



## **REMOTE LEARNING**

**A guide for parents and  
children, to support accessing  
remote learning.**

**(Updated September 2021)**

## **Introduction**

As we now enter a completely different period regarding Remote Learning, we have been further refining our provision in the event that children are required to learn at home. Unlike previously, where the majority of the school was at home or we had entire classes (bubbles) isolating, we are now moving into a period where it is more likely we will have individual children having to isolate as a result of positive LFT and/or PCR (Phase 2 on our model below).

To reflect this, we have updated our Remote Learning Policy, amended our criteria for how we would support children (& parents) isolating at home, and have now updated this guide, aimed at helping both parents and children to access remote learning effectively.

We have our main platform for offering access to remote learning – this is now Microsoft TEAMS (previously the school website) - which we will use, alongside additional online learning platforms such as Purple Mash and TT Rockstars, all of which your children will already be familiar with (shared in school). This booklet is intended to provide you with all the information you may need to both understand remote learning and to support your child with everything from getting started, logging in, accessing Microsoft Teams and Purple Mash tools, contacting staff, submitting work and many other aspects to get you started.

In order to safeguard both children and staff we ask, at this time, that children/parents only contact staff via their Purple Mash email (children have access) and/or by requesting a call-back via the school office. Messages can be posted on the Microsoft Teams ‘class page’, but these are public and can be read by anyone in the class, whereas Purple Mash email is direct.

Please also remember that whilst engaging with these platforms the expectations of children are the same as in school and that the Home – School Agreement and Online Safety Acceptable Usage Policies are upheld.

For any further ICT queries regarding any of our remote learning provision or use of online platforms, in the first instance please consult the class teacher or, if further assistance is required, please contact Mr Bass, Computing Lead, using one of the above methods.

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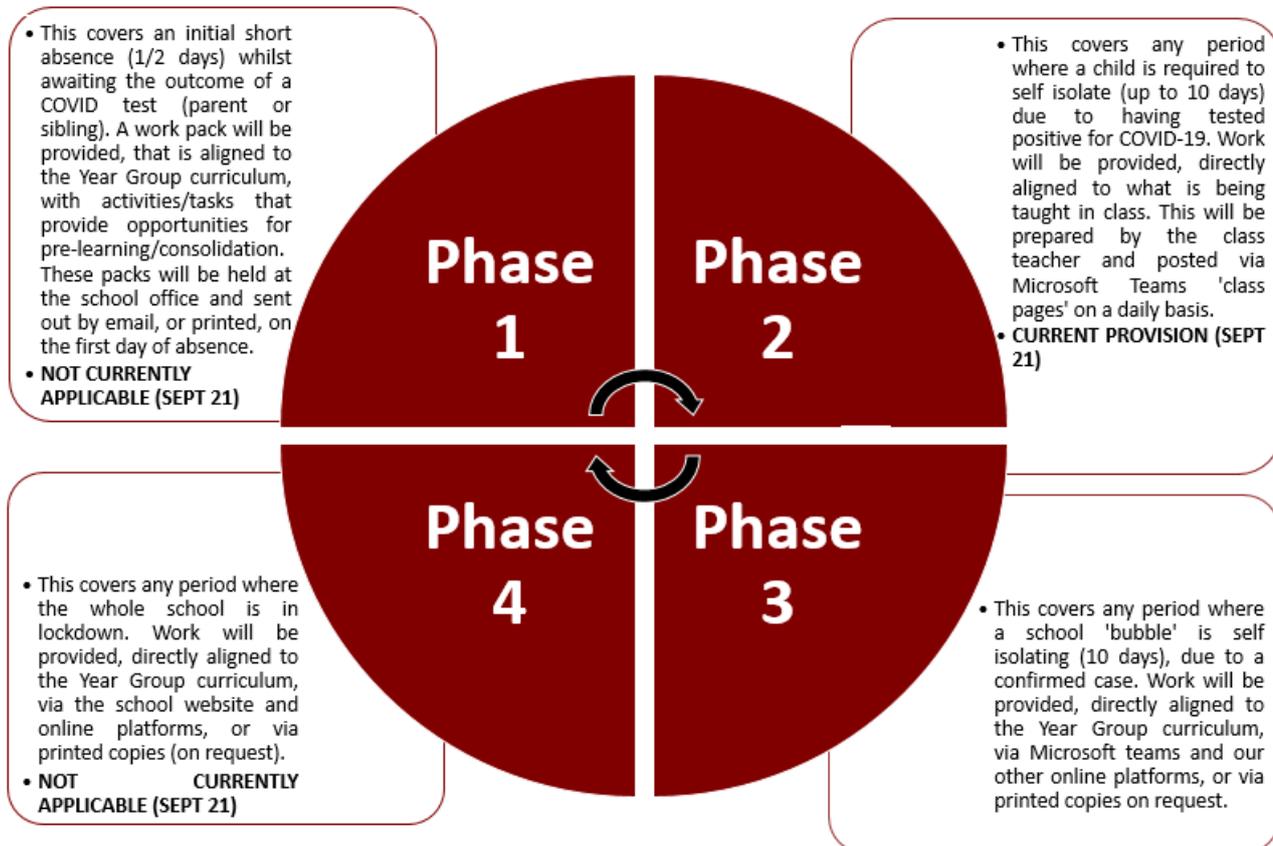
## Our Remote Learning offer

Our provision consists of a 4 Phase approach (see diagram below).



**George Fentham Endowed School**

### **Remote Learning 4 Phase Provision**



### **Phase 1 - This is no longer applicable under current Government guidelines.**

~~This covers any short absence from school whilst awaiting the results of a COVID test. In most cases, any absence will likely only be a few days, so a pack of prepared work (aligned to the Year Group curriculum) will be emailed home (or a hard copy can be collected/sent) so that the child can continue their learning journey.~~

### **Phase 2 – Current Provision**

This covers any situation in which a child is self-isolating due to having testing positive, testing positive for COVID-19 (up to 10 days). In this situation, the class teacher would prepare work directly aligned to what is being taught in school, which would then be published, via Microsoft Teams or in hard copy form. This work would then be expected to be submitted back via Microsoft Teams or Purple Mash (or bought back into school upon the child's return if they took a hard copy).

### **Phase 3**

This covers an entire 'bubble' (class) having to self-isolate. In this situation, children would complete work set by the class teacher, that is directly aligned to the Year Group curriculum. The teacher would be available, between 9am and 3pm weekdays, to offer direct support to children/parents via Microsoft Teams, Purple Mash email and/or via the school office (request a call-back) and feedback on submitted work.

At this point, we would also look to utilise Microsoft Teams, with the class teacher providing an 'orientation' meeting online, on Day 2 of any isolation, giving the opportunity for them to check how everyone is, to determine any issues, to outline the day's/week's work and to explain expectations. The class teacher would also use this time to explain about how children should submit their work and how they will receive feedback. We would then look to have further Teams meetings during the course of any isolation period to support children's academic & mental well-being. At all other times, staff will be available to contact via Purple Mash email, the class Discussion boards and/or telephone (email to the school office to arrange a call-back).

Phase 4 covers a scenario whereby there is a further local/national lockdown that requires schools to fully close. In this situation, all children would receive remote learning provision directly via Microsoft Teams and our other online platforms – Purple Mash and TT Rockstars. All work set would be directly aligned to the Year group curriculum. The teacher would be available, between 9am and 3pm weekdays, to offer direct support to children/parents via Purple Mash email, the website Discussion Boards and/or via the school office (request a call-back) and feedback on submitted work. The use of Microsoft Teams will be utilised as outlined in Phase 3 provision.

Whilst our remote learning provision uses a wide range of online platforms, we are always conscious that not all of our children/families readily have access to the technology, printer facilities or personal expertise to use this format. Therefore, in not wanting to disadvantage any of our children that cannot easily access the online materials, we can also, upon request, provide access to a school laptop and/or the content in the form of a printed hard copy, available from the school office.

## **My Log-in details**

The online platforms that we utilise to support our remote learning provision require the children to use their unique username and password. We recognise that children often forget these details, especially the younger ones, and therefore suggest that once you receive your child's log-in details (the class teacher will have provided you with these) you store them safely or record them below.

Microsoft Teams - Username: 73\_\_\_\_\_@george-fentham.solihull.sch.uk

Password:

Purple Mash - Username:

Password:

TT Rockstars - Username:

Password:

Charanga/YUMU - Username:

Password:

## **Expectations of Behaviour on Online Learning Platforms**

We would like to remind you about the ICT Pupil/Parent Acceptable Usage Agreements (AUP) which children/parents signed when joining George Fentham. Children are expected to follow these whilst using any of the Online Learning Platforms provided by the school. You can view these on the school website (scroll down to policies):

[www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk/statutory-information.html](http://www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk/statutory-information.html)

Please also refer to the Home – School Agreement contract that you and your child signed when you started at George Fentham.

All online platforms provided to children at this time are monitored by the school and inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant policies (Behaviour, AUP, Online Safety, Home-School Agreements etc).

## Online Safety

The Online Safety page on our school website has a wide range of resources/links to support parents/children: [www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk/online-safety.html](http://www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk/online-safety.html)

These are some of the most useful links, especially the parents' guide to Internet safety.

- [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- [www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)
- [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)
- [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

The Ultimate Guide to Keeping Your Children Safe Online with Parental Controls:

[www.broadbandsearch.net/blog/online-safety-parental-controls?msID=22812e37-1fb5-40db-a014-c1ff54be46fc](http://www.broadbandsearch.net/blog/online-safety-parental-controls?msID=22812e37-1fb5-40db-a014-c1ff54be46fc)

Parenting in a digital world

[https://static.purplemash.com/mashcontent/applications/code/docs/Saferinternet\\_parentinginadigitalworld\\_2019/parenting%20in%20a%20digital%20worldonline.pdf](https://static.purplemash.com/mashcontent/applications/code/docs/Saferinternet_parentinginadigitalworld_2019/parenting%20in%20a%20digital%20worldonline.pdf)

## Using Purple Mash

One of the platforms your child has access to is Purple Mash, a whole world of fun and exciting learning opportunities in one safe place.

### What is Purple Mash?

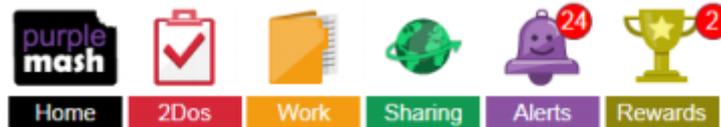
Purple Mash is a comprehensive suite of online learning tools and content, specifically designed for use by Primary aged children in the classroom and at home.

To find out more, click here: <https://2simple.com/parents>

### What should you do first?

To begin with, it's a good idea to log in to Purple Mash with your child. We suggest you look at the following:

- Familiarise yourself with the menu icons.



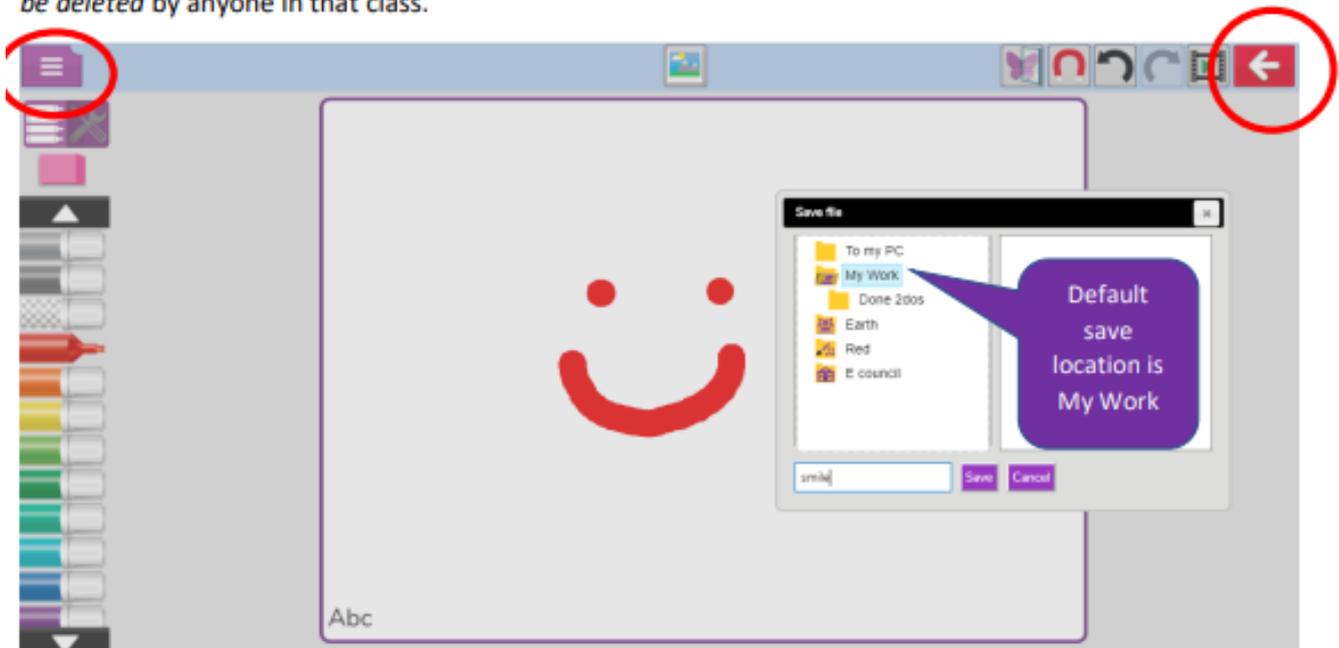
- Look at any set tasks that have been given to your child (2Dos).
- Find out about Class Blogs and Display Boards accessible via the Sharing Icon.
- Explore the grammar, maths and spelling activities which match to the National Curriculum.
- Play one of many fun, educational collaborative games such as 2Race.
- Delve into the Science area and find out about all the areas of Science it covers.
- Investigate the Topics area to support securing their knowledge of the wider curriculum.
- Tour the Computing area trying out some of the tools such as 2Code, 2Go and Logo.
- Get creative in the Tools section, from making an animation to building a printable 3D model.

## Managing work on Purple Mash: Parent guide

If your child opens an app on Purple Mash and creates a piece of work, then the default place for the work to save is in their 'Work' folder (accessible from the home screen.)

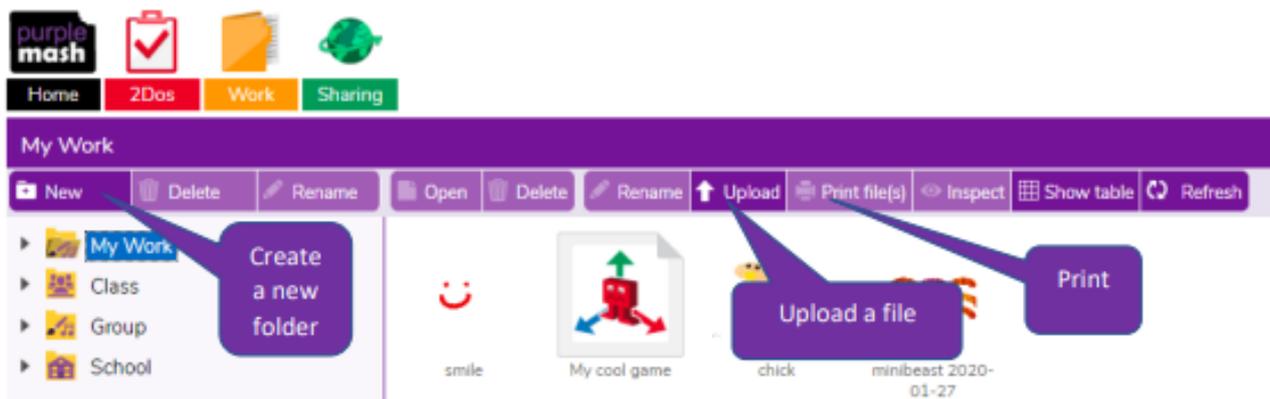
To save work your child can click the purple "hamburger menu" at the top left of the app and they can name the file. The default area to save is their My Work folder, but they can choose other locations.

They can choose to save to the class folder, but this *will be viewable by all members of the class and could be deleted by anyone in that class.*



When you have completed a piece of work, then you can just click the red BACK button and this will give the option to SAVE and EXIT

You can see the work when you click on the My Work folder



Note that you can upload an external file, such as a Word document, by clicking Upload and choosing a file from your device.

If a piece of work is set as a 2Do, then it goes to the teacher when completed. When the teacher has filed the work, then you will see it in a sub folder of My Work in a folder called 'Done 2Dos'.

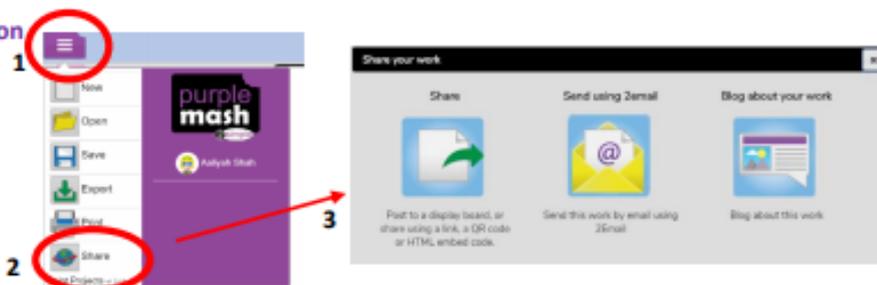
## Sharing work in Purple Mash: Parent guide

Your child will be creating lots of fantastic work within Purple Mash and there are a variety of ways that this work can be shared so their teacher and classmates can view it too. Shared work is viewed via the Sharing icon on Purple Mash home screen (Globe). 

Sharing

The easiest way to do this is to click on the 'share' option in their activity, accessed by clicking on the top left 'hamburger' icon. They can then select their preferred method of sharing their work:

'Hamburger' button



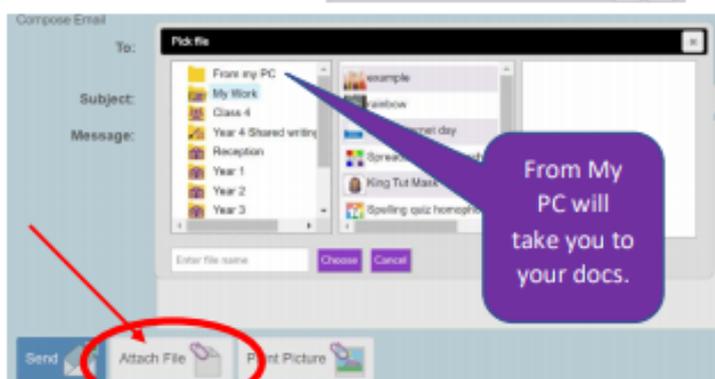
If your child wants to share their work to a class or group display board, click on this icon and then select this tab.

If there is more than one display board, they will be able to select the one they want to share to. Their teacher will view and approve their work before it is made visible to others.

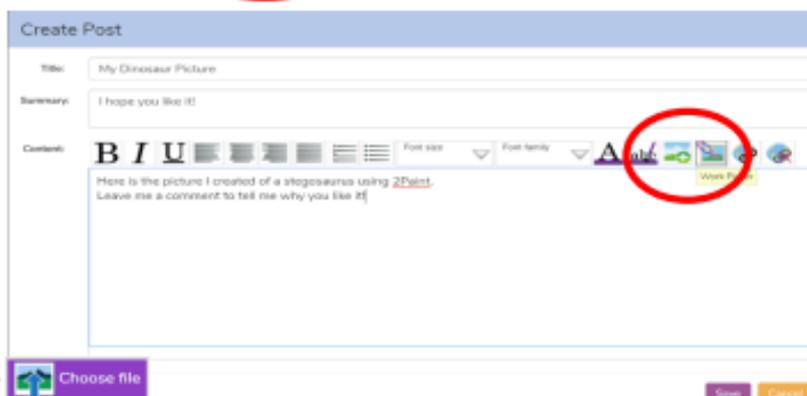
(Display Boards and their settings are controlled by the class teacher)



Your child can attach their work to an email to send their teacher using ZEmail (providing their teacher has activated this feature). When they compose their email, next to the send button is the 'attach work' button. When they click on this, they will be prompted to find the piece of work to attach – they can even add work they have done outside Purple Mash by selecting 'from my pc', e.g. a document or photo image.

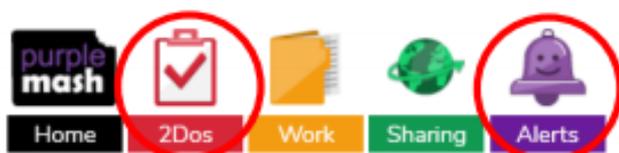


Children can also share work to their class blog (if their teacher has approved settings to allow this) for the rest of their class to view. When they click on the green plus icon in the top right of the blog, they can create their own post and then select the 'work picker' icon to share a piece of work from their Work folder. They can also upload an external file by clicking on the 'add image' icon next to it, and then select:



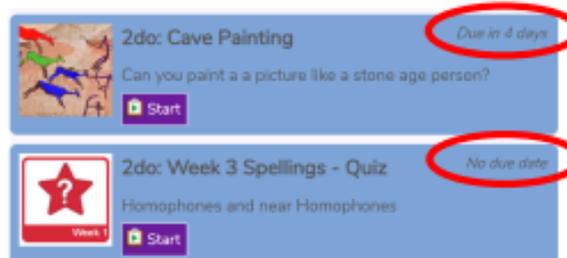
Blog posts will be checked and then approved by your child's class teacher prior to being viewable to others, so will not be published until this is done.

## 2Do's: Parent guide

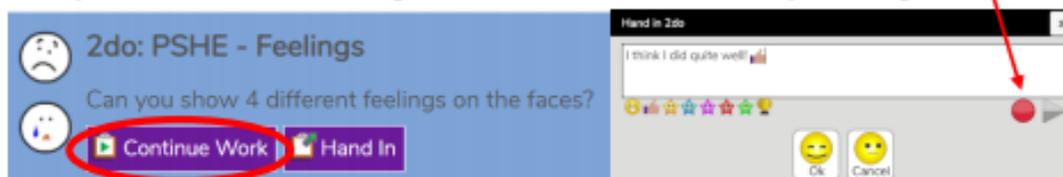


Your child's teacher will often set tasks as a '2Do' to be completed. These are activities and tasks which your child can access either via the notification bell or by clicking the red 2Do icon at the top of the screen.

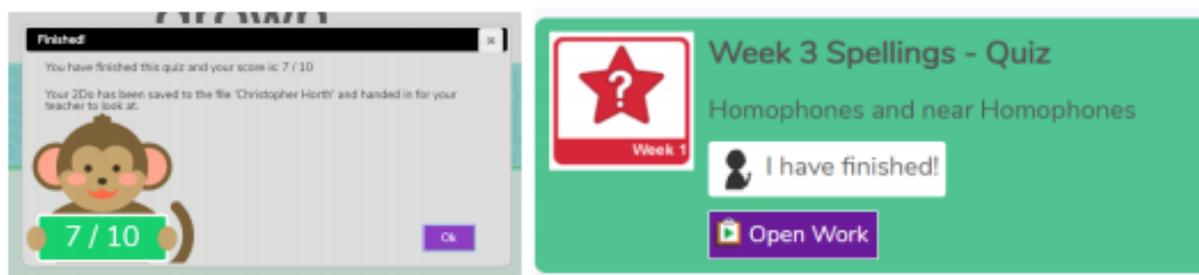
2Dos can have a 'due by' date (specified by the teacher) which you will be able to see in the 2Do menu. After the due by date has passed, your child will not be able to complete or hand in their work if they haven't already done so. Contact your child's teacher if they need an extension on the due date.



There are a variety of activity types in Purple Mash for children to complete. Many of them require children to create things like pictures, written work, posters or design games etc. If these activities are set as 2Do for your child, when they start it, they can stop at any point and return to the 2Do menu and complete another time using the 'continue work' button. Once they are happy they are finished with their work, they can 'hand in'. When they do this, they are prompted to leave their teacher a comment as to how well they got on. If they wish, they can record a voice message for their teacher to listen to, by selecting the red circle.



Some activities in Purple Mash have a **different hand-in procedure**. Quizzes, games and tests will automatically be handed in once completed. Their teacher is notified of this and can view scores and other relevant information about how well each child got on with the task. The examples below show the end of a spelling quiz and how it appears in the 2Do menu once it has been completed. It has an automatically generated hand-in comment and the child can open their work if they want to check what they have done.



Your child needn't worry about where to save their work when they complete a 2Do, it is stored in a temporary folder for their teacher to access, view and comment on work for the class collectively. When the teacher has finished checking all children's work, they will "close" the 2Do and each pupil's work gets sent to their Work folder, in a sub-folder named 'Done 2Dos'.



## Purple Mash email: a parent's guide

2Email is a completely internal email system and your child cannot get email from outside of Purple Mash. It has been developed to provide a safe environment for children to learn about email. It has various settings that the teacher controls for safeguarding purposes.



If your child receives an email, then they will have an Alert (bell icon) on their Purple Mash home screen.

Your child can open 2Email and practise sending email to various characters, complete activities in 2Respond or they might be set an email activity by the teacher as a 2Do.

They can send an email to a "Practice character", then swap to that character to view the email and respond, then switch back to themselves.



There are 2 versions of 2Email, a simple format and a standard one. Your teacher selects the appropriate format.

**If class email is activated:** Usually pupil to pupil emails require approval by the teacher for them to be sent. This means that if your child sends an email to another child, then it will not be sent unless the teacher approves that email.

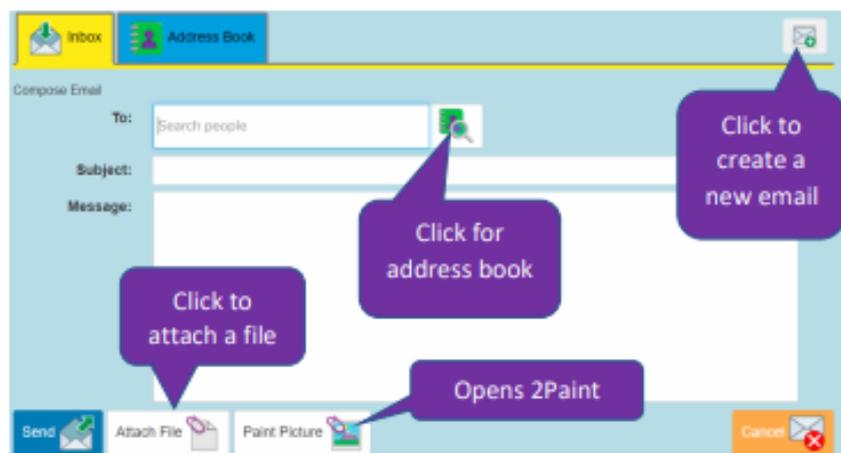
**If pupil to teacher email is activated:** In this case your child can email their class teacher directly via Purple Mash

To send email, click the address book icon at the end of the To: box

If your child receives an email they are concerned about, then they can click the "Report to teacher" button and it will be removed from their inbox and sent to the teacher.

Report to teacher

The teacher can send attachments in an email and if this is a piece of work to do, then your child will need to download the attachment, open it, complete it and save it. They will be able to send an email back to the teacher and attach the work.



There are a range of e-safety email exercises in 2Email. It is possible for your teacher to send them SPAM or other problem email, but this is a simulation and helps prepare children for using "real" email in the future. The teacher can also send them email from "made up characters" such as book characters, famous people, etc. This is may have other curriculum learning objectives.

# TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

## Goal

When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations.

Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help students master the times tables!

To be a Times Table Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to  $12 \times 12$  in less than 3 seconds!

## Logging in to Times Tables Rock Stars

1

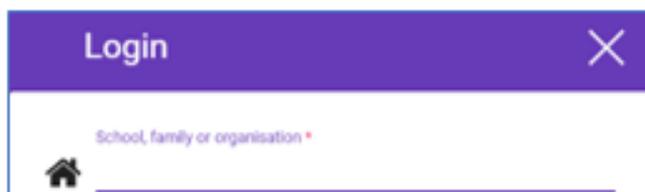
Type [play.ttrockstars.com](https://play.ttrockstars.com) into your browser's address bar.

2

Click Login! > School > Student

3

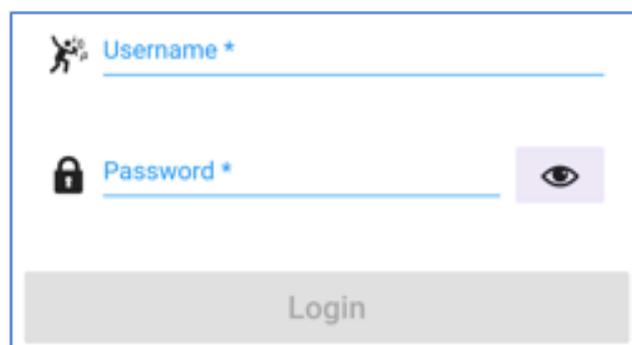
Enter the School Name.



The screenshot shows a purple 'Login' dialog box with a close button (X) in the top right corner. Below the title bar, there is a text input field with a house icon on the left and the placeholder text 'School, family or organisation \*'. The input field is currently empty.

4

Enter your child's username and password.



The screenshot shows a login form with two input fields. The first field is labeled 'Username \*' and has a small icon of a person to its left. The second field is labeled 'Password \*' and has a lock icon to its left and an eye icon to its right. Below the fields is a grey 'Login' button.

## Game Modes

### Single Player

**Garage** - the questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week. It will include multiplication *and* division questions.

As pupils start to answer questions, TT Rock Stars works out which facts they take longer on and will give them more of these questions to answer. The Garage is best for getting quicker at a few facts. Players get 10 coins per question.

**Studio** - the questions in the Studio can be anything from  $1 \times 1$  up to  $12 \times 12$ .

TT Rock Stars calculates the mean response time from their last 10 games in the Studio and translates that time into a Rock Status.

$\leq 1 \text{ sec/qu}$  = Rock Hero

$\leq 2 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Rock Legend

$\leq 3 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Rock Star

$\leq 4 \text{ secs}$  = Headliner

$\leq 5 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Support Act

$\leq 6 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Breakthrough Artist

$\leq 7 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Unsigned Act

$\leq 8 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Gigger

$\leq 9 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Busker

$\leq 10 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Garage Rocker

$> 10 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Wannabe

If you don't play in the Studio you don't get a Rock Status.

Players earn 1 coin per question and the Studio is the place for them to set their best time across all the tables.

**Soundcheck** – When you play Soundcheck, you get 20 questions each with a 5-second time limit. The questions are multiplication only and evenly weighted in terms of difficulty each time you play. Players earn 5 coins per correct answer.

### Multiplayer

**Rock Arena** - The Arena allows players to compete against all other members of their Band (their Bandmates would need to join the same game in order to compete together).

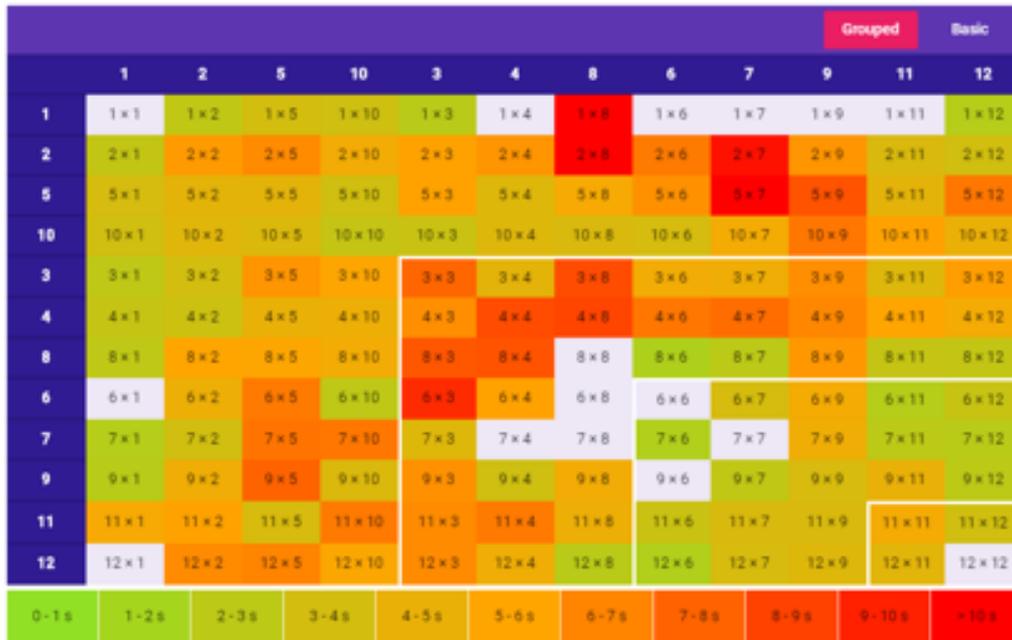
A new Arena game starts every 15 seconds and once the clock starts they race to answer more questions than the others. In the Arena, questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week, similar to the Garage. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.

**Rock Festival** - The Rock Festival games are open to players from around the world. Like the Arena, there is no limit to the number of players who can join a game; however, unlike the Arena, questions are selected at random from  $1 \times 1$  to  $12 \times 12$ .

Pupils might choose the Rock Festival if they were playing at home (and therefore couldn't easily synchronise playing against a classmate) or wanted to compete against others not in their Band. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.

## Stats

If you click on your avatar icon in the top right of the screen and then click My Stats, a heatmap like the one below will load. It shows how successful your child is at each of the facts.



Contact your child's teacher if...

- You have username or password issues
- Something isn't working or you're not sure how it works
- You have a complaint or a suggestion
- You have something nice to say about ttrackstars.com!

As part of our Remote Learning offer we will be using Microsoft Teams for accessing provision. Teams is a set of communication tools which allows teachers to communicate with pupils through posts and announcements, set assignments, mark work and communicate/hold live lessons.

We have set up Class Teams for every year group so that, should we find ourselves with classes isolating at home, we are able to have more direct contact. This way of communicating and feeding back will be invaluable and, as we improve our knowledge and understanding, we will look at developing our use of Teams further.

### Getting started at home with Microsoft Teams

1. Search for Microsoft teams using Google.
2. You can then either log in online or download the Teams app on to the device that you normally use for home learning (recommended). [Here's a link.](#)
3. Log in with your school email address ([73initialsurname@george-fentham.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:73initialsurname@george-fentham.solihull.sch.uk)) and password that your class teacher will have sent to you via Purple Mash email or printed off for you (you probably already know it, as it's the same as you log into the school network and your school email). Please contact the school office if you are not sure.
4. Click on the class team name: George Fentham School Year '\*\*' (e.g 2 or 6 etc)

Within here, there will then be different 'channels' for you to select, which denote each week's work (e.g WB 27.09.2021).

Click on the appropriate 'channel' to find the Lessons/Work for each subject, assigned by day, to be completed.

Each lesson will have a description of the work, what is expected, any associated links (PowerPoints, videos etc) and how to submit it.

You can submit it straight back to your teacher, by working on it online, or download/print it and work on it on paper, take a photo and send it via TEAMS or Purple Mash email.

Further to this, we will also be looking to use TEAMS for video call catch-ups, where possible, as previously (but staff are all now teaching, so this may be tricky).

That's it - you're in!

## **Behaviour expectations**

In accordance with our Remote Learning Policy, which can be viewed on the school website:

[www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk/statutory-information.html](http://www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk/statutory-information.html) (Scroll down to policies)

Staff will expect pupils learning remotely to:

- Be contactable at some point throughout the school day – although we acknowledge that they may not always be in front of a device the entire time.
- Make their best efforts to complete work to the deadline set by teachers.
- Seek help if they need it, from teachers or teaching assistants.
- Alert teachers if they're not able to complete work.

Staff can expect parents with children learning remotely to:

- Make the school aware if their child is sick or otherwise can't complete work (for school records).
- Seek help from the school if they need it, including informing staff/school if they are unable to access 'remote learning provision'.
- Be respectful when asking questions and/or making any complaints or concerns known to staff.

## Useful Websites

There are many websites available that can provide additional support for remote learning. We have selected the ones we would recommend and listed them below:

- BBC Bitesize [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary) - A selection of lessons full of videos, quizzes and practice activities to help you with home learning.
- Oak National Academy - <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage> - This is a website designed by teachers to support teachers, pupils and parents. With nearly 10,000 lessons and resources, covering a wide range of subjects, from Early Years Foundation Stage through to Year 11, this is a good resource to augment your remote learning.
- Phonics Play [www.phonicsplay.co.uk/](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/) - A great site to support developing phonics. This was free during the original lockdown, but now has an annual £6 subscription fee.
- Classroom Secrets <https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/home-online-learning/> - Ensure your children are still able to learn while at home by signing up for free to Classroom Secrets KIDS.
- Topmarks [www.topmarks.co.uk/](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/) - A website featuring great, educationally sound online resources, covering all areas of the curriculum.
- The School Run [www.theschoolrun.com/](http://www.theschoolrun.com/) - A wide range of resources, organised by year group or subject, and covering most subject areas.
- Oxford Owl Reading [www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/) - A great set of free e-books, to support your child in continuing their reading journey at home.
- Tate Gallery (Kids) [www.tate.org.uk/kids](http://www.tate.org.uk/kids) - A fabulous website, designed for children, full of wonderful art activities, quizzes, videos and images.
- DK Findout [www.dkfindout.com/uk/](http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/) - From well-known educational publishers Dorling Kindersley comes this website containing a huge range of resources, covering all manner of topics, from Music, Art and Science to Transport.
- Spelling Frame <https://spellingframe.co.uk/> - A lovely site, organised by year group, offering support with learning spelling rules. Spellingframe includes all the words - both statutory and the example words - from the National Curriculum for Spelling for Year 1 to Year 6. Choose a spelling rule and each word is read aloud and provided within a sentence for context.
- Maths Frame <https://mathsframe.co.uk/> - Sister site to Spelling Frame and containing a range of maths activities and support, all linked to the National Curriculum.

There are plenty of other websites offering support which can be found by searching online.