



## The Value this month is Courage

- strength in the face of pain, danger or grief
- facing situations of which one is afraid

At school we will ask the question 'What are you really afraid of?' and then go on to consider how to overcome fears by being with and confiding in other people, friends and family. Nothing is ever as frightening when you are not alone. We will look at examples of people in history who have shown courage and reflect on times when we have been brave examining how that made us feel. It is important that we stress that bravery doesn't just relate to physical feats but also to daily words and actions such as being honest and owning up to something even when you know you will be in trouble or standing up for what you know is right even when friends are against you.

Thought for the month: *'Sometimes the biggest act of courage is a small one.'*

At home you could discuss the above 'thought for the month' with your children and decide what you think it means. This month have a go at doing something reasonably challenging and see it through to the end; it could be something like jumping into a swimming pool for the first time, having a shot at ice skating or removing stabilisers from a bike. Encourage your children to be honest about their fears and try to overcome them bravely together.

## Children's bags

As we get to the end of the school year, I'm sure that a lot of you will be considering buying new bags for your children for next year. When doing so, please can you purchase a Gothic Mede Academy book bag for their letters, books and homework and a Gothic Mede Academy PE bag for their PE kit? These are part of our uniform requirements and will be considerably less expensive than most rucksacks!

The main reason for us reminding you of this today is due to the increasing numbers of rucksacks that are being brought in to school. We're running out of space for them in our 1970s-sized cloakrooms(!), meaning that some are being left untidily and unsafely on the floor. Children can't use these bags to bring their books into the classroom as well, as the children's drawers are quite small.

We won't be turning away these kind of bags this term but from September we will be asking that only book bags and small drawstring bags are brought in by the children.

## Arts around the World

Just a taste of what a wonderful week we have had here at Gothic Mede. Arts around the World Week has included dancing, singing, arts and crafts, food testing and learning about other cultures.



## Staffing changes

I'm sorry to announce that at the end of this academic year, we will be saying goodbye to two members of staff who have recently informed me that they will not be returning in September. Miss Amanda Dickinson from Acorn Class will be leaving Gothic Mede Academy to focus more on her home and family life. Teaching is a challenging profession and we have been incredibly lucky to have had Miss Dickinson at Gothic Mede. She has contributed so much to the leadership of Acorn Class through times of change for our nursery provision and her relationships with children and parents have been massive strengths of hers. She will also be missed by many of us as a valued friend and colleague.

I'm happy to announce that today, we appointed Mrs Helen Webber to the post of class teacher that Miss Dickinson will be leaving vacant. From September she will be teaching alongside Mrs Lewis in Reception. I am very pleased to be able to bring Mrs Webber back into a permanent position in our team as she has so much experience and skill to bring to the school and Reception. The children of Oak Class next year are very lucky!

We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Gill Billing, one of our Kitchen Managers. Mrs Billing has worked in her role for 23 years and over this time she has led the kitchen to provide school dinners to thousands of children, innovating and ensuring that children are provided with food of consistently high quality and nutritional value. I have enjoyed working with Mrs Billing over my time at Gothic Mede and I wish her the very best for her retirement when she leaves us at the end of term. We will be advertising for the vacancy that she will leave in due course.

Finally, some of you will be aware that Mrs Rachel Taylor left Reception as a teaching assistant at the end of last half term to pursue professional development in BEST Nurseries. Although we're happy that she will remain part of our BEST family of schools and nurseries, we're sorry to lose her as she contributed greatly during her time at Gothic Mede. However, I'm very happy to say that this week her replacement, Miss Nina Day, returned to our staff team at Gothic Mede. Those of you who know Miss Day will know of her humour, her absolute care for the children and her fantastic skills in supporting learning. We're all very pleased to welcome Miss Day back to Gothic Mede.

## Supervision of children at the end of the day

Please can I ask that parents supervise their children closely at the end of the school day? For reasons of safety, the climbing frame is out of bounds after school and the steps and slope and the opposite end of the playground should be kept clear. This is the case for children who have been dismissed by teachers but also for younger siblings.

## Golden Book

Children are nominated by Teaching Assistants and Teachers for a Head Teacher'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	Lily	for beautiful unaided writing about her friend salad.
Oak	Leo	for his amazing independent writing about 'How to make a fruit salad'
Beech	Maria	for using her vales of creativity and joy in her art and writing.
Elm	Leo	for his wonderful enthusiasm in music lessons and as part of the choir.
Maple	Zain	for trying really hard to improve his handwriting by taking his time more.
Willow	Eden	for imaginative story writing.
Chestnut	Luke	for applying his existing knowledge during maths lessons on time.
Sycamore	Lana	for her positive attitude to learning and hard work in English.
Hazel	Kayden	for his enthusiasm and effort when learning about 24 hour time in Maths this week.
Birch	Ethan	for the effort made when planning and composing his traditional tale.

## Celebration Assembly

### Swimming

Mitchell	Elm	Level 2
Carter	Maple	Level 4
Ivy	Willow	10 metres
Ivy	Willow	Level 2

### Pen licence

Daisy	Hazel
Flora	Hazel
Alim	Hazel
Kaysie-Rose	Hazel
Kiera	Hazel

### Quad Kids

Jessica	Hazel
Mair	Hazel
Alim	Hazel
Gyan	Hazel
George	Birch
Natasha	Birch
Megan	Birch
Jason	Birch

### Other

Lailah	Sycamore	Premier sports medal
Rosalie	Elm	800 metres run
Elodie	Oak	800 metres run

### Team points

Purwell	678
Hiz	560
Pix	523
Ivel	515

## Parentmail

We communicate to our parents and carers by Parentmail. This includes important information including trips, clubs, events and things happening in class. We know it may seem like you receive a lot of notifications from Parentmail but, as we use this to convey some really important messages, it's important that these are checked promptly.

## School Dinners

Due to cooking to numbers to avoid wastage, please make sure your child hands in dinner money in the morning to make sure adequate portions are prepared. If you miss the parentmail shop cut off please make sure payment is made by other means (cash or cheque) before the dinner is consumed.

Many thanks