



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 24 March 2020 – 3.00pm

It has been good to talk directly to you this week and we have been very touched by your positivity and support. We will continue to contact everyone but if we haven't managed to catch you please feel free to call us back at school to discuss your situation.

We have been working hard to set up a home learning online system that will aim to meet everyone's needs and enable our young people to access activities and work whilst at home. It will be ready to go on Monday and you will receive log in instructions before then.

In the meantime I have included some websites that you may find useful. You will hopefully have also received an IEP pack from us by now.

We have also been working on a plan to ensure you receive regular contact from us at school. Even though you may not be in school we want to support you through this difficult time.

The directive from the Government was very clear last night, we should all stay at home unless absolutely necessary. We remain open for those children of key workers and those who are most vulnerable.

Thank you for playing your part in only accessing this child care if you really need it.

Keep in touch and take care.

Gail

Free Education resources which you can access at home

1. www.twinkl.co.uk

Access for this is free currently due to Covid-19. Twinkl has a huge range of resources for all abilities and ages. All are printable resources, although there is a small collection of e-books also available.

2. BBC Bitesize

This website has a breath of resources across the curriculum. They use videos, interactive games and some printable resources.

3. www.oxfordowl.co.uk

A large xcollection of e-books. These are reading books used for a large amount of our children, featuring Biff, Chip and Kipper! All are free to read. They also host a range of maths games and activities.



4. www.litracyshed.com

This is a great collection of short films, poems, stories and photographs which can be used to inspire writing, or just conversation with your children.

5. www.Activityvillage.co.uk

Home learning packs of printable resources for a range of abilities. These are mainly aimed at Primary aged children.

6. www.teachstarter.com

Now offering free home learning packs which are printable for a range of abilities. These resources will be appropriate for some of our older learners as well as those primary aged children.

7. www.TopMarks.co.uk

Huge range of maths resources including interactive games and activities for all abilities.

8. www.thesensoryprojects.co.uk

A huge range of resources for sensory students including sensory stories, activity guides and interaction packs.

9. www.mathsplayground.com

A broad range of maths games for primary level children.

10. www.countryliving.com

A range of live animal webcams to initiate talk about the natural world with the children.

11. www.spaceplace.nasa.gov.uk

Lots of space and science games from NASA!

12. www.phonicsplay.com

A range of phonics games that are used regularly in school phonics lessons. Access is now free. Games go through phases 1-6 and include repetition games to cement understanding.

13. Cosmic Kids Yoga (youtube)

A collection of yoga videos for the children to take part in with a variety of themes. Great for relaxing and calming at the end of the day.

14. Just Dance (You Tube)

Thousands of songs with choreographed dance routines to keep the children active whilst stuck at home!

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 23 March 2020 – 8.30am

As you are aware the Government has asked schools to stay open for a limited number of pupils – those of Key Workers and those who may not be safe at home.

The message and scientific evidence is clear, if your child/young person can stay safely at home then this is the best action.

We are working hard to risk assess how we can support everyone within our Forest Way Community. Today we will aim to contact personally all families at home to discuss your individual situation.

Thank you for being patient, we are trying our best to make caring and safe decisions. We want to operate school as safely as we can to protect both pupils and staff.

We will also be looking at expanding our capacity to communicate with you when you are at home.

We care about you all and we will be in touch.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 20 March 2020 – 4.00pm

I would like to update about the plans we have made to safeguard the pupils at Forest Way School in response to the latest guidance from the Government to reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

The advice underlines that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children, but the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

We have been asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

We have considered carefully this advice and taken the safest and most caring approach that we can.

I am so sorry that this means we will be closed to many families.

We will be contacting those families today who we will be offering a place to.

Our duty and responsibility to safeguard our students remains and we will aim to stay in contact with every family providing work, resources, advice, regular telephone calls and emails. More information about how this will look will also be sent to you on Monday.

If your child receives free school meals, we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with the support scheme that the government has just announced.

We are aware of the impact this will have on you as families and we will ensure that we keep in touch with updates about this ever changing situation. The Forest Way Community is a special one and we will do our best to support you in this incredibly difficult time.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

We will be in touch.