



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

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite the challenges that we have faced as a local, national and international community, I find myself living the value of this month, Appreciation. Anyone who has spoken to me about my job will know that I happen to have the best job in the world, and I feel no differently now, even during these times. Not only do I have the honour of facilitating the education of 320 children but I also get to talk and work with your absolutely wonderful children. Delivering the pride awards today was an especial highlight for me.

I am also lucky to work with the adults in school who make up the rest of the Gothic Mede Academy family. There is a palpable collective determination and commitment to closing the gap created by the school closure - an educational task that has never been faced before. The staff know the importance of education for the sake of your children's wellbeing and life chances in the future and what we do is not just a job, but a passion.

As well as a focus on educational outcomes, I would like to recognise the staff who are keeping the school running. Those who complete registers, monthly cash flow reports and weekly newsletters and many other in different roles have found their job descriptions unexpectedly broadened. Now they also have to don PPE regularly to assess the symptoms of a child, have difficult conversations with understandably upset parents about collecting their child from school and then go to the classroom, still in PPE, to deep clean where the child has been. On top of this, staff have faced the emotional toll of knowing that they are coming into close contact with members of many households every day. Unfortunately, they also see these same children in groups of 64 on the play park after school, mixing freely. This isn't an easy thing to see and I would request that you take care over the Christmas break.

However, I owe my thanks to our parent community as well. We have gone a full term without a positive case affecting the attendance of any group of pupils in school. Although we have strict safety measures in place to reduce the spread of the virus, I don't underestimate the value of the caution that many of you are exercising in your social interactions outside of school. We've got this far by a collective effort and for that I am really grateful.

As there is a chance that children will get a positive COVID-19 test result over the break, I also have some guidance in what steps to take if this is the case.

What to do if your child has a positive test result

- Follow the instructions of the NHS Track and Trace team
- Email the school (GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk), letting us know the test result
- Include in the email the date that your child first experienced symptoms of the virus, the date your child was tested and the date that you received the result (ideally the same day that you email us)
- If you cannot email us, please phone us and leave a voicemail

As we need to look back at the close contacts of the child in the 48 hours before they developed symptoms, and they may not be tested immediately, we will be checking school emails and voicemails daily, up to and including the 24th December.

If someone who tests positive has come into contact with your child in the 48 hours before they developed symptoms, we will be in touch and request that your child self-isolates for 10 days from that point, in line with guidance from the Government.

If your child has a positive test result after the 24th December, please still contact the school to inform us.

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



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



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Although I know that many of you will get only a limited break over Christmas, and many of you will be facing uncertainty in your line of work, I hope you find chances to enjoy the company of your children and families.

We wish you a very merry Christmas, a happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming your children back on Tuesday 5th January.

Yours sincerely

Mr Thomas Clarke – Principal

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