

Thursday 29th June 2023

Whole School Launch of ClassDojo



Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to ask for your support with a change of homework platform. Currently, we use Seesaw as the learning platform for homework activities, as well for some messages and announcements for the class. As you know, we also use Parent Pay for general school communications and letters. On top of this, parents also have the option of emailing classes with any queries. I would like to streamline these various methods of communication through the use of the ClassDojo app.

ClassDojo is a highly credible and well-established global school communication app that has been used at Whitby Heath several years ago. Over the last 2 months, Y1 Ash Class have been sending out homework via ClassDojo rather than Seesaw as part of a trial before a whole school launch. Children have uploaded their completed homework into their personal portfolio, in much the same way as Seesaw. This trial has been very successful, and I would like to thank the Y1 Ash class parents for their support with this.

From Friday 7th July all classes will be sending out homework via ClassDojo, with the exception of Y6. We are not including Y6 in this change as they only have a few weeks left with us. From this date we will also be using ClassDojo to send out all school notices, letters, newsletters, photos from class events, etc.

We will also be sending out your child's end of year report as a private message to you on ClassDojo.

In future when you have a query or concern, instead of emailing the school office or the class teacher, you will now be able to reach us by private message on ClassDojo. Please bear in mind that staff are encouraged not be accessing the app out of school hours in order to protect their work-life balance.

Here are a few reasons why we are moving to ClassDojo:

- ClassDojo is a well-established learning and communication platform for schools, known throughout the world and one that has worked very effectively for schools I have worked in before.
- Our current platform is very expensive whereas ClassDojo is free to schools and therefore we can use those funds on other resources for our children.
- All future whole school communications and class announcements will all be through the one app – ClassDojo. Parents will no longer need to email teachers or the school office as they would send private messages to the relevant staff through ClassDojo.
- In the future, we will be able to link this app to our positive behaviour system, meaning you will receive notifications when your child is awarded points for their

attitude, behaviour, manners, teamwork, etc – giving you a greater insight into your child's day.

- Parents reporting a child's absence will still be asked to contact the school by phone, but there will also be the option of sending a private message to the school admin team on ClassDojo rather than sending an email.
- We have decided too launch the app now so that parents are already set up and used the app before the school year starts in September - any issues that emerge during the changeover can also be addressed before that time.

Therefore, from Friday 7th July, school will no longer be using Seesaw. Parent Pay will only be used for payments to school. (*Y6 will continue to receive school letters through Parent Pay for their last few weeks*).

Teachers will later be sending out messages to each of you with details of how you can sign up to the ClassDojo app and link up with your child's account and their class. If you have more than one child at the school, you will be able to link them both to the same account.

Whenever we make changes there is always an adjustment period as we and you get used to the new platform. I thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this time.

Best wishes,



Stuart Wright
Headteacher



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Silver Award
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