



20th April 2020

Dear Kingfisher Parents,

Google Classroom Account for Kingfisher Class

I was talking to a parent last week, who said that the interaction on Facebook and Twitter is fabulous, but his child can't access Facebook independently as she is not 13, so it is not as helpful as it might be for her. He commented that parents busy working from home can't always supervise access to Facebook...

That observation got me thinking. I have been working on refreshing our use of Google Classroom, with our Trust IT Manager Mr Gibbs, as a way in which Kingfisher children can interact in a safe, closed environment (independently of their parents). We are delighted that so many of you parents are interacting with us all on Facebook - but we want this sense of community to be there for the children too. Hence the use of Google Classroom from home on a trial basis.

We would like Google Classroom primarily to be for Kingfisher Class children to view updates and/or photos of their Science Week projects or Art Week creations and any other home learning. They will be able to admire each other's work and ask questions of their peers. There will be no need to upload things more than once (unless you want to) - the Dunsford team can copy pictures you post on Facebook into the Classroom app (and vice versa), so all audiences can enjoy and celebrate the children's fantastic achievements.

Your child needs to:

1. Log in using their school email address (the one they use to log on to the chromebooks)
2. Click on the Google apps icon (top right of screen) and choose 'Classroom'
3. Enjoy!

NB do please contact us via dunsford@lapsw.org if your child can't remember their email login.

To reassure you...

Our Google classroom group is closed to just the Dunsford pupils and the Dunsford staff. As parents, you can look in under your children's logins. Kingfisher Class children have had some experience of using Google Classroom last term.

There is a 'stream' in Google Classroom, where the children can chat and communicate with each other. Every comment posted can be seen by all of the other children and by Dunsford staff. We ask and expect that all comments are positive and uplifting. Please remind the children that staff can even read comments which are subsequently deleted! The children need to be responsible and respectful - proud of every interaction they make. There are safeguards: children can be 'muted' if necessary, so they are no longer able to comment - their posts can also be deleted by Dunsford staff. We do not expect it would ever come to this, though!

As all images posted may be shared, either within our community or more widely - eg on Facebook - we ask that you discuss this with your child at the outset and set some ground rules which you are happy with. For example,



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you may be happy for the children's work to be posted, but not their faces. Each family will be different. Please let us know (by emailing dunsford@lapsw.org) if you have any strong views we need to be aware of.

Dunsford staff will take it in turns from now on during school hours, to oversee the Google Classroom accounts, to read every message and to respond positively to each post. Their interactions might well not be immediate - someone will check every morning and every afternoon. They will also add photos from Facebook to Google Classroom, so all children can safely enjoy all of the learning and feel connected to their friends. They will be able to add Google Classroom images to Facebook too (we know that some of you do not have Facebook accounts, so are not able to interact in this way - we can do this for you).

NB this is a safe way for the children to interact - this is not a way for adults to communicate with us. Please continue to email at dunsford@lapsw.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Alpey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Ruth Alpey
Head of Academy