

18<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all safe, well and have had a wonderful summer. At GFM, we have been working hard through the summer months to plan for your return to school and we cannot wait to welcome back our family.

We have now released our full Return To School plans and outlined how school will be different on your return and how we will be keeping everyone safe (<https://www.gemsfoundersschool-mizhar.com/for-parents/reopening-plan-2020-2021/>)

As part of this, we have put together some FAQs to answer some of the questions that have come in already, but to also address some of the main queries.

### 1. Will GEMS GFM be open in September 2020 for my child?

*GFM will open safely in September with*

- *All FS1, FS2, Year 1 and Year 10 students will be allowed on site for face-to-face learning.*
- *FS1, FS2 and Year 1 will operate on a shift system with AM and PM (2 hours and 15 minutes contact time for each shift) sessions engaging directly with their Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants.*
- *Year 2- 9 will be invited for face-to-face learning on a rotational basis (Day 'On' and Day 'off'). The alternating days will have 'live' online learning.*
- *Families can opt for 100% remote learning if requested in the survey below.*

### **What we need from parents:**

**Please note that every family is required to complete the survey below by Thursday 20th August 2020. The survey will ask you to make a decision regarding your child's return. Due to the nature of the fixed bubbles, and because of the arrangements we need to put in place due to social distancing. The decision you make is fixed and will be for the first half term This survey is compulsory for every individual student.**

<https://forms.gle/p3vPBBcXS5WKtaQD9>

**Please note that every family is required to complete a Travel Declaration Form (for each child) which is attached to this email. This must be returned **BEFORE** the **30<sup>th</sup> August**. You can return the form at the school FOH or scan and email back to **Dr.Priyanka Banerjee** [gfm\\_clinic@gemsedu.com](mailto:gfm_clinic@gemsedu.com) OR [p.banerjee\\_gfm@Gemsedu.com](mailto:p.banerjee_gfm@Gemsedu.com)**

## 2. What is Distance Learning? Is it the same as during the enforced school closure?

All lessons will be live streamed from the classroom with teachers wearing Bluetooth radio microphones. Therefore, students will be accessing their normal timetable and their normal lessons, but virtually through streaming and screen share.

## 3. When will my child return to school and what time will I drop my child off and pick them up?

We will be running a staggered return, so that all year groups have the chance to be inducted back into school and have the opportunity to learn about the new systems, routes and routines in place. This will aim to reduce any return to school anxiety and support our children fully to return confidently.

Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep
<b>Year groups</b>	<b>Year groups</b>	<b>Year groups</b>	<b>Year groups</b>	<b>Year groups</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FS1 – Year 10</li> <li>Remote Induction Day (programme details to be sent by Heads of School)</li> <li>1:1 conversation between teachers and parents using MS Teams</li> </ul>	<b>FS 1 – Year 10 from Ambitious Archers House</b>	<b>FS 1 – Year 10 from Courageous Knights House</b>	<b>FS 1 – Year 10 from Resilient Riders House</b>	<b>FS 1 – Year 10 from Respectful Royals House</b>
<b>Timings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FS1-2: 08.30 – 11.30 am</li> <li>Yr 1-6: 09.00 – 12.00 pm</li> <li>Yr 7-10: 09:30 – 12.30 pm</li> </ul>			

Once routines become established (this will be confirmed after the induction week) our return to school model will operate as follows:

	<b>Week 1</b>				
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>FS1, FS2 and Year 1 (AM) Group</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>FS1, FS2 and Year 1 (PM) Group</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Year 2 – 9 Ambitious Archers House</b>	✓	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning	✓
<b>Year 2 – 9 Courageous Knights House</b>	✓	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning	✓

<b>Year 2 – 9 Resilient Riders House</b>	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning
<b>Year 2 – 9 Respectful Royals House</b>	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning
<b>Year 10</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Week 2</b>					
<b>Year 2 – 9 Ambitious Archers House</b>	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning
<b>Year 2 – 9 Courageous Knights House</b>	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning
<b>Year 2 – 9 Resilient Riders House</b>	✓	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning	✓
<b>Year 2 – 9 Respectful Royals House</b>	✓	Distance Learning	✓	Distance Learning	✓

The entrances, exits, start times and end times are below:

	<b>Drop-off timings</b>	<b>Pick-up timings</b>
<b>FS1, FS2 and Year 1 (AM) Group</b>	07.30 (lessons will start from 8 am)	10.30 am
<b>FS1, FS2 and Year 1 (PM) Group</b>	11.50 am	02.00 pm
<b>Year 2-4</b>	07.45 am	02.20 pm
<b>Year 5 -10</b>	08.00 am	02.30 pm

	<b>Designated Area for drop-off</b>	<b>Designated Area for pick-up</b>
<b>FS1 and FS2</b>	FS Play Area	FS Play Area
<b>Year 1</b>	Main Reception	Canteen
<b>Year 2-4</b>	Canteen	Canteen
<b>Year 5 -10</b>	Canteen	MUGA

As to ensure all FS1 – Year 1 are maintained in bubbles of 10, we will be using all available spaces throughout the school site, such as indoor play areas as refurbished learning areas.

#### 4. What protocols are in place to ensure the safety of our learning community? And what do I need to know?

All of the main details and headlines are outlined within these FAQs and our Reopening Plan Booklet: <https://www.gemsfoundersschool-mizhar.com/for-parents/reopening-plan-2020-2021/>

The GEMS health and safety department has established a robust set of health, safety and operational procedures and protocols, in order to support the safe reopening of schools. Quality assurance checks will also be conducted to monitor the effectiveness.

*Desks will be set at a safe distance apart of 1.5 meters, and physical markings will be used in classrooms to ensure desks remain in the correct locations. Teachers will be positioned at the front of the classroom area.*

*Safety markings will be set up throughout corridors, the markings will dictate safe distances of 2 meters. Students will be monitored to ensure adherence. One-way pedestrian flows will be required and will be marked out accordingly.*

#### **5. Will students and staff wear masks?**

*Teachers and students above the age of 6 are required to wear face masks not face shields. Face masks can be removed during strenuous physical activity and when eating. Face shields can be worn for those employees who are in direct contact with students. It is suggested that students bring two disposable masks to school per day or one re-usable option. It will be the responsibility of the students to ensure that they bring the required number of masks each day and ensure any disposable masks are washed in line with the manufacturer's guidelines.*

#### **6. What training will the staff have before school opens?**

*All staff will undergo specific Covid-19 training prior to the start of the new academic year. In addition, teachers will regularly communicate and provide information to students on the associated risks, safe practices and controls. All students will be briefed on this plan prior to the start of the academic year.*

#### **7. What are the cleaning and hygiene procedures?**

*Our school has conducted a review of all potential frequent touch points, including, door handles, light switches, handrails, taps and washbasins. Increased cleaning and sanitisation will be conducted across these areas throughout the duration of the day. A thorough cleaning of the school will be conducted each day by an approved vendor, using approved Municipality chemicals. A thorough deep clean and sanitisation of the school will be conducted at the end of each week. Cleaning staff will wear the required PPE for all cleaning activities.*

#### **8. What will it look like if my child opts for 100% remote learning?**

*If your child opts for 100% remote learning will access learning online through the use of webcams and the numerous platforms that were used during remote learning. The use of the webcams will allow students to experience the classroom environment, as well as work independently.*

#### **9. Who will be my child's class teacher next year?**

*Primary students - you will be informed who your child's class teacher will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020.*

#### **10. Will ECAs still be running?**

*ECAs cannot run in their traditional format under the current guidelines. This means we will not be running our normal on school site groups. However, we will be offering virtual fitness, sports and wellbeing sessions after school for our students, so look out for these and do please join in.*

#### **11. Tuition Fees for 2020/21**

*Full tuition fees will apply to all students, regardless of the mode of attendance and the model you choose to access. If you are facing financial constraints, reach out to the school's Finance team for advice or support.*

*If you choose not to enrol your child in school, and instead homeschool him/her, you take the risk that your child will need to repeat the grade once they are back in the system.*

### **12. Food and beverages**

*Following discussions with GEMS and the KHDA, the school is encouraging ALL parents to send individual packed lunches with students to reduce the risk of infection. Lunch will be conducted in classrooms with social distancing and strict hygiene rules in place.*

### **13. Devices**

*Students will need to bring device to school, as this will form an essential part of our blended learning when students are in the physical building.*

### **14. Parking and vehicle access to the school site**

*As we plan our reopening, in the first few weeks vehicles will not be permitted access to drive into the school site (as you have previously done for pick and drop off). For families who use private vehicles, please park at the back of the school and ensure you adhere to the staggered timings. This will help in ensuring congestion is minimised.*

*As we progress through the term we will review parental access following a review of our reopening.*

### **15. Contacts for additional information**

Jacqueline Morris [j.morris\\_gfm@Gemsedu.com](mailto:j.morris_gfm@Gemsedu.com) – Head of Primary  
Darren Jones [d.jones\\_gfm@gemsedu.com](mailto:d.jones_gfm@gemsedu.com) – Head of Secondary  
Alaa Seragaldin [a.seragaldin\\_gfm@Gemsedu.com](mailto:a.seragaldin_gfm@Gemsedu.com) – PRE  
Ashley Mccarthy [a.mccarthy\\_gfm@gemsedu.com](mailto:a.mccarthy_gfm@gemsedu.com) - Head of Inclusion

The GFM Leadership Team and staff will be hosting a number of virtual parent events to help you support your child with their return to school. Please look out for the invites over the next few days.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all in September, please do not hesitate in contacting me if you have any further questions or if you would like an individual one to one meeting.

Yours sincerely,



**Akram Tarik**  
**Principal / CEO**