

**Headteacher: Mr D Childs**

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

We now find ourselves half way through what has been a very unique term for us all. There continues to be a great sense of togetherness throughout our school community as we all continue to try and support each other through the bumpy road ahead. Throughout the next few weeks, we know how important it will be to continue to support children's mental health as well as continue to support our wider community.

### **Covid-19 Update**

Next week, the national programme for primary testing will begin. Staff are provided with Covid-19 home test kits and these will be administered twice a week, with results returned within 30 minutes. The aim of this is to try and identify any school staff that could be carrying the virus, whilst being asymptomatic, thus helping to prevent the spread of the infection. Throughout the global pandemic, we have put in place a vigorous risk assessment to help keep our community as safe as possible. This testing will add another tool to our existing risk assessment and allow us to take swift action should any member of staff return a positive test.

### **The Ryarsh Spirit**

Over the next few weeks, we know how important it will be to help keep children's engagement levels as high as possible. We also know how crucial it is to keep our children happy and connected. The power of a smile or laughter cannot be underestimated.

In order to achieve this, we have recently created a calendar of events for the rest of the term, designed to help children stay engaged and enthused with their learning. We are very excited to tell you all about our first two events next week:

1. Burns Night – On the afternoon of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, we will be providing the children with different learning opportunities about Burns Night. These opportunities will be provided for all children across the school. We hope that they enjoy learning all about this Scottish celebration.
2. Screen Free Friday – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January will be screen free Friday. During this day, we will provide the children with the opportunity to step away from the screens and undertake different types of learning opportunities that do not require a screen. We hope that this will provide the opportunity to support all of our children's mental health and well-being.

## #RyarshChallenge

The #RyarshChallenge will also be making a come back! Last summer, we provided the children with some challenges to complete that were all about making them smile and laugh. Every week, we will be setting the children a challenge to complete. Some weeks, it may be more creative and on other weeks, it may just be very silly! It is completely optional so please feel free to complete (or not) at your discretion.

This week, we have an 'egg'cellent opportunity for you. With a partner, how far can you throw a raw egg without it breaking.

We would love to see your attempts at this challenge so please feel free to upload any images or videos to either the Google classroom page or to our Twitter account: @RyarshPrimary. I'll be having a go at this myself over the weekend and suspect that it will get rather messy!

## Ryarsh Celebrities

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, we are very excited that one of our Ryarsh families will be appearing on a TV show. Lottie (Y3) and Nancie (Y1) will be on Monster Court on CBBC at the usual time of 8:50am. I am very much looking forward to tuning in and I am sure that many of our families will enjoy watching too.

## Remote Learning

Engagement with remote learning continues to be really high and it has been wonderful to see so many children use our teaching videos to help support their learning.

During 'live' sessions, we generally expect the children to be on mute with the video function also off. This is to make sure that the children can maintain a high level of focus and concentration on the teacher's explanation and it also provides an additional safety measure in terms of safeguarding. There will be occasions where children may be asked to unmute themselves or to have their video on and this will always be directed by the class teacher.

Also, please remember that we may be unable to admit anyone to the room that we cannot identify. During my assembly last Friday, I was not able to admit a small number of people as I could not identify who they were. This will also be the case with zoom lessons so it is important that you or your child can be identified when they enter the waiting room. We will need to see the full name of either the parent or child to admit them into the room.

## Extended Schools

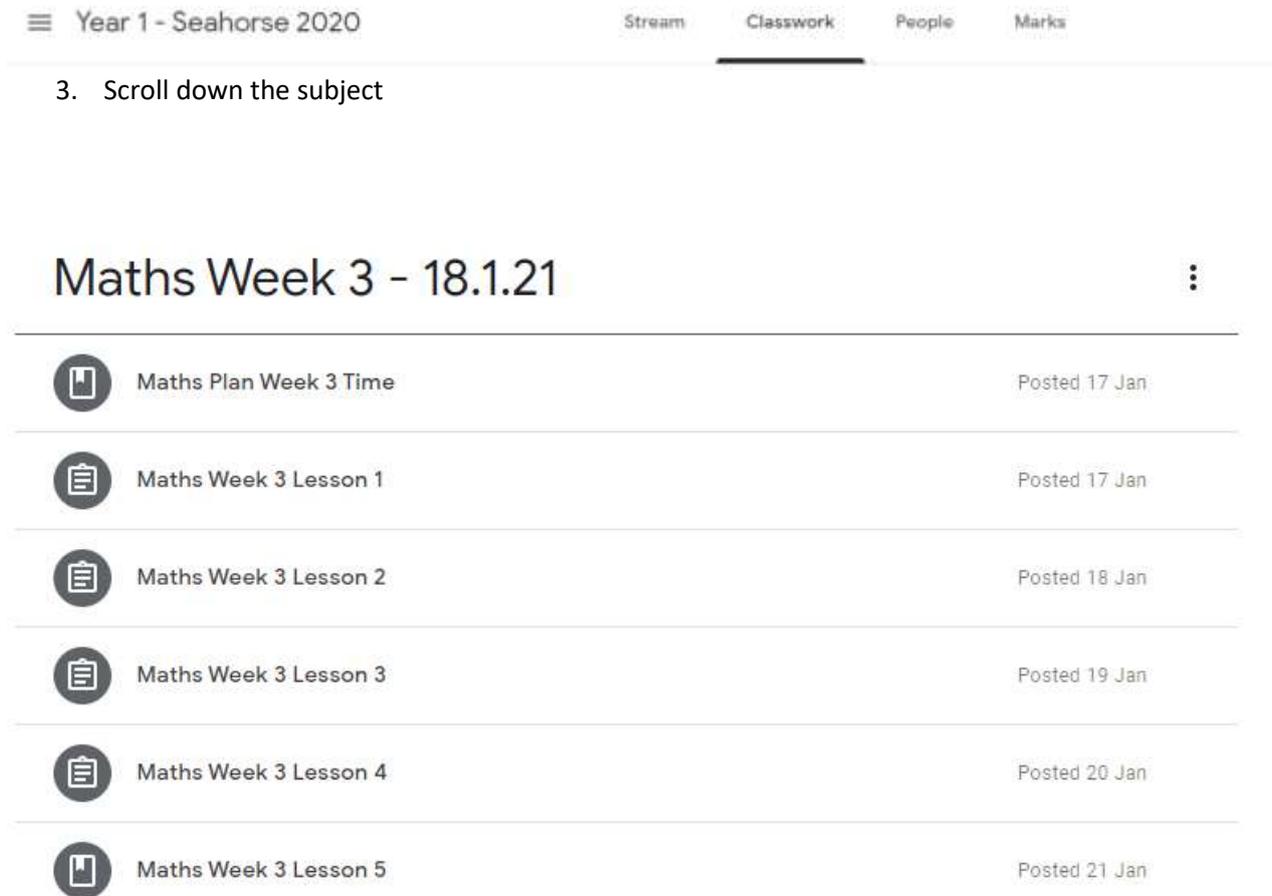
Despite the current period of lockdown, we are still running our extended school provision. Currently, there are a few sessions where we have no children booked in. In these instances, we will not run the sessions. Please make sure that your child is booked in by 7am for the same day breakfast session or by 2:30pm for the same day afternoon session. If we have no bookings by these times, the session will be closed.

## Google Classroom

Once again, I want to thank all of the parents for their ongoing feedback. We hold a staff review meeting every Thursday and discuss all the feedback provided to us. It really helps us reflect on our current provision and identify ways to enhance it.

Next week, we are going to be utilising google assignments a great deal more across the school. In all year groups, the work for the children to complete (in reading, writing and maths) will be set as an assignment for the children to complete. For some of you, this will be your first time in using the google assignment function so I have put together the following guidance:

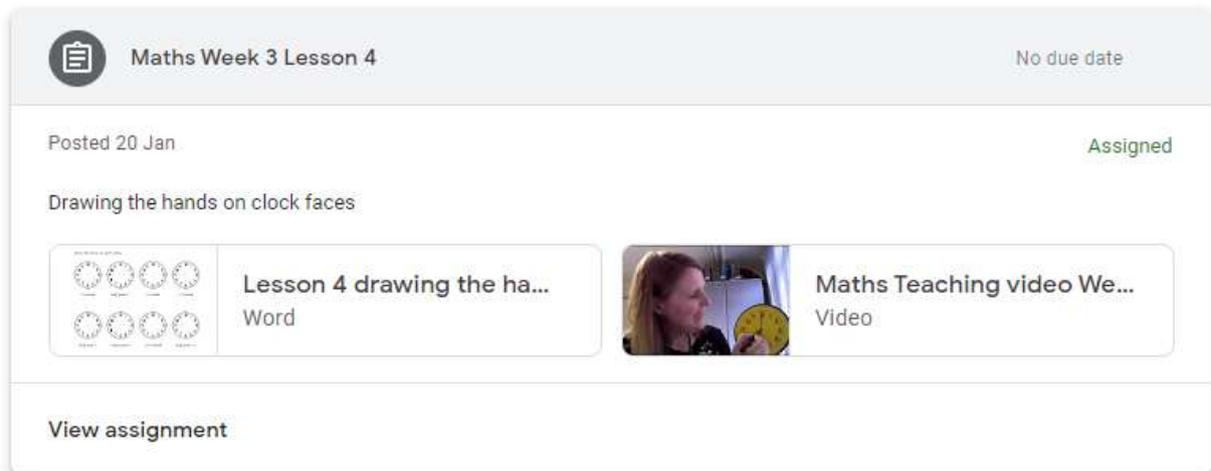
1. Log into your google classroom page as usual
2. Click on 'classwork' along the top of the page



The screenshot shows the Google Classroom interface for 'Year 1 - Seahorse 2020'. The 'Classwork' tab is selected. The subject is 'Maths Week 3 - 18.1.21'. A list of assignments is shown:

Assignment	Posted
Maths Plan Week 3 Time	Posted 17 Jan
Maths Week 3 Lesson 1	Posted 17 Jan
Maths Week 3 Lesson 2	Posted 18 Jan
Maths Week 3 Lesson 3	Posted 19 Jan
Maths Week 3 Lesson 4	Posted 20 Jan
Maths Week 3 Lesson 5	Posted 21 Jan

4. Click on the lesson that you are completing to see all of the resources for the lesson (I will use lesson 4 from the above picture)



**Maths Week 3 Lesson 4** No due date

Posted 20 Jan Assigned

Drawing the hands on clock faces



**Lesson 4 drawing the ha...**  
Word



**Maths Teaching video We...**  
Video

[View assignment](#)

5. Click on 'view assignment'



**Maths Week 3 Lesson 4** ⋮

Amanda Harris • 20 Jan

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Drawing the hands on clock faces



**Lesson 4 drawing the hands ...**  
Word



**Maths Teaching video Week ...**  
Video

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Class comments



▶

**Your work** Assigned

+ Add or create

Mark as Done

---

Private comments



▶

6. Here, you can click on 'add or create' to upload your child's completed work as either an image or video or any other format you would like to use. Once you have done this, you will need to click on 'mark as done'. You can also use this section to add any private comments that can only be seen by the classroom staff.

By using the google assignment function, we can track the work that is being completed and submitted. From next week, we will be using a tracking system to monitor the work that is being completed and submitted to allow us to support any families that we do not hear from over the course of the day. We understand that there may be instances when you need to email the work to the class teacher. Generally, we would prefer work to be submitted using the assignment function as it allows us to use one place to track engagement and provide feedback to each child. Our email

accounts are very close to being full and we want to avoid a situation where you are unable to email the class teachers as their inboxes are full of images of videos of the children's work. By using the Google classroom page rather than emails to submit children's learning, we can avoid this happening.

In order to receive feedback from the class teacher, children's learning should be sent to us by the end of the calendar week. As long as work is received by the end of Sunday for the prior week, teachers will aim to respond. If the work is not submitted by this time, there will be no expectation of teachers to respond to the learning submitted, although it will be added to our tracking system. We understand that many schools are expecting work to be sent in on the same day but we think it is important to provide our families with more flexibility with this. This would mean that work completed for this week will need to be submitted by the end of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January in order to receive feedback from the class teacher.

We know that there are occasions when you may want to use the class stream to interact with others in the class and we will still continue to do this. We think it's important to still use the stream so our children can stay connected with each other.

Have the best weekend possible,

Daniel Childs and the team at Ryarsh Primary School