Google Classroom

You may have heard of G Suite, which includes apps such as Google Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms, Drive, and more. At Ousedale we have access to a free version called G Suite for Education, which includes Google Classroom, and helps your children communicate and collaborate at school or home on any device, all within a secure environment. G Suite is used by over 120 million students and teachers around the world. These tools allow students and teachers to collaborate in real-time to create documents, presentations, surveys, spreadsheets and even websites. All tools are free, ad-free, reliable and secure. G Suite also has built-in accessibility features to support students with diverse needs and learning styles, which helps create more inclusive classrooms. We have been using these tools for a number of years but since the start of lockdown its use has expanded massively and it has become a key tool for us.

How are we using G Suite?

The school provides a managed Google account for students and teachers to use for educational purposes, and enables additional services beyond G Suite for Education's core offerings. Here are some of the most commonly used G Suite tools in the classroom, and how your children are using them.

Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms

Students can create documents, spreadsheets and presentations, and collaborate with their peers and teachers in real-time, allowing them to share their work, get feedback, and make edits instantaneously. Teachers create Quizzes in Google Forms so your child can demonstrate their knowledge, we also use them to collect information in surveys.

Drive

Drive is file storage in the cloud. Students can store and organize assignments, documents, or class curricula securely, and access them from any device. This means that all of your child's important information and student work is saved automatically and won't get lost.

Accessibility Features

Accessibility features are built into G Suite for Education, and help your child learn in a way that works for them. They can use voice typing, or a screen-reader, or use closed captions in Google Slides or Meet for extra support.

Google Meet

Meet is Google's video conferencing App. Users do not need any special software to access a meet just an internet enabled device. Since the start of lockdown we have run 2,300 meet sessions with an average duration of 53 mins.

How we use Google Classroom

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is the App that brings all this together for us. With Classroom, teachers can distribute and collect assignments, give personalized feedback and marks, and see students' work in one place. We use Classroom to make teaching more productive and meaningful by streamlining assignments, boosting collaboration, and fostering communication.

Assign Homework

Teachers can create assignments and add in all the necessary documents for students to work on. Students receive an email notification when there is a new assignment and are able to turn the assignment in on Classroom. Classroom sends a notification out to students once the homework is marked, so students can review marks and feedback. Since September we have been using Google Classroom to set all homework for students and so far have created 5,600 assignments.

Share all relevant classroom materials

Within Classroom, teachers can share learning resources, reading materials, videos, links, and handouts. This allows students to refer to them at any time, or collaborate with their classmates on learning.

Class Announcements

Teachers can send announcements to the whole class, which students receive via email. So far this year teachers have made 10,500 announcements using this system. Students can also see these announcements, and their assignment, when they log in to Classroom, through a web browser or Classroom's mobile app, available on iOS and Android.

Collaborate one-on-one or with the entire class

Students can message their teachers directly with questions and/or comments on assignments and announcements. Students can also collaborate with each other for team assignments by working on shared projects in Docs, Sheets, and Slides.

Keeping parents and guardians informed

Parents and guardians can opt in to get an email summary of their children's work in Classroom. The summaries include information about missing work, upcoming assignments, class activities and projects. The summaries do not show feedback or marks awarded. So far 1,300 parents have accepted invites to receive Guardian summaries for 1,120 students (just over half the student population) If you aren't getting these emails today but would like to, please contact Martin Molloy.

To request an invite for Guardian summaries, please contact Martin Molloy:
Martin.Molloy@ousedale.org.uk