

NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th July 2020

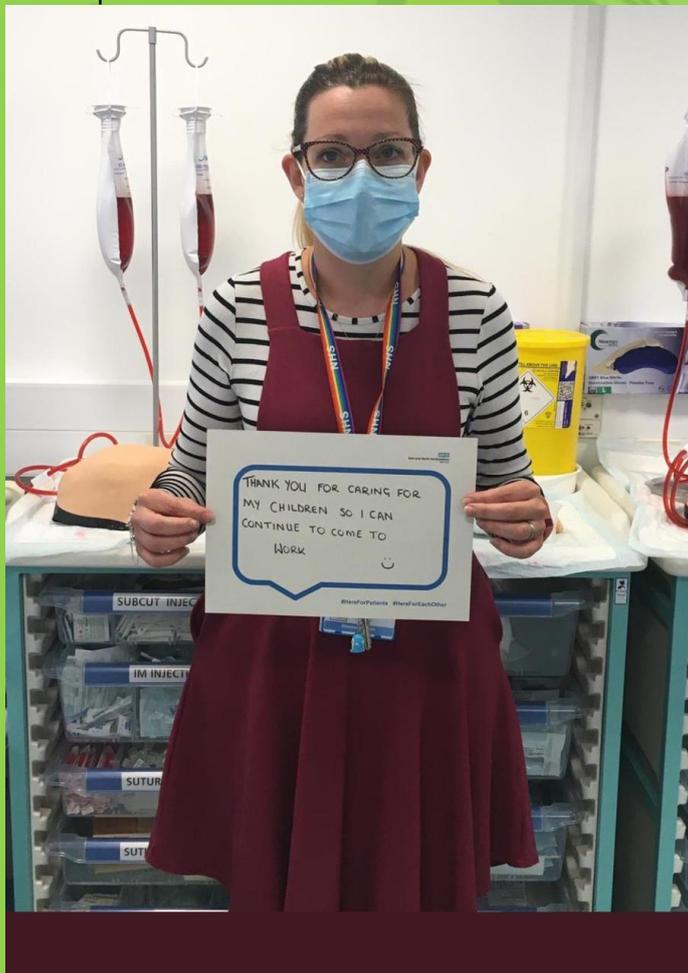
Our value for this month is: Freedom!



Lockdown stories

Mrs Stephanie Smith – Parent and Key Worker

On Sunday 5th of July it was the 72nd anniversary of the NHS. As part of the celebrations, The Lister Hospital asked staff if they wish to send a message to the community who have been supporting them over the past few months. It was clear who I was thankful to and would like to publicly and sincerely thank Gothic Mede Academy and my Childminder for taking such needed care of my two girls: Abigail and Lucy. They have felt loved, supported and cared for at and after school throughout life in lockdown and all the changes it has brought with it. They have enjoyed meeting and getting to know different teachers and making new friends in the key worker's classes. If I didn't have the support, I wouldn't have been able to continue my job which has involved teaching the staff at the hospital how to safely look after Covid-19 patients. Once again, I would like to say a big thankyou to all the staff at Gothic Mede Academy. Keep doing what you are doing and stay safe. You are an essential piece of life's puzzle!



16 Weeks of Lockdown (By Abigail Smith)

Over the past 16 weeks of lockdown, things have been very different at Gothic Mede Academy. At the very beginning I had a different group of teachers every week. It was great as I enjoyed meeting different teachers that I would not normally have. At first, I was with Key Stage 2 children and some days there were only 4 people in my class. We must stay 2 meters apart which is sometimes difficult to remember but is important to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

At the beginning of June, everything changed! All Year 4's were now with me in my class and we had the same teachers every week. My usual teacher is Mr Warlow and I now have him back. He loves tennis and so we decided to name our class "Tennis Class". We get to play tennis most break-times if it's not raining. I was excited to make new friends who were normally in other classes, and see them every day, as many of my normal friends aren't at school because their parents are not key-workers. At first I felt quite lonely at school but since some extra children have come back I don't feel lonely anymore. Even though we were in lockdown, we still managed to go on a couple of school trips to local areas. Once we learnt about map-reading and walked to the mill-pits in Arlesey using a map and it was one of the hottest days of the year so far. We also decorated some rocks and placed them on the COVID-Snake by the War Memorial.

Although lockdown was difficult, it was an important thing to do, and I am very thankful to Gothic Mede and the teachers for looking after me and helping my mummy and daddy to go to work. My mummy is a nurse at the Lister Hospital in Stevenage training other people to look after COVID patients and my daddy works for a construction company who are building new hospitals and a laboratory where they will test the Coronavirus to help find a vaccine.

I have enjoyed all my time at Gothic Mede Academy and Year 4 is certainly one I won't forget. As we break up shortly and I will be moving up to Etonbury, I would like to thank all the teachers and staff at Gothic Mede Academy for making my time so enjoyable and teaching me valuable lessons I need to become a grown-up.

From a pupil - Emily Grounsell

Home schooling has been different and I have missed my school friends and teachers during this time but I have enjoyed spending time with my family, doing Joe Wicks PE sessions and completing all the school work set for me. I've enjoyed extra baking and creative activities with my sister from Lego to drawing, colouring and painting. We have also enjoyed extra walks and cycling as well as producing our own vegetables, salad and courgettes. I have also been able to continue participating in the virtual Scouts meetings and working towards the various badges, as well as my online piano and dance classes which have all been great for keeping me occupied after school and at the weekends. During lockdown I celebrated my 9th birthday and even though it was strange compared with previous years, it was still my favourite day because I spoke to my friends and family on FaceTime which I appreciated very much as I couldn't have a party or meet them in person. During my birthday week we were also fortunate to have three fledgling sparrows in our garden. We crushed up nuts and left them out for the parent birds to feed to their chicks. It was fascinating watching the chicks grow and develop before they finally fledged the nest.



I am looking forward to seeing year 4 and our teachers next week during our leavers' picnic so as to wish everyone well before going to our new schools in September.

Creative pictures

In Year 3 pod we were using collage to create beautiful pictures of trees with full foliage. Barney observed his tree carefully out on the field and then showed great skill in making his collage. Great job Barney.



A dad's perspective on home schooling

I normally work in London, but I've been lucky enough to be able to work from home throughout the last fifteen weeks and fortunately we have a little office I can tuck myself away in. My wife works freelance and is able to stop working for the time being, so she's been taking the brunt of the home schooling. She's found the work that's been set really well planned and clear and she's done an amazing job of keeping a nearly eight year old occupied and focussed, while also dealing with the (far less clear) workload set from a different school for our ten year old. But the kids don't behave at home the way they would in school and they don't behave with us the way they would with a teacher, so it has been a bit stressful at times and I've tried to do my share when one or other of them is being particularly obstinate or when there's some maths to be done.

We know we probably aren't teaching this stuff the way they would be taught it in school (all the methods they use seem to have changed since my day, grumble grumble) but we're doing our best because we know it's important to try to keep them progressing and give them some sense of normality in these strange times. We are, though, getting a lot more exercise through our Joe Wicks work outs and a lot more time together as a family, which is a real silver lining.

These past few weeks have only served to increase the awe in which I hold teachers generally and the ones at Gothic Mede especially. They keep saying they want to have the children back in school – well, they can't wait to get back and we want them to get back too, so this is something we can all definitely agree on!

Mrs Webber

Today is Mrs Webber's last day at Gothic Mede Academy before she starts her maternity leave. We wish her the very best for when her child arrives and hope that she enjoys the time that she will have with her new family. Good luck Mrs Webber, we will miss you!

Winners of the Sport Day Competition

I have really enjoyed judging the sports day challenge this week. It's been great to hear your ideas and see so many of you taking part in sporting activities from home, as well as at school.

I loved all of the proposed events but the winners this week are,

EYFS

Elizabeth

I liked how Elizabeth captured the feeling of sports day with her model and explanation – including using Play Mobil figures to show the spectators!

KS1

Lucas

It was great to see Lucas demonstrating his sports day event! I can completely see how this could fit in to a sports day as it was varied and required him to show a selection of different sporting skills.

KS2

Declan

I really liked Declan's Spelling Dash event! It's a great combination of physical activity and a fun way of learning spellings and I'm impressed that he has considered the different levels of challenge for different year groups!

Year 3

The children in year 3 cookie pod have been carrying out an investigation into whether saltwater evaporates more quickly than freshwater. I wonder what the results will show. Watch this space....



Year 4

Year 4 have been busy learning about how circuits work this week. They have also had lots of fun making them.



Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parent helpers for the time that they have given to the school earlier this year. Your help has been extremely valuable to us. We hope that in the not too distant future we will be able to work with you again. Thank you from everyone at Gothic Mede.

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