

Cowling Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have been telling me this week about what they enjoy using on Google Classroom which was interesting to hear. This is what they said:

- The digital library where teachers set books for the children to read.
- The feedback from teachers showing them where they have done well and pointers for improvement.
- Seeing their friends on Google Meet.
- The spell check button on Google Docs which is useful before they hand in written work.
- The older children are enjoying pushing themselves using the "I'm A Celebrity Fitness Challenge"
- Art activities including "Draw with Rob" – which gives step-by-step guidance on how to draw
- The John Muir challenges, such as walking through mud barefoot!
- Science activities.
- Our youngest children are enjoying the sticker books.
- Computing on Purple Mash

The children have adapted so well to online learning and this is thanks to the wonderful support they have received from home. Before Christmas, I was contacted by the Department for Education asking if they could interview me about our use of Google Classroom and the support we received to set it up. All of the installation and training staff have received, (via Outward Grange and Northern Lights, working on behalf of Edtech), has been completely free and we are grateful to our colleagues in these organisations for being so generous with their time and willingness to answer our questions. Using a digital platform has been a big step for schools to take and I am so grateful we had such fantastic support at every stage so that we could be up and running for our children and families when online learning was required. If you would like to read the interview published this week please click here:

<https://teaching.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/25/learning-from-others-helps-us-feel-less-alone/>

I also asked the children what they were missing most about "normal school" and without hesitation they all mentioned being with their friends and having the freedom to socialise with everyone in the playground. They also said they are very much looking forward to receiving a hug from their Grandmas and Aunties and I know there are many, many relatives who cannot wait to scoop up the children and hold them in their arms.

We all very much hope it won't be too long before we can have all the pupils back with us. You will be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement this week stating the Government will consider the feasibility of a return to school in March:



