



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Spring Term: Friday 29th January 2021



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Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a lovely week, and that you are looking forward to the weekend ahead. I could see from the photos that we were sent that our pupils enjoyed a well-deserved moment in the snow on Sunday.

Questionnaire Feedback and Remote Learning updates:

Thank you to those families that completed the questionnaire. A total of 129 families managed to complete the survey therefore we were able to gather some useful feedback around the school's remote learning provision, and how this is working.

Live Sessions:

From the feedback we have received, we are going to add another live session once per week in addition to our current provision via the class teacher. This will take place on a Monday as a whole class in the morning at 09:00am. This session will set the tone for the week with the teacher sharing the learning overview; this will begin the week commencing 8th February 2021.

Because of this change, assemblies from w/c 8th February will be moved to Fridays to support the overall timetable.

There have been a couple of specific queries around whether the school will providing more live lessons / sessions. We can understand why you are asking us to do this as it has the appearance of being the 'gold standard' and the best way of engaging learning. However, on balance, and taking into account the school's understanding of individual family timetables, access to devices, pupils who are currently able to access the current live sessions as well as Ofsted's publication on remote education, we will continue with our approach of prerecorded lesson and the teachers will continue to be available on the google stream to offer support, as needed. This will continue to be evaluated alongside the length of the school closure.

Please click here to read the Ofsted advice around remote education if you would like further information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>

Return to School:

Boris Johnson has announced that Primary Schools may begin a return from 8th March 2021. We have no further information from the DFE at this point but as soon as we do I will write and update you with how the school will return.

Birdwatch:

The RSPB annual Big Garden Birdwatch is taking place over the weekend of 29th—31st January 2021. You can sign up for free at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/> and spend an hour counting the birds that you see in your garden, from a window or in a local park. Throughout the weekend you can also take part in Big Garden Birdwatch Live where there will be quizzes, question and answer sessions, live footage and photos. The website also has great advice on feeding birds and how to identify different species

School Office News:

Workbooks:

There are workbooks still available outside the school if you need these to support with home learning. Please collect from 08:30 am in the morning.

Half Term:

The Department for Education have now confirmed that schools in England will close for February half term as usual.

Key Dates:

Friday 12 th February	Key Stage 1 English and Mathematics Workshops (Year 1 and Year 2 only) 09:30 – Mathematics 10:30 - English This workshop will take place via zoom; you will be sent the link in advance by the subject leaders
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Collective Worship / Assembly until half term

Monday 1 st February	World Religions
Friday 12 th February	Valentines

Wishing you a lovely weekend,



Mr John Smith, Principal



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