

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

Well... After what was a distressing time for everyone during the last week of actual school, this week has been a most surreal and unusual week with home learning! However, we are slowly managing these new ways of working and adapting accordingly. We have just had our first staff meeting via 'Google Hangout' - it was so heart-warming to see all our teachers' faces and it reminded me how vital it is to keep in touch with the important people in our lives.

You and your children are also having to get used to these methods too but I have to say, we are so proud of our pupils for all the effort they are putting into home learning. The photos on Twitter have been fabulous and we hope you are not going too stir crazy!

We really hope that you are all managing to stay safe and well out there. It's so disconcerting being apart from everyone in our community but we know it is absolutely the right thing to do. Thank you all for your messages of support – at the moment we cannot respond to all of them but please know that your messages have been passed on to all of our staff.

### **Home Learning**

At the end of this letter is a message from Jenny regarding home learning. Please note that our children will not be set any home learning tasks at the weekends. They deserve a break too. We will also not be setting any formal home learning over the Easter holidays, but the staff are putting together a list of practical activities that your child can complete and share with their classmates electronically. This will be sent to you next week.

The Well Being tab in the Covid-19 menu is up and running. So far we have posted a song for your child to sing-along with, a question about who or what they'd like to celebrate this week and asked if any of them have had a go at making rainbows. Thank you to all those who have replied. Next week we plan to add some different mindfulness and relaxation activities and some more songs.

### **Missing Children**

There have been a few children we have not heard from through our online learning yet and we are working on contacting these parents. We will be making follow up phone calls next week to check that everyone is okay out there.

### **Support for families with children with SEND**

You can find this information on the MK Local Offer page: [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mksend](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mksend) and the Local Offer Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/MKSEND](https://www.facebook.com/MKSEND). Team duty line, Monday to Friday (8.30am – 4.30pm): **01908 657825**

### **Advice, Information and Support for Children with Sensory Needs**

The Sensory-ICT Team are developing information, ideas and activities which can be used to support children and young people at school and at home. These will be available on the MK Local Offer page and the Local Offer Facebook page. General links can be found at [www.mkeducate.co.uk](http://www.mkeducate.co.uk)

Information and activities intended for children with a hearing impairment, vision impairment and/or ICT needs (**including E-safety**) can be found at: <https://stpstaff.sharepoint.com/sites/SensoryICT/>

Please use the following details to log-in:

**User:** [sensory-ict@outlook.com](mailto:sensory-ict@outlook.com) (this email is not monitored, please only use for logging in to the Sensory-ICT site)

**Password:** Daffodil357

### **Caring for our Elderly**

After discussion with one of our keyworker parents this morning, we'd like to remind you that if you know of a vulnerable adult or elderly person that needs support then please contact the council on 01908 691691. Ask for the 'Operator' and then 'Local Support Service' who will be able to help. Thank you.

## **Easter**

The school will be operating a free holiday club for children whose parents are both key workers only. Please sign up to the SchoolGateway in the usual way by 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Thank you.

## **Residential and Day Trips - Refunds**

Helen is currently working with SchoolComms to refund full amounts for our residential and day trips booked until the end of May 2020. We have an added complication as it's our new financial year but we plan to have all refunds into the account or credit card you used to pay with by the end of April 2020. We will let you know if we encounter any problems or a delay with this. If you have paid by cash or cheque this can only be refunded by cheque, so please bear with us as cheques require two authorising signatures. We have managed to save most of our cancellation charges with rebooking, charity donations and grovelling! School will cover the remaining amount so we can offer you full refunds.

Have a lovely weekend,

*Claire, Angie and Debbie*

## **A message from Jenny**

### **School Blog**

I hope you have had a good first week. Your teachers have been putting your work onto the year group blog, an example link to the class blog is: <https://classes.gilesbrook.co.uk/yr4-distance-learning> where the school site password is: **2020GBS**

We have password protected it so that the GBS community can leave comments on the blog. All staff would love to see comments from your children, what they are getting up to or if they have any problems.

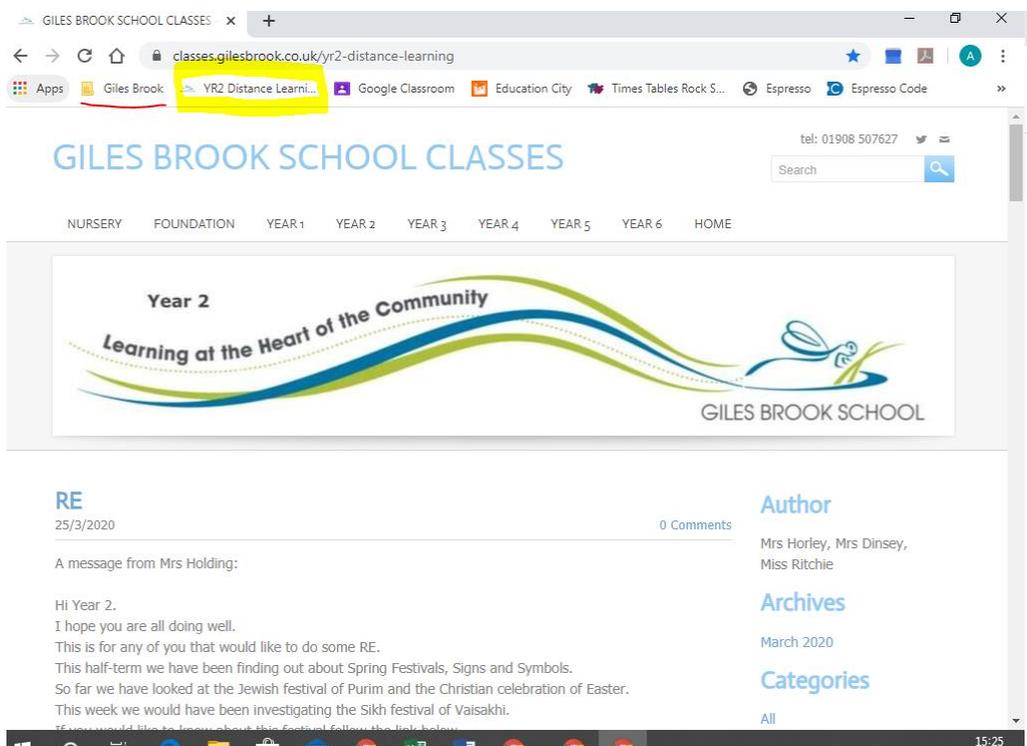
The Blog is our vehicle to then point you in the right direction.

- Foundation and Nursery will be using Tapestry.
- Year 1 and 2 will be using the Blog for now, this will develop after Easter.
- Year 3 to 6 will be using Google Classrooms.
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### **Google Chrome**

If your child logs on to Google Chrome and then does a LINK DATA you will see all their access to various web resources, plus passwords are saved. The password will be in your homework book. There is a help video if you are not sure how to do this:

<https://www.gilesbrook.co.uk/passwordlogon-issues.html>



The yellow highlighted is Distance Learning area

Red is the GBS Links

### Twitter

If you have approved for your children to be on the school website/twitter account then we would love for you to share your distance learning experience with the school community, your teachers miss you and it's nice to see what you are all doing. We have had some wonderful tags. If you tag us then we will retweet to share, our twitter account is:

@GilesBrookSCH

weblink: <https://twitter.com/GilesBrookSCH>

### Logon Issues

If you have any logon issue then please complete the online form and we will sort it out as soon as possible:

<https://www.gilesbrook.co.uk/passwordlogon-issues.html>

We believe we have resolved all issues from this week, so if you still have a problem, complete the form.