

Genesis Trust

Coronavirus & Home Learning

Frequently Asked Questions

1. My login for Google Classroom does not work. How do I fix this?

Almost all of the times that parents called us about this today, the problem was that the Google login was 'remembering' another user's account details. The letter sent on Friday explains how to get Google to 'forget' your adult login so that it accepts your child's new login and does not use your parent login as a default. Call us if this problem persists.

2. Who do I contact if I have any problems with home learning?

We have a dedicated senior member of staff in the office to answer calls about home work. Questions can be mailed through as well to office@st-margarets-barking.org.uk.

Parents should also remember to not email teachers directly, instead using the office email address. The office will then pass the email to the relevant teacher.

3. Do I have to use the lesson plans in the Classroom section of Google Classroom?

The plans that we use in school are quite detailed and the content of them is challenging for the children. They are of course usually delivered by trained teachers. Many of our parents will hopefully feel that they can use the plans to give lessons at home with their children; we have some videos on the way soon to help parents with this. At the same time we totally accept that some other parents will not feel confident enough to use the plans, and so these parents may want to use the large number of tasks and activities that we photocopied and purchased for them. These hard copy activities are not linked to the lesson plans on the Google Classroom, and they do not come with a detailed plan for parents to follow. They will however help the children to practise some key concepts and skills that they should be quite familiar with.

4. Who marks the work that the children complete?

The tasks at the ends of Google Classroom lesson plans are completed in the child's exercise book, the one we gave you. The paper tasks and activities, if they are used, can be completed on the sheets or again the exercise book can be used. The parent 'marks' or gives feedback to the child about how they did.

There is a facility on Google Classroom for work to be uploaded by children and this may be something that we explore at some point in the future.

5. Are the SATs and other statutory assessments going ahead this summer?

No. Y6 and Y2 SATs are cancelled. The Y1 Phonics Screening test and the new Y4 Multiplication Times-Tables assessment are cancelled. The EYFS Foundation Stage Profile assessment is also cancelled. At the end of the academic year in pupil reports we will report to you on what level we believe the children to be working at, but this information will not be collected nationally.

6. I am a Key Worker, but don't need to send my child into school – do I have to?

No. The reduced school we ran today (to just over 40 pupils) was just for those parents who needed the childcare in order that they could undertake urgent work. If there is a 2nd non-Key Worker parent at home or the Key Worker is not working on any given day, then the child should be at home, and not at school.

7. Are Education City and My Maths going to be used for home learning too?

We have not set tasks on these programs yet, but may do in the near future. We will let you know in advance of us doing this. We want to give a diverse offer to parents so that they can choose the approach to home learning that suits them and their family. If EC and MM help to broaden the activities that the children can do and if parents welcome that, then this is something that we can look at in addition to the large number of things we have already offered.

8. Do I have to have a photocopier at home for the lesson plans and tasks on the Classroom section of the Google Classroom?

Having a printer would be a bonus, but no the expectation is that the child would look at the task as it appears on the screen and then write their answers/responses in their exercise book.

9. Can we do other types of educational activities instead of, or as well as, the various activities St Mary's has asked us to do?

Of course. This is a unique opportunity to try out a range of activities in the home learning environment, and so things like cooking, art or music activities, to name just a few, can be used to further stimulate and engage.

10. What are signs and symptoms of the coronavirus/Covid-19?

A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).

A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

11. What are the rules relating to the period of quarantine should you become infected?

If you have symptoms of coronavirus, you'll need to stay at home for 7 days.

If you live with someone who has symptoms, you'll need to stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person in the home started having symptoms.

12. Who are the key workers whose children can remain in school?

Please see link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

13. If a key worker only works 3 days a week, can their children attend school for those 3 days only?

Yes, we are happy to have children attending school on a part-time basis, matched to parents' and carers' work schedules.

14. Will the school be open for the key worker pupils over Easter and what will the children be doing?

Our school will be open over Easter and the children will be taking part in various fun activities. They will not be following the term-time National Curriculum.

15. Where do I find my child's work for the period while they are working at home?

The children have been given all the relevant links, logins and passwords. Please call the school office if you need any assistance. Also see previous letters sent directly to parents on this subject.

16. What do I do if my child is having difficulty with the work?

If you or your child is having any difficulties with the work there will always be a member of teaching staff available at school to answer any queries or questions. You can contact the school by telephone or email.

17. What do I do if I have any questions about any aspect of home schooling?

There will be members of staff available at school throughout the school day, so please contact us if you are concerned or need support.

18. How will we be kept updated and informed by the school when it closes? Will we get any information from class teachers?

The school will remain open for the duration and there will always be a member of staff available to answer questions and queries. In addition, the school website will publish information for parents regularly and keep them informed of any current local or national recommendations or guidance. Newsletters will continue and will update parents whenever changes occur.

19. How can I look after my mental health and wellbeing?

You may experience anxiety about coronavirus or low mood, especially if you are required to self-isolate for long periods of time. There are many things you can do to look after your mental wellbeing including keeping physically active, or connecting with friends and family via phone or online.

There are also numerous mental health support offers available including online. Support and information can be accessed at <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/> You can receive a personalised plan to help you feel more in control and to deal with stress and anxiety. Further information and advice can be accessed at <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

We will regularly update this question and answer section to keep parents informed. Please feel free to contact us with any questions that you have. Please don't feel that you are alone, we are here to help.