

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you are aware we are facing unprecedented times as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. We are extremely grateful to you all for your kind words, comments and adherence to government guidance during these last few weeks.



Unfortunately schools will be closing (with more details to follow) so we would like to inform you of how we will support your child's learning at home during this time. We will be using two forms of communication during the weeks in which school is closed for children in our Nursery and Reception settings.

Firstly, we will be updating the class blogs with ideas for activities to carry out, games to play, words to practise, stories being read by GBS staff etc. These can be located on the Giles Brook website and more information will follow in a separate letter regarding this and the access password. Below is a quick guide of how to find this:

The screenshot shows the Giles Brook School website. The navigation menu includes: HOME, COVID-19, ABOUT, NEWS, PARENTS, CLASSES, CURRICULUM, DOCUMENTS, CHILDREN, MORE... The 'CLASSES' link is highlighted with an arrow. A dropdown menu is open, showing options: Caterpillars Nursery, Foundation, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6. The 'Foundation' option is highlighted with an arrow.

Click on Caterpillars Nursery or Foundation, then under their drop down menu select 'distance learning.' Please note all the website links can also be found on our Website under the Covid-19 section and distance learning tabs can also be accessed from here. Websites like Espresso and Phonics play have a wealth of activities and videos which we can sign post you too.

We will also be using Tapestry as a communication tool to share some ideas of learning which can take place at home. Please check this when you are able to do so for any updates which will come up as an observation for your child. Please continue to update Tapestry with photos of what you are doing at home – be it a picture your child has drawn, any writing they have completed or a book you have shared. We will love to see all the things you are doing together. Children at school often ask us to put things on Tapestry to share with you – please do the same for us so we can share that learning when we are back together at school. We will miss all the children massively so this is a great way to keep in touch!

Remember, the practical learning experiences are what we value the most in the Early Years so please have as much fun with your children as possible. We don't wish for parents to spend lots of money on resources but please note we will be uploading a variety of creative ideas you could be doing at home. These won't be activities we are expecting children to complete, just some ideas we think they may enjoy.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Natalie Duke and The Early Years Team.