



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

High Street
Arlesey
Beds
SG15 6SL

Tel: 01462 732002

Email: GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk

17 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been a strange one in the life of Gothic Mede Academy. Many of us feel, and indeed should feel, an immense pride of what we have achieved over the last 17 weeks. It will have been a long time since any of you have spent this long with your children, not only supervising them for such an intense and prolonged period of time, but also supporting them in their learning at a level never done before. I'm pleased to say that today was your last day as class teachers! This week has also been tinged with sadness though. The second half of this academic year hasn't passed as we would have wanted it to and our children will have lost crucial time in school. Our hearts go out to our Year 4 pupils in particular. Needless to say, we are so pleased that we will be taking back all children from all year groups in September!

There will continue to be guidance released over the coming weeks but the full reopening of Gothic Mede Academy will be based on a thorough risk assessment, following the Government's guidelines from the DfE and Public Health England. Compared to secondary schools, we are in a strong position to accommodate the children back, as the structure that we have in place at the moment of classes operating as 'pods' will continue in September, with the class sizes increasing to accommodate the full numbers of each class. More details about the Government's approach (which we must follow) can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Although a thorough risk assessment will be completed over the next few weeks, some of the measures that will be implemented will include (among many other things):

- A system of keeping groups of children separate in 'bubbles' that do not mix
- Staggering drop off and pick up times and making sure that we avoid groups of adults accumulating before or after school (it will be really important that parents and children don't arrive before or after their 5 minute slots)
- Staggering break and lunch times to prevent bubbles from mixing
- Having the kitchen staff (who will be following 'Guidance for food businesses on coronavirus') distribute school dinners to children who will stay at tables in the hall, in their bubbles
- Reducing the mixing of school resources and implementing cleaning and quarantining where this is not possible
- Clear steps for what happens when someone shows symptoms at school
- Rigorous regimes of cleaning and handwashing

Class	Arrival	Arrival	Pick up	Pick up
Acorn	08:50	Back	15:20	Back
Ash	08:40	Back	15:10	Back
Oak	08:40	Front	15:10	Back
Beech	08:45	Back	15:15	Back
Elm	08:45	Front	15:15	Back
Willow	08:50	Back	15:20	Back
Maple	08:50	Front	15:20	Back
Sycamore	08:55	Back	15:25	Back
Chestnut	08:55	Front	15:25	Back
Birch	09:00	Back	15:30	Back
Hazel	09:00	Front	15:30	Back

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Acting Vice Principal: Amy Morris
Chair of Governors: Jo Graves



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



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

High Street
Arlesey
Beds
SG15 6SL

Tel: 01462 732002

Email: GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk

If you have children in different classes, all of them can be dropped off at the earlier drop off time, in the one location.

When they return, your child will need to be in their school uniform, bring in their PE kit and book bag, and have a basic level of understanding of social distancing and hand washing.

“Children and young people must wash their hands immediately on arrival at school [...], dispose of any temporary face coverings they may have been wearing in a covered bin, or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.”

“Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.”

As with all of the measures that we are putting in place, we will review these daily and make changes to our practices as we see fit, to ensure the safe and smooth running of the school. Our priorities, aside from the safety of the pupils and staff, will be making provision for the wellbeing of the children after such a long period of absence, assessing what gaps need filling (without making the children sit down to do tests!) and providing a rich curriculum which ensures that the key skills for progress in school and life are covered in lessons.

For your information, our uniform policy can be found here: <https://www.gothicmede.org.uk/uniform> and, although you may no longer be the class teachers of your children, Google Classroom will remain available during the summer holidays but staff will not be responding to any work submitted or messages left.

Free school meals registration

If your financial position has changed recently or are finding it difficult to make ends meet each month, please consider registering for Free School Meals. This will take away the concern of your child being fed during term time and will attract additional funding for the school that will be used to support their progress. We are no longer able to request summer holiday vouchers for families, but registering will support you financially in the new academic year. This letter explains more: <https://www.gothicmede.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=878&type=pdf>

Later in the summer I will be in touch with further details of the children's return but, in the meantime, I can say that we are very keen to see the majority of your children on Monday 7th September (separate arrangements for Acorn, Ash and Oak have been sent out). I hope you all have a great summer!

Yours sincerely

Mr Thomas Clarke – Principal

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Acting Vice Principal: Amy Morris
Chair of Governors: Jo Graves



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England