



Welcome to Ash and Oak



# Reading Books

Your child will take part in a phonics lesson every day in which we will be introducing letter sounds and names and teaching the key skills of decoding sounds, segmenting and blending. The sounds taught each week will be noted on the weekly timetable which will be sent out each Friday. Additionally, your child will be introduced to HRSW.



# Reading Books

Your child will have come home with a reading book. These books are inline with our whole school phonics programme. The books are wordless picture books. Enjoy the story together and encourage your child to tell you about what is happening in the pictures, predict what might happen next and discuss anything that the story might remind you of. Books will be changed every Friday and we encourage you to re-read the book with your child at least 3 times throughout the week. Please record each time you read in their reading record diary. If no entries are made we will assume the book has not been read and it will not be changed. Please keep the book in your child's book bag so that it is available if an adult in school needs to listen to them read.



# Library

Your child will visit the library every two weeks where they will be able to select a book to take home. These sessions will be on a Thursday. Please ensure your child's library book is in their book bags on Fridays so that they are able to select a new one.



# Homework

- Your child will receive two pieces of homework each fortnight (one phonics and one Maths) on a Friday to be completed and handed in the Wednesday of the second week. This homework will usually focus on basic skills of number and sounds learnt in phonics.
- There will also be a termly 'Star Challenge' which will be given out with a date for return towards the end of the term. This will be topic based. There will be clear success criteria and feedback linked to the Star Challenge.



# Chatterbox

In order to get to know your child better, we are setting the children a small task to help us get to know them. We would like your child to prepare a 'Chatterbox'. This involves putting a few things which are special to them in a box (e.g. a shoe box). The objects could include:

- Special toys or objects
- Photographs of family or pets
- Photographs of them engaging in a favourite hobby

Please send these boxes into school, named by Monday 18th September.



# Tapestry

- Tapestry is an online Learning Journal that we use in Early Years (Nursery and Reception) to record the children's learning. We will be uploading photos and observations that we take of the children. You can access these and upload your own photos of the children showing their learning at home.
- You should have received an activation email for Tapestry. If you have not please contact the school office.
- You will see some observations of your child over the course of the year however the emphasis is on high quality interactions in order to move their learning on.



# Weekly Newsletters, Social Media and Website

- Every Friday we will send out a newsletter and a timetable for the following week, via e-mail which may include:
  - A summary of what the children have been learning in the previous week, in both adult led activities and their free play;
  - Information on what the children will be learning about that current week so that you can support your child's learning at home;
  - Other important information and reminders, for example, if there is a special event happening that week at school.
- These newsletters can also be accessed on our class page on the school website which also has lots of other helpful information.
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter – Gothic Mede Academy





# Show and tell

We will start show and tell after half term on a Friday.  
The Show and Tell rota will be attached to our  
newsletter towards the end of this half term.



# Snacks and Water bottles

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school each day - this should only contain water (no juice please!).

For their morning snack this can either be purchased from the Kitchen or sent in from home. Snacks sent in from home need to be named. Please only send in one or two as they have lunch at 11.30. If you order a snack from the kitchen you do not need to send one in from home.

In the afternoon, your child will receive a piece of fruit.



# Uniform

- Please make sure all uniform is CLEARLY named and make a point of checking this regularly in case the name has faded. Any uniform that is found and has not got a name on will be put in lost property. If your child has long hair, then please ensure it is tied back every day. Jewellery (including earrings) nail varnish and temporary tattoos are not permitted.



# P.E

Ash and Oak classes have P.E on a Wednesday.

Please ensure you send your PE kit in if you haven't already done so, we will send it home at the end of each half term to be washed. As the weather gets colder it is advisable that your child has jogging bottoms and a jumper with them as P.E will still take place outside on some days. Please ensure that ALL P.E kit is named. Earrings should not be worn on the P.E days.



# Forest school

On Tuesdays, please ensure that your child is wearing the following:

- Outdoor shoes – walking boots, old trainers or wellingtons
- Warm socks
- A warm, waterproof coat
- A jumper or fleece
- A t-shirt
- Trousers
- Waterproof over-trousers if possible
- An extra layer of clothing depending on the weather It goes without saying that it's a great idea to put your child's name in all of their clothing!

Please note these need to be old clothes from home and not school uniform. The spare clothes also need to be from home and not school uniform.

Your child will not need to bring their bookbag on this day.





# Attendance

**Excellent attendance to school is of paramount importance. Pupils cannot achieve their full potential if they do not regularly attend school.**

## Why is good attendance so important?

- Allows children to flourish and achieve their full potential at school
- Pupils who miss large amounts of school do not achieve as well as those who attend regularly. The DfE guidance 2022 Working Together to Improve School Attendance states *"The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of KS2 and KS4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment."*
- Good attendance habits follow through from primary to secondary school and then on into employment
- Enables economic well-being later in life







## How do we address poor attendance at GMA?

A pupil with attendance of 90% and below is defined as being a **persistent absentee**.

We have a duty to address poor attendance. However, we hope to do it in a supportive way and work with the family.

If your child's attendance starts to become a concern, we will speak to parents / carers in the first instance. If there is no improvement, parents / carers will receive a letter and may be invited in for a meeting.

In the most extreme cases, if a child's attendance continues to fall, parents and carers may be asked to provide medical evidence for absences and the School Attendance Officer may become involved.





## Absence Procedures

If your child is going to be absent from school, you must inform the school office via ParentMail or by phoning the office on 01462 732002. You must report your child absent by 8.55am each day they are absent.

For planned absences, a Leave of Absence Form must be completed. These can be collected from the school office. Absences will only be authorised for exceptional circumstances.





# Home School Agreement

- You will have had a letter about the home school agreement. This helps us all work in partnership to support your child through their time at Gothic Mede.

