

16<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to announce that our plans to reopen have now been authorised by the KHDA and quality assured by GEMS. Our full Return to School plans, guidance can be found on website: <https://www.gemsfoundersschool-mizhar.com/for-parents/reopening-plan-2020-2021/>

We are really excited to have the children back and we have worked throughout the summer to have everything ready. The school has prioritised the children's safety at every turn and with every decision and we have created a safe and protected space which will allow the children to start a phased return.

These plans and measures are in place to reduce risk and keep all safe. We are aiming to create a hygienically clean and protective space which allows our children to grow, to learn and to flourish happily and safely. To do this, we will need everyone helping us to follow some rules. Some key headlines:

#### Learning Options:

- Face-to-face teaching in school prioritised for FS1, FS2 and Yr 1. Socially distanced and "bubble based" at reduced timings and in two shifts
- Face-to-face blended teaching in school every day for Yr 10 (socially distanced)
- Face-to-face teaching on alternate days for Yr 2-9 in conjunction with distance learning
- Distance learning only option for those with medical conditions or those who choose it

#### Travel and Entrance:

- No Bus service during first week (30<sup>th</sup> Aug – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept)
- Bus running – at 50% capacity (with social distancing)
- Temperature checks upon entry to designated areas
- No parents allowed into school site or near learning areas/ classrooms
- Designated pick and drop off entrances and exits.

#### Teaching:

- In allocated groups and class bubbles
- Social distancing in classes using single tables and where appropriate screens/ dividers
- PE – non-contact sports only
- Exams / assessments will go ahead
- No ECAs

#### Hygiene:

- Round the clock cleaning and sanitising.
- Extensive hand sanitisers and PPE
- Students will eat in designated areas and be supervised and supported to stay safe.
- Students above 6 years of age need to wear face masks.

We cannot wait to see you all again in the new academic year and welcome you all back to school.

**It is important you understand and adhere to the following measures detailed below**

**Curriculum Delivery:**

For face-to-face learning in the physical building, students will be required to bring their device to school as to reduce the reliance on any paper-based materials.

GFM plans to provide:

	<b>Curriculum model</b>
FS1, FS2 and Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children will be placed in stable bubbles of 10</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There will be two shifts 'AM' and 'PM' groups</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lists for 'AM' and 'PM' will be sent out closer to the start of the new term</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-face teaching every day using shift model and reduced timings (please see below)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Distance learning only option for those with medical conditions or those who choose it</li> </ul>
Year 2-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 50% capacity in keeping with guidelines of social distancing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> House system to be used to assign days of rotation as to ensure siblings are invited together on the same day.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-face teaching on alternate days in conjunction with distance learning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two-week timetable as to ensure rotating groups have equal access to face-to-face teaching over 2-week cycle</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Online sessions will be live streamed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Distance learning only option for those with medical conditions or those who choose it</li> </ul>
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-face blended teaching in school every day in keeping with guidelines of social distancing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Distance learning only option for those with medical conditions or those who choose it</li> </ul>

As to ensure siblings are able to attend school on the same days in the rotational models (Year 2-10), student groups will be based on houses:

- **Ambitious Archers** & **Courageous Knights** in one rotation
- **Resilient Riders** & **Respectful Royals** in the alternating rotation

**Distance Learning:**

- 100% Distance Learning approach will be provided in case of the following:
  - Students who have been advised to be quarantined at home
  - Students in the high-risk category
  - Students who are feeling unwell and are unable to attend school
  - Family members exhibiting symptoms and the parents wish to keep their wards at home
  - Parents who do not feel comfortable to send their children to school

### Face-to-face:

- Students will have a designated chair and table with no swapping allowed
- Group activities such as school trips and celebrations are suspended.
- Students must bring their own exclusive stationary items, devices or gadgets (i.e. laptops, tablets, headphones, etc.).
- Student cannot share their stationery.
- Any extra-curricular activities will be offered digitally.
- PE lessons will adhere to physical distancing. Children who participate in PE are not required to wear face masks.
- PE lessons will focus on sports that do not require physical interaction

For those families who have yet to complete the curriculum model preference survey, please can I ask you to do so as to help in our planning:

<https://forms.gle/PBiFQY2d9VLAaiXn7>

### Completion of Health and Travel Declaration Form:

- Before the start of the academic year (30<sup>th</sup> August 2020), parents must complete the health and travel declaration form  
<https://www.dha.gov.ae/en/pages/coronaregistration.aspx>

### Stay at home if unwell:

- GFM will be enforcing a strict policy of “staying at home if unwell”. If your child is unwell please do not send them to school.

### Entry, Pick up, and GFM Premises access:

- GFM will be fitted with a number of thermal imaging cameras, which will be located at specific entrance points into the school. These will monitor the temperature all children, staff and visitors to the school site
- Anyone with a detected temperature  $\geq 37.5$  °C will not be allowed entry to the school site.
- All children using bus transportation will have their temperature checked upon entry. Anyone with a detected temperature  $\geq 37.5$ °C will not be allowed entry.
- Teachers and students older than 6 years of age (Year 2 and above) are required to wear face masks at all times.
- Only one family member is allowed to enter at set designated areas (**not** inside the school building which are near classrooms) for drop off/pick up his/her child.
- People with compromised medical conditions, including the elderly, should not come for drop off and pick up.
- The school will implement a staggered entry and exit procedure to eliminate overcrowding and to maintain 2 metres physical distancing in high traffic areas.
- It is extremely important below are adhered to as to avoid congestion during pick-up and drop-off

### School Timings:

Group	Date	Designated Entrance	Staggered timings		Pick Up Area
			Drop off	Pick Up	
FS 1 – FS2	30 <sup>th</sup> August – 3 <sup>rd</sup> September Please refer to student induction week programme for detail of which groups to attend on assign days	FS Play Area	08.30	11.30	FS Play Area
	6 <sup>th</sup> September onwards	FS Play Area	Morning shift students 07.30	Morning shift students 10.30	
			Afternoon shift students 11.50	Afternoon shift students 2.00pm	
Year 1	30 <sup>th</sup> August – 3 <sup>rd</sup> September Please refer to student induction week programme for detail of which groups to attend on assign days	Main reception	09.00	12.00	Canteen
	6 <sup>th</sup> September onwards	Main reception	Morning shift students 07.30	Morning shift students 10.30	Canteen
			Afternoon shift students 11.50	Afternoon shift students 2.00pm	
Year 2- 4	30 <sup>th</sup> August – 3 <sup>rd</sup> September Please refer to student induction week programme for detail of which groups to attend on assign days	Canteen	09.00	12.00pm	Canteen
	6 <sup>th</sup> September onwards	Canteen	Alternate days 07.45	Alternate days 2.20pm	Canteen
Year 5-9	30 <sup>th</sup> August – 3 <sup>rd</sup> September Please refer to student induction week programme for detail of which groups to attend on assign days	Canteen	09.30	12.30pm	MUGA
	6 <sup>th</sup> September onwards	Canteen	Alternate days 08.00	Alternate days 2.30pm	MUGA
Year 10	30 <sup>th</sup> August – 3 <sup>rd</sup> September Please refer to student induction week programme for detail of which groups to attend on assign days	Canteen	09.30	12.30pm	MUGA
	6 <sup>th</sup> September onwards	Canteen	08.00	2.30pm	MUGA

- Family members have a maximum time limit of 10 minutes in the designated area to pick up / drop off with no crowding, maintenance of a 2 metres distancing, and wearing of masks at all times.

### Meetings:

- Whenever possible, meetings with parents will take place remotely using MS Teams. For urgent or critical cases that require a meeting at the school site, this will be reviewed and approved by the Principal via an approved appointment. Appointments can be requested by calling the school or contacting out PRE at [pre\\_gfm@gemsedu.com](mailto:pre_gfm@gemsedu.com)

### Screening & Symptomatic cases:

- If a child/teacher/staff shows any symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, they will be isolated instantly, and you will be notified immediately.
- The patient cannot return to school until the PCR result is obtained. If the result is negative and there is a clinical assessment of a probable COVID-19 case, the patient should complete a 14-day quarantine. If the result is negative and there is no clinical assessment for a probable case, the child/staff/teacher can resume schooling so long as they are symptom-free.

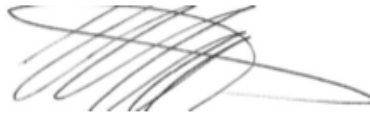
- If the result is positive, the traced contacts of the patient will need to undergo a 14-day quarantine

Hygiene:

- GFM will have a strict hygiene, cleaning and sterilization programme in place.
- Children will be supported in developing a hand washing regime with allocated hand washing breaks.
- Younger children will be assisted with handwashing.
- Hand sanitizers will be distributed across the school premises.
- Anyone entering the premises will need to be checked for wearing a mask and will be asked to use the hand sanitizer available at the entrance.
- Contactless / online payments are encouraged.

We will be publishing videos and webinars in the coming weeks so you are fully informed of every aspect of how we will operate. Our focus at the beginning of the year will be very much on the successful reintegration of students back into school life where they feel happy, safe and comfortable returning.

If you have any questions, please do feel free to contact me directly and we are ready and eager to answer any questions and help our family return to GFM.



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