

The Willows Primary School
Victoria Road, Timperley
Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 6PP

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Headteacher: Mrs Kirsten S Warren BEd Hons MA



14th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As Mrs Warren said in her recent letter to you all, I have been exploring ways of allowing us to communicate more with the children so we can hear about what they are getting up to at home and view any learning they'd like us to see.

Today (Tuesday 14th April) we have started posting activities again on the Class Pages of the school website for the children to complete at home. We will continue to share the learning we would like children to do at home in the same format. We have heard some children have nearly completed their 'Home Learning' books. If your child/ren need a new book we will place boxes labelled KS1 and KS2 at the school gates for you to come and collect one.

However, in addition to this, we will be using an App called **Seesaw** – an online learning journal. This will allow the children to share what they have done with the class teacher and get feedback. We hope this will help motivate the children to continue to learn, whilst also making the work more purposeful. Seesaw is also available online (<https://web.seesaw.me/>) as well as through the App, although the App is far more convenient to use.

In Nursery and Reception, the children will continue to do the same using Tapestry and therefore do not need to download Seesaw.

What to do next

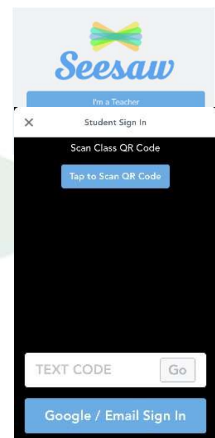
Children in Years 1 to 6 need to download the Seesaw App. PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE **SEESAW CLASS** APP **NOT** THE PARENT FAMILY APP.

When you go to use the App (or visit the website), you will select **I'm a Student**

You will then be presented with different ways of signing in. You are going to sign in using the **TEXT CODE** option.

In order to get your TEXT CODE, I have set up an email account: seesawwillows@gmail.com (please note there are two w's in the middle!)

You need to send an email to that address with the subject **TEXT CODE** simply stating your **CHILD(REN)'S FIRST AND SURNAME AND YEAR GROUP**. I will then reply with the TEXT CODES for your children. You will need to use this code every time your child logs in to Seesaw. Please only send names and year groups. There is no need to include any other information in the email. I would like to be able to locate names and year groups as easily as possible as there will be lots of emails to respond to!



Growing together, learning together 

Pupils thoroughly enjoy school and describe it as 'awesome'... The behaviour of pupils is outstanding... There is a high degree of consistency in the quality of teaching that results in all groups of pupils making good progress and achieving well over time. **OFSTED October 2014**

Once you've received your code, you will be able to login and start using the journal!

Mr P (a teacher who works with schools to embed technology to transform learning) has made a helpful video which explains how to download the app and how to add content to your journal. Some of the information is specific to his school but it's certainly helpful when it explains how to add content for the teachers to see.

<https://youtu.be/W9FyB1SCbeM>

What can you expect?

Any work that your child posts can only be seen and commented on by their teachers. Pupils cannot see or comment on each other's uploads.

Unfortunately, if you have more than one child, there isn't a way of adding them all to one account so you will need to logout of one child and login in again for the next child.

Staff will comment on posts once in a 24 hour period, when it is convenient to them. This might be one comment that covers all the posts your child has made or each individual post might receive feedback.

We will not be 'marking work' through the App but will provide feedback regarding our thoughts and opinions on what your child has uploaded.

By sending the email and signing up to seesaw, you are agreeing to the terms set out at the end of this letter.

We will be using Seesaw for children to post what they have been learning at home and for teachers to leave feedback to both support and encourage the children. This is not a method of communication for parents to contact the class teacher. If you do need to contact the school, please continue to do so by email willows.admin@trafford.gov.uk.

Please help your children to stay safe online <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Finally, please be patient with us! Something like this would normally be set up at school through staff meetings and demonstrations for the children etc... All the teachers have spent time over the Easter break getting to grips with the App, which means we are ahead of ourselves and can therefore email you today. Should you have any problems getting set up, please email seesawwillows@gmail.com email with the subject **TROUBLE SHOOTING** and I will do what I can to get you up and running!

Please continue to look after yourselves and your families, and stay safe at home.

We look forward to hearing from the children soon!

Best wishes

Mr D Byrne

Deputy Headteacher

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By sending the email and signing up to Seesaw, you are agreeing to the following terms:

- I agree to my child having an online learning journal through Seesaw.
- I agree to keep the login details safe/secure and not to share these with others. If I experience any difficulties accessing my child's learning journey I will email seesawwillows@gmail.com.
- I give permission to The Willows Primary School to send me text codes using the email address I supply.

If successful we may still use this platform when we return to school. Teachers may post their own observations, therefore the following will become more relevant:

- I agree that photographs/video's containing my child can appear in other children's learning journeys. This happens when children are in a group photograph, photographed/recorded working with other children or in the background of other children's photographs/videos (at present, this is likely to be siblings).
- As a parent I agree I will **Not** publish any of my child's observations, photographs or videos on any social media site or in any other form.

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