



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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you're all doing well and your children returned home yesterday and on Monday with smiling faces and happy stories!

I'd like to start by saying a big thank you for your understanding and patience with us as we've worked out the best way of 'doing' Gothic Mede Academy at the moment! I'm happy to say that the children have all arrived in school, they've all had some great lessons and have spent time with their friends, they've had their lunches and they've all gone home at the end of the day, safely. As well as the part that you've played in this, I'd like to thank my hardworking staff for organising and implementing all of this.

As I mentioned that we would in my letter to you on Friday, we have reviewed our provision and procedures daily so far this week and I would like to update you on how we think things have gone around a few key areas.

1. Drop off in the mornings

This has been especially difficult for many of you as I know the importance of saying a proper goodbye to your children at the start of a new school year. I'm really sorry that our procedures have affected this but appreciate how this is now such a smooth and safe operation - especially on the second day of term. Thank you ever so much. I'm really grateful to our staff, who are the consummate carers that they are. I couldn't wish for a better group of people to be reassuring and looking out for your children.

2. Pick ups

Thank you again for the part that you have played in making this work. We discovered on Monday that a 3pm assembly was a little too late for a prompt dismissal for some of the children(!) but, mainly, we've been able to hand over the children during the five-minute periods that we set out in our schedule on Thursday and Friday. Unfortunately there are some parents who have arrived before their five-minute slots and this has meant that the playground has been busier than it has needed to be. Some parents were on the playground at 3:15pm today for a 3:30pm pick up! It's safer when there are fewer people in one place at once so **please only come onto the playground during the five-minute slot that your child's class has been allocated**. This is something that we can do to keep our community safe. If we have the correct number of parents/carers on the playground at one time, there should be enough crosses to be stood on to ensure social distancing.

3. Lessons and breaktimes

The children have adapted to our new systems really well and we are already seeing some great learning going on in classes as a result of this. Although there will be gaps from the last six months, it is clear that the enthusiasm of the children and the expertise of the teachers will fill gaps and minimise the impact of them. I'm also pleased to say that the children have been happy to be in school! I think that it's so important and I'm so relieved that I had a resounding 'Yes!' from the children when I asked them whether they were happy to be back during our first virtual assembly of the year.

4. Lunchtimes

We've had to be really creative with the timings, staff supervision and overall logistics for the children's lunchtimes since they've been back and I'm really appreciative of our team of midday supervisors and kitchen staff who have been so flexible and determined to make our new arrangements work. We've had to revise these a couple of times to maintain social distancing and to give the children a good amount of time to eat their food but I think we're pretty

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



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close to what is the best solution now! Although some of the children may have felt rushed over the last couple of days, we have adapted our schedule and staffing to make sure that any child who does not finish their lunch in their class's allotted time is still given as long as they need to finish their lunch.

Thank you again for your patience and flexibility and please do continue to talk to us about your children and to give us any feedback.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Thomas Clarke – Principal

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