



Pride in ourselves,
pride in our school,
pride in our community.

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3rd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have managed to have a restful and enjoyable break with your family. As many of you will have read in the news, there has been a significant increase in the number of positive cases of COVID-19 over the last month. This has gone hand-in-hand with the discovery of a new variant of the virus which has a faster transmission. I'm sure that many of you will be concerned about this, including about your child returning to school on Tuesday.

Spring term school reopening

As it stands, the Government's position is that the majority of primary schools in England (including Central Bedfordshire) will open as planned this coming first week of January. We must follow Governmental instructions regarding opening so, unless we receive an updated position before Tuesday, we will be opening on 5th January for all children.

The Government's efforts to strike a balance between minimising the risk of transfer of COVID-19 and providing face-to-face education for all children will be closely monitored by the leadership of Gothic Mede Academy and we will update you as soon as there are any changes to our arrangements.

As well as a change in approach from the Government, another factor which could prevent full reopening is a lack of sufficient staff in key roles in school. Our position is clear: We want to see children in school. It is the best place for their education and their wider well-being. But, if either of the aforementioned circumstances arise, we are likely to have to prioritise providing for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers (if we are able to open the site at all). To help us prepare for this scenario, please can you all fill in the form below for each of your children who attend Gothic Mede Academy?

[Place Request Form January 2021](#)

Risk assessment

At any point, whether we are partly or fully open, the safety measures that we have in place largely remain unchanged. The main principles will still apply: increased levels of hygiene and cleaning, social distancing and the separation of different groups of pupils in the school. As a result of the changing situation, and after the positive cases that we had at the end of last term, we are reviewing our risk assessment and will be reinforcing existing safety measures. We have not seen transmission of the virus between groups of pupils at school yet. This seems to indicate that, so far, these measures have worked. This may not always be the case though and we will review our risk assessment at that time, including if the main strategy of isolating year groups is deemed insufficient by the Government. At that time, we would communicate major changes with you as soon as we were able.

I would like to reiterate a few things from my letter at the end of last term though - my gratitude for your support, the pride I feel towards my staff team and the eagerness that I feel, looking forward to your children returning to school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Thomas Clarke – Principal

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Vice Principal: Nicola Davis
Chair of Governors: Jo Graves



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