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School Website : [www.neroche.somerset.sch.uk](http://www.neroche.somerset.sch.uk)

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Dear parents,

We were contacted by a few of you yesterday about your limited access to the internet, due to limited technology resources.

We have found out that if you have an Xbox or PlayStation console linked to your TV, then you are able to access Google Classroom using the web browser.

Please follow the steps below:

Classroom can be opened on Xbox and Playstation.

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Once the browser has been opened:

Type in [classroom.google.com](http://classroom.google.com) in the URL bar.

A prompt for a Google account will appear.

Type in your school district email and password – it doesn't end in [google.com](http://google.com) and that is ok!

The Classroom home screen will open up.

We have tried this ourselves and it does work. You can even plug a keyboard into your games console to access.

We are hoping this provides you with a potential additional device if you have this type of technology in your household. In addition, if you have a Smart TV then you can also access a web browser to log in to Google Classroom.

We empathise with the difficult situation some of you are in regarding available device, however, we are not currently in a position to loan devices as they are currently in use on site.

As you will be aware, the government have announced that they are providing additional technology devices for school to distribute to their most disadvantaged pupils. Currently, we have not been awarded any additional laptop allocation, but we do have the opportunity to apply on a family's behalf if you feel you meet the following criteria on the next page.

Schools will be able to order an allocation of devices for:

- disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 who do not have access to a device and whose face-to-face education is disrupted

*Therefore, this means that any disadvantaged child (in receipt of Pupil Premium) that is not onsite and in years 3/4/5/6, and does not have any access to any device (e.g. Smart TV, games console, laptop, tablet or PC). We can submit an application on your behalf. Please note the phrase “access to”, as this does not mean “exclusive use of” the device. Also, in making an application on your behalf please remember that the decision making process is out of our control, and is approved or denied by the DfE. The application process takes into account a number of factors including Free School Meal data.*

Parents, carers and pupils cannot apply for digital devices or internet access through this scheme themselves. They should contact their school to discuss requirements for accessing remote education.

Examples of this include disadvantaged children:

- with no digital devices in their household
- whose only available device is a smartphone
- with a single device in their household that's being shared with more than one other family member

We have also found out that the DfE is working in partnership with mobile network operators to help schools support disadvantaged pupils in years 3 to 11 who rely on a mobile internet connection when their face-to-face education is disrupted by coronavirus (COVID-19).

Disadvantaged families may be able to benefit from free increases to their mobile data if they're a customer of either:

EE  
Three  
Sky Mobile  
SMARTY  
Tesco Mobile  
Virgin Mobile

Schools, trusts and local authorities can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile

Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage.

*Therefore, again, this is subject to a successful application that we can make on your behalf.*

If you think you meet the criteria for either an additional device request or an additional data request, please contact the school mailbox.

Please remember that applications for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals can be submitted at any time. So if your situation has changed at all, and you think you might be eligible, please consider applying using the form attached with this letter.

Thank you for everything you are doing to support your child's learning at this difficult time. We will, of course, be continually reviewing our remote learning offer in line with Government guidance. We have appreciated your positive feedback so far and thank you in advance for your patience.



Alison Collins

Headteacher