



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear TG families

Writing a letter to say goodbye to you all this afternoon, in these circumstances, is not something that I have ever imagined having to do. I would like to start by thanking you all for the kind messages of support that you have shared with us this week; they have really helped to boost our spirits as we have navigated our way through the challenges that we have encountered over the last few days. I would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate our amazing TG staff and our wonderful children – they have all been absolutely brilliant this week in helping to keep the school a calm and positive environment. I am immensely proud of everyone in our TG family.

The decision to close schools was something that we had anticipated happening at some point and as a school we have been planning for how we would support learning at home. The announcement that schools would remain open for the children of key workers was completely unexpected and has presented schools with huge challenges in terms of working out how we will organise this. I am pleased to say that Temple Grafton working with the other schools in our MAT collaborated on a plan and we are now in a position to offer child care at TG for the children of key workers starting on Monday. Families have been contacted directly to confirm the offer places.

We realise that for many of you the idea of home education might be somewhat daunting. Along with the learning projects, our class teachers have created a model plan for what a day at home might look like for you to use as guide. If it helps, please feel free to follow the schedule or adapt to meet the needs of your household – there is no obligation to use the plan if you do not wish to.

We have been overwhelmed with generosity of education professionals and organisations, both local and national who are offering to share resources with you all free of charge to help during the period of school closure. We will share them with you in the coming weeks. For today we thought you might be interested in what the Heart of England are offering:

- People are being encouraged to exercise outdoors away from others. There are a number of walks that families can access, including our new car park and all access trail at Morgrove Coppice which is suitable for prams and buggies as well as wheelchairs. The link to information about our walks is <https://www.heartofenglandforest.com/things-to-do/walks/> Car parks operate through donations, or families can get an annual pass for all of our carparks by becoming a Friend of the Forest for just £3 a month.
- To help combat the boredom and support children's mental health we will be posting an outdoor activity idea every day through our social media accounts for families to do together in their gardens or other natural space using the hashtag #WildTribe . We will ensure that these ideas do not need



too many resources so people don't need to buy anything in to take part. Families can connect to us on social media using these links:

<https://www.facebook.com/heartofenglandforest> , https://twitter.com/The_HOEF , <https://www.instagram.com/theheartofenglandforest/>

As stated in our letter yesterday, we will keep you all updated of every step we take, in line with the government guidelines. We realise that we have bombarded you with multiple emails and letters over the last few days – we very much hope that the information has been of help.

Wishing all our TG mums a very happy Mother's Day.

With kindest regards

Mrs Hendry

