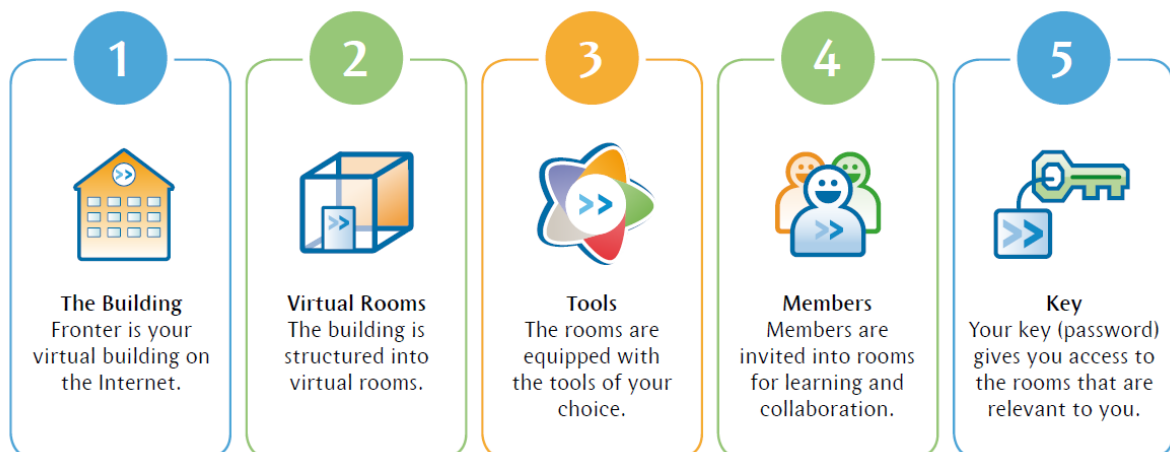


Brookside Primary School

Parents' Guide on Using Fronter





What is Fronter?

Fronter is an example of a *Virtual Learning Environment* (VLE) which is also sometimes referred to as a *Managed Learning Environment* (MLE). It's basically a secure web space where the children at Brookside can view photographs of school activities, join in with online discussions with text and images, find links through to websites chosen by their teacher, upload and save pieces of work (at school and at home - providing they have Internet access) and communicate with friends and their teacher.

Each child will log in to their own class web page. Each page has been created by the child's class teacher and therefore each page is different. Some children have started using Fronter already while other classes are due to start this week.

How do I access Fronter?

Technically, you don't! Not for the time being, anyway. VLEs are new to schools and so we are learning too. Our first job was to learn how to use it as teachers, we're now helping children to learn how to use it and eventually we hope that parents will be able to login and use Fronter too, but this is part of the long term plan... one step at a time!

Each child has a unique username and password. We are trying to teach the children not to share their passwords with anyone, including teachers. As parents, you will have your own views on sharing passwords and general online safety, which will take into account the age of your child and their confidence and ability using the computer.

We do suggest that you encourage your child to talk to you about using Fronter and the computer in general. A Microsoft website suggests that it's never too early to foster open and positive communication with children. It's a good idea to talk with them about computers and to stay open to their questions and curiosity.

How does my child access Fronter?

The login for Fronter can be found via the link on the bottom of our school website: <http://www.brooksideprimary.co.uk>

This takes you to the Fronter login page: <https://nottsslp.org.uk/>

You can add this page to your favourites and access it directly, if you'd prefer.

Some children will have already accessed Fronter at school and have created their own passwords. If not, your child will have a username (usually their initial, their surname and a number, all one word, all lower case letters) and a temporary password. This will be given out by your child's class teacher. The first time they login, they will be asked to choose a new password.

You can help your child to choose a password they can remember, e.g. a favourite pet and remind them that they must not share their password with anyone.

If passwords do not work, or are lost or forgotten, they can be reset. Please let your child's class teacher know or leave a message with the school office.

What does Fronter look like?

Each class has the same style background and general page layout. This will help the children as they move from class to class. However, the content is created by each class teacher and will therefore vary from class to class.

I have created some temporary logins for us to view the different web pages today. This will allow you to see some of the tools available on Fronter.

The Foundation class page, like other class pages, has links to relevant pages and files for children in the foundation unit. Most teachers use pictures for links.

To get back to the main class page, simply click on the class tab (top left - under the picture of a house).

You will notice that some links are currently unavailable. We are still learning how to use Fronter ourselves and adding new things all the time. Please be patient!

Remember that your child should log out when they have finished using Fronter.

In Year 1, you will see a similar layout with similar content. Mrs Whelpport has included a link which opens a pdf document of text and photos from Enterprise Week. The great thing with Fronter is that it is a secure website (notice the https rather than just http) and therefore photographs can be uploaded and shared more safely.

In Year 2, there is an example of a forum. This has been created by Mrs Sheldon for children in her class to leave their thoughts about Fronter. You can see the last few contributions on the main page and the whole discussion by clicking on the underlined text link.

Class teachers are responsible for monitoring their own class forums and will delete any inappropriate or irrelevant comments. Please encourage your child to use Fronter sensibly and contribute relevant comments to the forums. We would also like all children to use grammatically correct English when they are working on Fronter and to save text language for texting!

In Year 3, Miss Pirt has included several forums for the children to contribute their ideas to. Some forums like these have contributions that are not visible from the main class page. Follow the underlined text link to read or join in with the discussion.

It is possible to add photographs to forums as well as text. When your child contributes to a forum, they add their comments by typing in a text editor box. In this box, at the top there are other tools available including the 'Insert & Upload Media' icon. Clicking on it opens a menu box. You need to browse the computer (not room) and when you've chosen an image, change the location where you save it to the resources folder, scale it to a suitable size (200 pixels wide is often adequate for forums) before clicking on the Upload & Insert button at the bottom.

In Year 4, Mr Beharall has uploaded a video clip of some children performing their Jai Ho song. There is also a class vote for children to choose their favourite topic of the year.

In Year 5, Mr Lowther has included links to other websites, useful for practising spellings and x tables at home.

In Year 6, I have included a homework page with links to relevant websites and documents for homework, including the weekly homework sheet. This page is therefore updated weekly.

You will also find a My Work folder on the left. This is available on all class pages but not many classes have actually started using it yet. If you click on it, you can then see a Hand in Folder and the Individual Folders. The Hand in Folder is a place for children to hand in work electronically and each child has an Individual Folder where they can keep their own work.

It is quite simple for your child to upload work saved on your own computer to either one of these locations. However, younger children may need more help to start with.