those students who are not completing work across a range of subjects and will contact parents/carers with any concerns.

Here's a [video guide to Google Classroom](#) for parents.

Does my child need to log in every lesson?

Yes. Once they have logged into Google using their school email and password, they go to Google Classroom and their classes should all be there. Whatever lesson they have on their normal timetable, they then need to go to that classroom at that time. Their teacher will then be there live setting them work, asking questions and responding to any questions they might have

(if they are fit and healthy). Rather than just simply setting work for students to complete, we are trying to fully embrace the idea of 'distance teaching'.

Why is Durrington sticking to the school timetable?

We feel the best way to keep students learning and engaged with school is by keeping our routines, contact and communication as stable as possible. Our teachers are fully committed to supporting our children through a thorough programme of distance learning so that when we do return to school they are in the best possible position.

Should the work be completed at the end of every lesson?

This is flexible and will be dependent on the work that is set. For some lessons, teachers might expect the work to be completed that lesson, so there wouldn't be a 'due date' as such. If there is a lot of work to be done in the lesson, teachers might set a due date, beyond the lesson to give students some flexibility in terms of completing the work. We would rather they took their time and completed the work to a high standard, rather than rushing the work.

Should students be doing the work in the whole year feed?

No. The only assignments that students need to complete are the ones in their specific class 'classrooms'. The year group 'classrooms' are for teachers to share resources.

Does my child need to submit all pieces of work?

Yes, as this allows teachers to see who is completing the work that has been set. There are two main ways to do this. If questions have been set, they can be copy and pasted into a new Google doc. Your child can then add in their answers and upload the document. Alternatively, they can complete the work on paper, take a photo with their phone and upload it.

Where should my child submit their work?

The best place is via the Classwork tab in Google Classrooms. Here they can upload electronic documents or photos of written work. It is the easiest way for teachers to keep on track with which students have completed work and prevents teachers' inboxes being overwhelmed with student work.

What if my child does not submit the work during the lesson?

If your child is unable to submit the work during the scheduled lesson, please get them to email their class teacher. The email should state when the work will be submitted so the teacher is aware and able to give feedback, if appropriate.

The Loom videos that the teacher has set won't play

Make sure you are using 'Chrome' as your browser. Loom seems to work best on this.

What do I do if we can't download the resources?

Please encourage your child to complete the work in their class book or on a Google Doc, which they can then share with their teacher, by uploading (see question above). If this is not an option, please email the class teacher.

My child needs some guidance, what is the best way for them to ask their teacher?

All questions should be posted on the stream, as this alerts the teacher immediately that someone has posted a question. They should do this 'live' during the lesson wherever possible. If they ask a question on the assignment page, this will not alert the teacher.

How will students get feedback on their work?

As it does in normal lessons, feedback via Google classrooms will take a number of forms, depending on what the teacher thinks is most appropriate for the task.

- Some tasks that are set on Google Forms will be marked automatically and students will get this feedback.
- Some uploaded tasks will be marked individually by the teacher and may be given a score e.g. 10/15, or a comment, or both.
- For some uploaded tasks, the teacher will look at the work of the whole class, identify common errors and give the whole class appropriate feedback.

My child seems to be finishing the assignments set very quickly?

As this is a new way of working, it's going to take all of us, teachers included, a while to work out what is an appropriate work to be setting for a lesson. However, some ways in which you can support with this:

- Encourage your child to slow down and take their time. Some students seem to be trying to race with their friend to finish the work! This is not a good idea.
- If teachers are using Loom videos for their lessons, students can pause the video, whilst they complete the task. They don't have to rush it.
- If they finish the work, they should let their teacher know on the 'stream' as they will be able to set them some further work.
- Reading a book is always a valuable use of their time.

Further Support

If you have any technical issues please email itservices@dmateducation.com or visit <https://itservices.dmateducation/>

If you have any other questions, staff emails are available [here](#). The list below should help you direct your question to the right person:

- Student wellbeing > Company Leaders
- Subject specific questions > Directors & Heads of Department.
- Lesson specific questions > your child's teacher for that subject

Please be aware that teaching staff are teaching on-line lessons so will endeavour to get back to you within 24 hours. Also bear in mind that some staff may be ill at this time and be unable to reply.

Regards

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