Microsoft Teams Example Lesson Ideas – Gluu.Tech

This document will outline a series of activities that could be altered to suit the needs of any year groups. Using Microsoft Teams, teachers can upload assignments for their class to do from anywhere that has an internet connection. The document should be used as a reference point for ideas for subjects:

1.1 English – Writing
1.2 English – Reading
1.3 Maths
1.4 Science
1.5 Humanities
1.6 Computing
1.7 RE + PSHE
1.8 Art + Design and Technology
1.9 PE
1.10 Handwritten Work
1.11 Marking and Feedback
1.12 Home Learning Resources

1.1 – English Writing

Microsoft Word Templates:
When making a new word document, you are able to select a template for your work. Some of these may be useful for your class, depending on your writing theme.

Alternatively, you can design your own template and upload it to your class using Teams. Different templates could also be assigned to different children.

Story Writing:

Story planning documents like Story Mountains can assigned for children to complete on Teams. Due to the instant
feedback, this would be an effective way of check what the children are planning before typing their story. Also, providing children with a visual stimulus for a piece of writing from websites such as:

http://www.pobble365.com/,
https://www.literacyshed.com/home.html or
https://inspire.education/

Scheme Resources:

If your school is using a scheme of work like the Pathways from The Literacy Company, you could assign the lesson resources to the children using Teams. Most schemes like this have differentiated resources that could be assigned to specific groups.

Non-Fiction Writing:

If your unit of work is focussing on non-fiction writing such as non-chronological reports then providing children with the appropriate research material is crucial. Through Teams, you are able to provide children with links to websites directly through the application – no need to use unsafe search engines. For research based activities, use https://school.eb.co.uk/ to provide children with the opportunity to research within a child-friendly environment, accessing: photographs, videos and articles all appropriate to their age. This resource has tools such as: increasing/decreasing the font, immersive reader (where the text is read out to them) and a dictionary for anything read in the articles. It really is your one stop shop for children’s research needs.
1.2  – English Reading

Scanned Texts:

An effective way to ensure children are reading the class book is to upload a scanned version of it (or even a part of it) to the files section of your class Team. Files in this area can be accessed by any child at any time, regardless of whether you have set them an assignment.

Guided Reading Question Prompts:

To assist parents at home, teachers should upload example of guided reading questions. Once reading to an adult, children could type a response back their teacher through an assignment.

“1:1” reading:

Children love to read to anyone that will listen. Sometimes adults, especially teachers, are unable to find the time to do so. Through Teams children could record themselves reading their book aloud. This video could then be sent to their teacher for a response.

Inspire Education  [https://www.inspire.education/]

Curriculum Reading:

Inspire Education is a topic based resource allows children to immerse themselves in civilisation, era or location. Each ‘scene’ provides children with differentiated curriculum reading including guided reading questions. Children should be accessing this resource to build their vocabulary around your chosen subject.
Assignments:

The most effective way of providing children with Maths work is through the assignment function. By using the normal resources you normally use, but uploading them instead of printing them, you ensure consistency for the children and reduced workload for you! Make sure you provide the children with an answer page (Word Document) that they can submit to you once they hand in.

Suggested Websites for Maths resources:

- [https://mathsstarters.net/numoftheday](https://mathsstarters.net/numoftheday) Maths Starter - Number of the day - can be marked before input in lesson
- [https://mathsbot.com/questionsIWB](https://mathsbot.com/questionsIWB) Fluency questions that are auto generated - very handy.
- [https://www.ttrockstars.com/login](https://www.ttrockstars.com/login) - TTRockstars. Children do have access at home.
- [https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/](https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/) - Amazing for Maths resources - differentiated.
- [https://urbrainy.com/](https://urbrainy.com/) - worksheets that could attached to assignments
- [http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/countdown/index.htm](http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/countdown/index.htm)
- [https://garyhall.org.uk/](https://garyhall.org.uk/) - lots of resources sorted by year group and topic
- [https://www.mymaths.co.uk/primary.html](https://www.mymaths.co.uk/primary.html)
1.4 – Science

Microsoft Word Templates:

Just as discussed for English Writing, it is possible to create a template of an experiment that the children could do at home with their family. They could complete an assignment where they record themselves doing the experiment and write a conclusion for what they have found out. Using websites such as http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/ could give you some ideas of feasible experiments.

Websites that could prove useful for setting assignments in Science:

- https://www.ase.org.uk/plan
- https://central.espresso.co.uk/espresso/central/landing/landing.html?source=autologin – Has some great videos and resources that you could link to children via an assignment.
- https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/ - planning ideas and differentiated resources.
1.5 – Humanities

Microsoft Word Templates:

Just as in previous examples, Microsoft Word templates are an effective way to provide children with the scaffolding needed to complete a task themed around topic. Some Humanities examples of this could be:

- Comparison between UK and another country where the layout is pre-made on a Word document
- A diary entry from the point of view of an evacuee with suggested vocabulary already prepared on the Word document
- A non-chronological report about volcanoes where the headings and layout are pre-made on a Word document
- A quiz for the children to complete checking their understanding using Microsoft Teams’ Quiz maker. Go to assignment -> create -> quiz
- An informative poster using a template including success criteria
- Children could create a Microsoft Forms quiz document that could be shared with their classmates and you

Inspire Education

Inspire Education has a huge collection of scenes suiting many different topics including: Egyptians, Space, Romans, Victorians, Myths and Legends, Mayans and World War. Many of these scenes now have comprehensive lessons plans but I also recommend you explore the scenes yourself and use them to plan what your class needs.
Encyclopaedia Britannica

Britannica School: the most comprehensive, up-to-date, fact-checked digital search engine for KS1-4 students Britannica School is an award-winning digital search engine, which aligns to the National Curriculum and supports students of all ages and abilities. The online platform is updated daily with thousands of curated and curriculum-relevant articles, images, videos, audio clips, primary sources, maps, research tools, and recommended websites.

The digital resource has been designed for all ages and abilities and has three reading levels to support every student, along with literacy tools such as an interactive dictionary, read-aloud functionality, and over 83 language translations. Britannica’s strict editorial guidelines ensure that all content is safe and accurate. The service also supports Ofsted requirements for parental engagement, students who have English as an additional language and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC).

For almost any topic imaginable, there are child friendly articles, images, videos, dictionary definitions and journals that children can access.

Whilst on the articles children can use the tools available to make the reading more accessible to them:

- Every article is divided into sub-sections that make perfect non-chronological headings
- Double clicking on a word will define it for them
- Increasing or decreasing the size of the text will assist those with sight issues
- By pressing the play button, the text can be read aloud to the children
1.6 – Computing

Code.org

Code.org offers differentiated schemes for coding lessons. Although Americanised, these ‘projects’ enthuse the children due to their game-like appearance such as Angry Birds or Star Wars. Children really enjoy working through the levels on their individual accounts. Starting with simple block coding, the levels gradually progress in difficulty and are perfect to be set as an assignment for children at home. From the teacher’s view, you can track their progress through the levels check their understanding.
**Discovery Education Coding**

Gaming based coding with comprehensive lesson plans for all your coding needs. Discovery Education’s coding package is truly excellent and loved by children of all ages. Initially, key stage 1 and lower key stage 2 children could work through the step by step coding lessons. Each lesson includes a detailed lesson plan for the teacher and including instructional videos to watch on their devices. Once confident, children could create an app using the ‘free code’ section of the website. It is recommended that children create a game using the codes they have learnt in the lessons – fit it around your topic.

Starting with block coding, children can progress onto HTML and even Python.

With both of these resources, children can be assigned to complete a certain section using Teams, including a link to the website through the assignment tool. Computing is perhaps one of the easiest ways to effectively use Microsoft Teams.
**1.7 – R.E + PSHE**

**Microsoft word Templates**

R.E provides plentiful opportunity for extended writing in the form of recounts. Perhaps the children have visited a place of worship that they could type up a recount about. Use Microsoft Word’s templates to scaffold a task, provide key vocabulary or set a word count challenge for the children to work towards.

**General resources from lesson plans can be placed on Teams**

If the school follows a R.E scheme, it is likely to include differentiated resources. Through the assignment feature of Teams, these resources could be sent to specific groups of children.

**Use of video to share a religious theme**

Studies show that children in 2020 watch just as much (if not more) YouTube than TV. Sharing online videos through the assignments tab would be an effective way to share a story, an artefact or theme. Ensure that the video you find is age appropriate and send it to your class via Teams.

https://www.reonline.org.uk/ - Lots of resources for your lessons.

**Philosophy 4 Children**

Through the quiz application of Teams, you could set your task a P4C themed question e.g. would you rather be a millionaire with no friends, or poor with lots of friends? Using a Word template, children could write an explanation for their choice and create their own question of a similar theme. Don’t forget to use Inspire Education’s P4C themes for Topic themed lesson ideas.
1.8 – Art + Design and Technology

Handwritten work

For both of these subjects, a majority of the work children complete will be handwritten e.g. a sketch or an assembly project. It is important children are given opportunity to share their work. As Teams is available on most mobile devices, children could very easily take photographs or videos of their work and share them with you on an assignment. This would be particularly effective if children completed some Art or D.T work at home. Easy evidence and instant feedback.

Providing examples of expectations

With both Art and D.T, Teams could be used as means to share expectations with the children. By retrieving examples of paintings from the internet, you could ensure children replicate using the skills you want to see from the unit.

Planning templates

For D.T projects, children are expected to plan the outcome for their design, sometimes including written instructions for the project. By providing a template through Teams, children are scaffolded with their learning.

Step-by-step instructions

For D.T in particular, teams could provide an excellent way to share step-by-step instructions for making a project. These projects could even be completed at home if applicable. Given proper instruction, parents would enjoy getting involved in a project like this.
1.9 – PE

Games to play at home with limited resources

Although children would not have access to school’s resources at home, children could be assigned examples of games using limited resources for them to play outside. They could provide a response for how the game went and suggest additional rules.

Tutorial videos for new skills

Using scheme websites such as PE Hub, you could send children a link to tutorial video in order to teach them a new skill. Many tutorial videos are available on YouTube. By making the choice for the children, you limit the chance they access unsafe content.

Weekly personal bests

Personal best are a common feature of any P.E lesson; challenging children to beat their previous attempt at a skill. Through a Teams Excel document, children could record their best time at a 100m sprint attempt, for example. This Excel document could be reassessed weekly and added to as the children improve their time.

Parental engagement through recording

As Teams is available for children at home, there are opportunities for parental engagement. To provide evidence of their activities like personal bests, parents could record their children completing a physical activity. This video could be sent to that child’s teacher as a response on Teams.

PE Shed

https://www.facebook.com/1049947191780495/posts/2704986392943225/

The PE Shed offers fantastic videos that could be uploaded to a Team as reference material.
1.10 – Handwritten Work

As mentioned in some of the previous sections, Teams should not take away from handwritten work. It should only enhance what you are already doing in the classroom and offer more opportunities for children to: critically think, be creative, collaborate and communicate in a modern way.

Any work that children complete on paper at home or in school can be photographed and put on Teams. The Teams app is available on most devices and teachers and parents alike should have no problems with sharing children’s work with each other.

1.11 – Marking and Feedback

Perhaps the strongest advantage of Microsoft Teams is its ability to provide instant feedback to children regarding their work. After children have been set an assignment, as the owner of the Team, you can instantly see who has accessed it.

Additionally, you can view each child’s document LIVE and make suggestions/alterations. These alterations will appear on their screen as you are doing them. I recommended using the highlighter tool within Word to make children aware of mistakes, similar to how you would in your exercise books.

Finally, after a child has handed in an assignment, you can provide written feedback or attach a voice recording of your thoughts. If you wish, you can provide a score for their work and return it to them. Returned work will show up as feedback on the pupils’ accounts and they can send it back to you once they’ve made the alterations you requested.
1.12 - Home Learning Resources

During the #Covid19 outbreak, many websites are providing free resources that can be used for home learning. Below is a short list of some of the websites that are providing these resources:

**General**

https://tpet.co.uk/downloads/upper-key-stage-two-ks2-home-learning-resource-pack-1/

https://tpet.co.uk/downloads/lower-key-stage-two-ks2-home-learning-resource-pack-1/

https://tpet.co.uk/downloads/key-stage-one-ks1-home-learning-resource-pack-1/

https://tpet.co.uk/downloads/early-years-eyfs-home-learning-resource-pack/

https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/free-home-learning-packs/

https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html

https://www.emile-education.com/schools-corona-virus/

https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/class-management/school-closure-home-learning-classroom-management-key-stage-1-year-1-year-2

https://studio.code.org/home

**Maths**

https://ttrockstars.com/page/covid19support

https://tpet.co.uk/downloads/learning-at-home-maths-activities/

https://whiterosemaths.com/

https://primarystarseducation.co.uk/covid-19-year-1/

https://primarystarseducation.co.uk/covid-19-year-2/

http://www.first4maths.co.uk/product/year-6-creative-at-home-free/