



Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

Wednesday 12th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may be aware, we have historically used the learning platform Seesaw to share the learning and achievements of your child, along with class updates and information on home learning and next steps. As previously communicated, the cost to re-subscribe to this platform was incredibly expensive and one that the school budget could not accommodate. As such we are looking to move to the platform of Class Dojo.

This is a free platform that we are currently setting up and it has a number of functions that we will select which we engage with as a school. Please bear with us whilst we learn how the platform best works for Norwood and our children.

The main sections are

1. A 'Class Story' which is the equivalent of Journal on Seesaw. This is where general whole class updates and information sharing will take place. This will include information on home learning and any general updates that all parents/carers need to be made aware of.
2. 'Messages' – this is a function that cannot be switch off/disabled, however all staff, parents/carers and other members of our school community need to be aware that this is not a function that Norwood School uses and any messages posted to this platform will not be responded to. All communication must be through the official channels as stipulated in our communication policy
 - a. Office@norwoodschool.co.uk
 - b. admin@norwoodschool.co.uk
 - c. senadmin@norwoodschool.co.uk
 - d. Absence@norwoodschool.co.uk
 - e. Xpressions
3. 'Portfolios' is an area that your individual child's achievements and learning records, both from home and school, can be shared. Whilst it is beneficial for you as a parent/carer to see how your child is doing in school, it is also valuable for school to see how your child is achieving outside of school in areas such as swimming, cubs, dance, gym, or developments in the family home such as cooking, toileting, taking responsibility for their own organisation or anything else that you as a parents/carer are rightly proud that your child has achieved.

We are aware that when you download the app, you are offered a raft of addition functions at a cost to you – as a school we do not anticipate there being any benefit from this as we are only using the basic functions. Please do not spend any money or sign up to anything that bring a cost to you as a parent/carer – this whole process is about saving us all money at time when the cost of living is impacting us all.

As a school, we do not see the presentation of the platform that you do and therefore we would appreciate any feedback, advice and information sharing that you are happy to provide during this transition period. Please do this in a kind and thoughtful way as we deal with a change that is required, but not anticipated.

It may be that we find this platform and provision is not the right option for Norwood Primary School, however, until we start to work with this platform (which is currently free) we will not know if it meets our needs.

With Seesaw, there was a functionality for any comments to be 'approved' by school staff before they published to the feed. Using Class Dojo, this is not a function that we have access to, therefore our parents/carers need to understand that any comment will 'go live' as soon as they hit send. Norwood Primary school will monitor comments made and should we find that comments are inappropriate, defamatory, derogative, deemed to be damaging or against any protected characteristic, comments will be removed and school retains the rights to remove access rights to that particular parent and may report issues to external agencies.

We hope that working together we can replicate the platform to share learning and achievement at a much lower cost (Class Dojo is currently free) as smoothly as possible.

You can view their privacy policy here - <https://www.classdojo.com/privacy/>

Your sincerely

Mrs D Reynolds
Head Teacher

