

These are unusual times we are living in at the moment, especially now that schools, colleges and early years' settings are set to close. Not only for parents/carers who find themselves making provision to home school, but also for teachers who are responsible for educating those children, be it in class or remotely.

Help with planning going forward



When planning activities for pupils to complete at home take a look at the **Food a fact of life** website.

The **5-7** and **7-11** areas of the website have activity ideas that could be used to enable pupils to continue their learning about healthy eating, cooking and nutrition. Resources include worksheets, cards and games plus interactive activities and videos.

Don't forget to make full use of the potato **support resources** on the GYOP website too.



Potato Journal

A great way for children looking after the potatoes to keep track of progress



Friend or Foe Activity

Ideal activity to set for children to investigate while working at home



Bug ID Cards

Another great resource to keep pupils occupied at home hunting for bugs.

Don't forget your growing potatoes too



With all UK schools set to close from tomorrow, and after all your hard work planting and looking after your growing plants, please remember to make plans to look after them over the next few weeks. This way when you come back to school you will still have them to harvest and cook up with your children.

Why not, top up your soil now, so that all your plants need is water, then you could:

Move them to somewhere the school caretaker can see them and ask him/her to water them every couple of days.

Or

Choose some of your pupils to take the potatoes home and look after them. They could even use the GYOP **potato journal** to keep track of its progress and report back to you how they are doing.

Or

Some schools will be staying open for children of front line staff or for children with an EHCP. Encourage these children to take responsibility for the potatoes, it's a great opportunity for them to get outdoors too.

Top tips for your growing plants



Space. The more room your plants have to grow the more potatoes you will get at harvesting. Keep topping up your soil to the top of your bag.

Light. Plants need lots of light to grow, so make sure your growbags are somewhere bright and not in the shade.

Water. Potatoes need water to grow, ensure the soil is kept moist but not wet.

Food. If you have planted your potatoes in multi-purpose compost, it should contain everything your plant needs. If you are adding extra plant food, make sure you read the instructions.

Temperature. The ideal temperature for your growing potatoes is 10-15°C (50-59°F) and remember your plants hate frost, so bring them inside or cover them if a frost is due.

Please take care of yourself, your pupils, your families and your potatoes.
Best wishes

Sue
GYOP Team

#GYOP share your news

Keep up to date on all things GYOP, send us your updates or share advice with schools for how you are caring for your plants at this tricky time.

Facebook [@potatoesforschools](#) and Twitter [@potatoes4school](#)

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