

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well during this slightly soggy week!
Fingers crossed we see some sun over the weekend.

As you will recall from my previous letter, I said that we were looking at ways to connect further with children as time apart continues. And so as another week ends, I wanted to start with a thank you and a follow up to that.

First I want to thank all of the Year 6 children who helped me test the Google Meet software earlier this week. At one point, we had 22 people in the meeting, which was lovely, albeit slightly raucous!

Because of the success, it is something that we are now planning to roll out to other year groups. By using Google Meet, it will enable children to see their friends, class teacher and keep in touch - a focus that a number of children and parents have said that they are finding most difficult at this time.

The Currently scheduled meets for the next week will be at the following times:

Year 2 Today at 11:30

Year 1 Monday at 1pm

Year 5 Tuesday 11 am

Year 3 Tuesday 1:30pm

Year 4 Wednesday 2pm

Year 6 Thursday 10:30

My apologies for the Foundation class, who are not on the list for now. I am working on a solution so that they can be included in the future.

Children will be able to access the meetings through their Google Classroom. There will be a link to click on which should take them to the meeting (if all goes well).

If there are any changes, then children will be alerted through the Google Classroom.

Now, a word of caution. It took two attempts to unpick some of the challenges with Year 6. So please be patient if it does not go exactly as planned the first time.

There are some things that you can do to help in advance:

- If you are on an ipad - download the Google Meet app.
- If you are on a laptop or desktop - ensure that your web browser is up to date.
- If you are on a chrome book - the link should work well.
- If you are on an android device - you may need to download Google Meet from the play store.
- Amazon devices may struggle to connect.

If any additional issues crop up then please do let us know and we will try to find solutions to help.

In other news, I know that many families are doing a lot of baking and cooking together, the [following link](#) might be of interest to you.

Also, during these challenging times, it can be hard to find someone to talk to and to get advice. Oxfordshire NHS has asked schools to share information about [their helpline](#). It operates 24 hours a day and offers free advice to both adults and children.

Finally, many of you may be familiar with the work of Axel Scheffler, an award-winning illustrator who has illustrated many of our most beloved books such as The Gruffalo. He has teamed up with Nosy Crow to create a coronavirus information book for primary age children. It is free of charge and can be downloaded [here](#).

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Warm regards,

Bryn Gibson