



Newsletter No. 2

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

Friday 14th January 2022



The Stick Man

This week in Acorn class we've been exploring the story of Stickman. We have read the story and spoke about the author. Ask us who wrote Stickman and we can tell you! We love her books! We've explored our outdoor classroom, looking for the perfect stick to make our very own stickman. We used our strong fingers to create our stickmen and lady loves, carefully cutting the leaves and sticking on their eye. We have enjoyed colouring and cutting pictures and writing our very own parts of the story. We're very busy in Acorn and Proud Peacocks.



COVID-19 school update

Unfortunately, cases of COVID-19 have continued to rise in the local community, including within Gothic Mede Academy. Thank you all for continuing to support us by testing your children before they come to school and isolating when they have developed symptoms. This has helped to keep cases down.

A threshold was met in one class earlier this week and parents/carers within this class, as well as the rest of the school have received 'Warn and Inform' letters (sent via ParentMail on 10th January). As a result of the 'Warn and Inform' letter, only a few more cases were detected and these children are now isolating. As with all circumstances, we follow guidance set by Public Health England and Central Bedfordshire Council, and have implemented additional measures to help stop the spread of the virus within Gothic Mede Academy.

We also contact parents when certain thresholds are met. These are:

- if 5 individuals or 10% of children or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period
- if a child or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19

No other updates on positive cases will be given to parents, in line with guidance from Public Health, to protect individuals' right to privacy and to allow us to get on with the job of running a school.

As the guidance around the isolation period is changing on Monday 17th January, we will send updated guidance for parents and carers via ParentMail, once we have received the information.

Again, thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Uniform

The value of Pride is important to Gothic Mede Academy. We encourage children to take pride in their attitudes, their work and their presentation. Our uniform policy supports this emphasis. This can be found on our website and was sent out in our first newsletter of the year.

Last year we changed our policy to mean that, on PE days, children (not those in Reception or nursery) should come into school in their PE kits. We found that this helped to maximise time doing PE. We were keen to avoid this meaning that children were not as smart and did not take as much pride in their appearance though, so we made our expectations clear, including the wearing of school jumpers or school cardigans as part of PE kit. This policy is not being followed at the moment so we will start contacting parents if children come in on a PE day in a jumper that isn't Gothic Mede uniform.

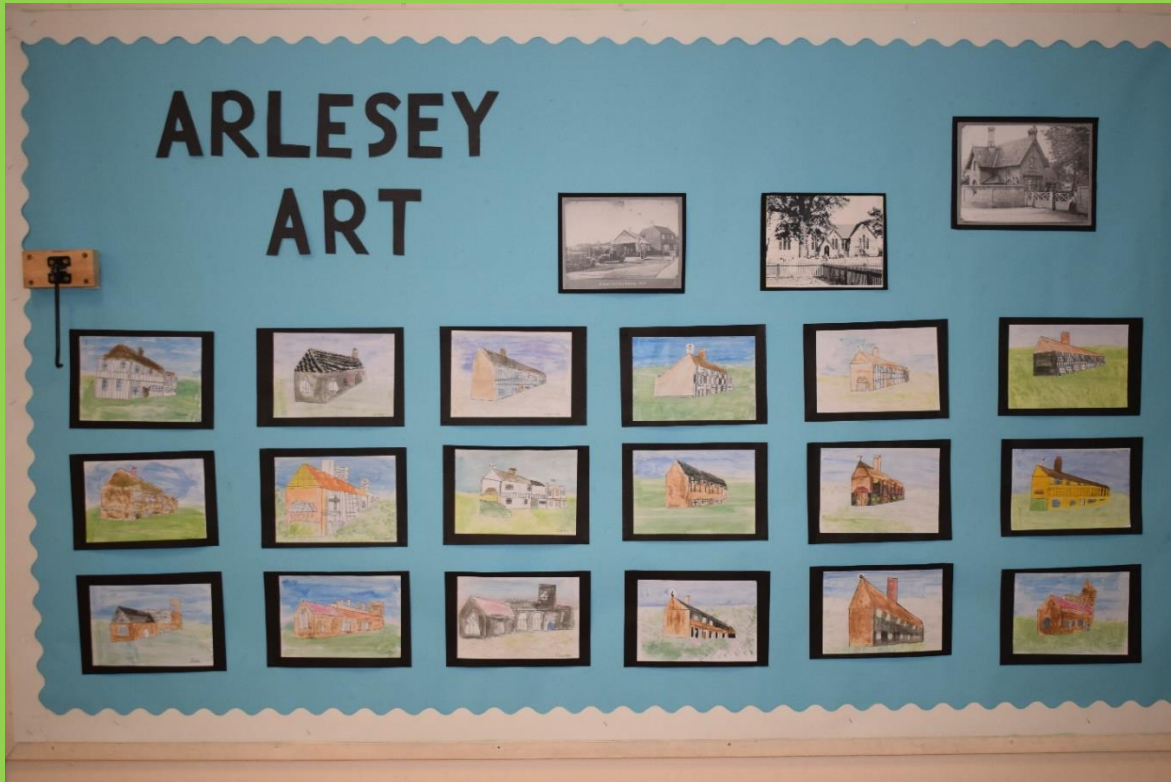
As always, please contact us through the normal channels if you have any questions, through your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Our full uniform policy can be found at:

www.gothicmede.org.uk/uniform

Arlesey Art!

Year 4 have been focusing on perspective of buildings in their art lessons. They went on a local walk to look at buildings in Arlesey, focusing on the details of key buildings in the area and then have used all this knowledge to produce some lovely art work.



Monet's Japanese Garden

In Year 1, we are very excited to be using watercolours and our art sketchbooks for the very first time! We are learning about landscapes and cityscapes. In this lesson, we recreated Monet's Japanese Garden.



Reading Corner

In preparation for our World Book Day visit from Charlie Ant author, Andy Huxtable, we are inviting all children to take part in a competition to design a new character for the Charlie Ant books. You have the chance to win £100, receive signed copies of the books and possibly have your character featuring in a future Charlie Ant book! Let's all get designing a great garden friend for Charlie. Entry forms will be sent home in book bags. All entries to be returned to Mrs Glindon by Monday 24th January. Good luck everyone!



You will also be able to hear Mrs Oestreicher reading the story on Facebook and our website.

Number Day and Kipsy Day

We are delighted to be supporting two charities in February by taking part in two separate fund-raising days.

On Friday 4th February we will be taking part in Number Day for the NSPCC. Everything the NSPCC does protects children today and in the future. The NSPCC need our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline – the helpline that's always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern. On average, a child contacts Childline every 25 seconds.

Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards it. We are having a fun day of maths activities and we will be taking part in Dress up for Digits. Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!). Or get even more creative by dressing in a maths or numbers theme.

On Friday 11th February we will be taking part in Kipsy day for Making Me. Making Me is a charity that support children and their mental health, offering workshops and guidance to all children. At GMA, we have been very lucky to have Making Me visit our school to deliver a range of workshops and assemblies to support our children in these difficult times. They also developed Kipsy, which we have been using in our school successfully to help children with their emotional literacy.

We will be asking pupils to come in wearing non uniform but to dress in bright colours. We are asking for one voluntary contribution for both days. This contribution will be shared equally between both charities.

Telling the Time

In Maths, we are learning how to tell the time to the hour and half past the hour. We enjoyed using the analogue clocks to help us and used mathematical reasoning to explain how we knew it was half past the hour.



Golden Book

Children are nominated by Teaching Assistants and Teachers for a Principal's award which is entered in the Golden Book. The award can be for living one of our Values or special achievement. Sporting awards/achievements gained through a regular commitment to a club or group are also celebrated.

Ash	Sukhleen	for being a 'Go for it Gorilla' with her speaking and writing. Sukleen wrote beautifully in phonics and in free choice drew a chalk picture of herself, repeating a full sentence about the picture.
Oak	Ruby	for demonstrating a fantastic knowledge of numbers to 10 in her child-initiated play.
Elm	Charlie	for demonstrating a 'can do' attitude when writing and in lessons generally.
Beech	Ethan	for showing the values of courage and enthusiasm when speaking and writing about his Christmas experience.
Maple	Lexi-May	for always coming into school with a positive attitude and for being a kind and compassionate member of the class.
Willow	Oscar	for his effort and willingness with his writing during phonics.
Chestnut	Archie	for always being ready to learn and setting an amazing example of how to live the school values of responsibility and respect.
Sycamore	Tristan	for his positive attitude in all lessons and for showing his working and reasoning in maths.
Birch	Lucy	for her infectious enthusiasm for learning and her consistent endeavour to contribute to our whole class discussions, especially in mathematics.
Hazel	Isla	for always being polite and respectful to adults. I have received lovely feedback from adults who taught Isla last week on how well she lived the values of GMA.



Tidy Ted

This week goes to Maple class. The classroom is always very tidy and organised. Equipment is always put back in the right place.
Well done Maple!

Well done to Noah from Maple for being Beaver of the half term!

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