# **Parent and Carer’s Guide to ZOOM**



### **Does my child have to have a Zoom account to use it for class?**

Typically, children don't need a Zoom account if they're just joining a class scheduled by the teacher (only meeting hosts need an account). However, teachers can restrict the session to "authorized attendees," which requires participants either to log in to Zoom or enter a password in order to join the class. Restricting participants is a handy safety and security measure that prevents uninvited guests from gaining access.

Your child’s teacher will provide them with a link and/or password if this is required.

### **What can children do in Zoom?**

Besides just voice-chatting, Zoom gives children plenty of tools to interact with each other and the teacher, work together, and even break off into smaller groups -- just as if they were sitting with each other in a classroom. But if teachers don't need these capabilities for class, or if they're causing problems, they can all be turned off. Here's just a sampling of what you can do if these features are enabled:

* **Share screen.** This allows the entire class to view one person's computer screen. Students can even annotate a document on another kid's computer. Teachers can restrict this so only their screen can be shared.
* **Whiteboard.**This is a brainstorming tool that lets kids toss ideas around, such as for a group project.
* **Breakout rooms.**The teacher can divide students up into smaller groups, and then bring the entire class back together.
* **Raise hand, clap, disagree, speed up, slow down.** These are icons kids can use to: let the teacher know they have a question or comment, react to something, or ask the teacher to talk faster or slower.
* **Chat with the group.**Kids can send a message to the entire class.
* **Private chat.**Just like passing notes, kids can send direct, personal messages to other kids in the class. The teacher can't view private chats between students.