



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

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2nd November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new half term at Gothic Mede Academy!

I hope that you've had a chance to enjoy some time with your child during the half term break and your child has made the most of any chances to get out and about. You will be aware that, on Saturday night, the Prime Minister announced a four-week lockdown which will start on Thursday. This will mean changes to many of our lives and is not very welcome news to anyone. Many will be concerned as well. The reason for this lockdown is the increasing numbers of cases, those being admitted to hospital and, sadly, deaths due to COVID-19.

At Gothic Mede Academy we have spent today's training day not only developing our educational practice but also reviewing our risk assessment around the measures that we have in place to prevent the spread of the virus. We need to take steps to play our part in addressing the increasing cases – nationally and locally. As a result of this, I have a few reminders and new practices to communicate to you all.

Reminders

- Please can children be picked up by one adult (no additional family members)
- Please can you make sure that you inform the school well in advance of pick-up if someone else is collecting your child – waiting around in the playground until we have confirmed consent is dangerous
- Your child will have a 5-minute arrival and a 5-minute departure slot – please do not arrive before these as it is just as unsafe for you to queue outside the school gates as it is for you to wait on the playground
- Please can you stay two metres away from all other adults on the playground – whether they are in a support bubble with you or not (this eliminates any confusion that may be caused)
- Please can you leave the playground as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child

New measures

- Some parents have been conscientious in distancing on the playground and exiting as soon as they have dropped off or collected their child – this is not universal so **we now require you to wear a face covering when you come to drop off and pick up children**
Government exemptions for face coverings can be found at [Face coverings](#)
- If you forget to send your child into school with a water bottle, they will be provided with a plastic disposable named cup which can be disposed of at the end of the day – we will not be accepting water bottles that are brought in late
- To allow for increased ventilation inside, please make sure that your child wears sufficient layers of clothing

I don't think that Saturday night's briefing is a reason to be scared, but I think it is definitely a reason to review our current practice and make sure that we are doing all that we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Thank you very much for your support in this matter and I look forward to seeing you and your children tomorrow morning.

Yours sincerely

Mr Thomas Clarke – Principal

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Vice Principal: Nicola Davis
Chair of Governors: Jo Graves



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