



# GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Spring Term: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021



Newsletter 15

## Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another New Year, and new term at GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy, I hope that you all have had a restful Christmas and I wish you a Happy New Year!

As you will be aware from the government's announcement on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, all schools will remain closed until February half term. As we are updated, by the Department for Education and obtain further information around how schools are expected to return we will share this with you as we did following the previous closure last year.

I look forward to welcoming you back as soon as we are able to, in the meantime apart from our vulnerable pupils and those children of critical workers all pupils will now learn remotely via google classroom.

- Newsletters will continue to be shared via the classroom teacher on a weekly basis via parent mail, and they will also update you with exciting class news and the key learning outcomes for the following week as well any updates or developments to the remote provision.

## Remote Learning:

The government has set out high standards for remote learning for all schools which we are statutorily obliged to provide. We have tried to offer beyond the minimum required to match what we usually offer in school.

### Government Expectations for Remote learning: When teaching pupils remotely

- Set meaningful and ambitious work each day in an appropriate range of subjects
- Provide teaching that is equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school. This will include both recorded or live direct teaching time and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently, and will be a minimum of:
  - Key Stage 1: three hours a day on average across the cohort with less for younger children.
  - Key Stage 2: four hours a day

The staff and I meet on a weekly basis to review the remote learning offer and we will update you with any changes accordingly. There are some updates listed on the next page of this newsletter.

## Updates so far:

**Please see the following page for updates**

- Remote learning will now be uploaded by the teacher on the evening before the next day's lessons by 5:30 pm apart from Mondays where this will still be by 08:45 am. This is to support parents who are combining home learning with their working day
- As some families are struggling to turn in the English and Mathematics in on time for 1:00 pm we have now extended this to 3:00 pm. This will be then marked by the class teacher and returned to you within a reasonable time frame. Please prioritise English and Mathematics for turn in above all other subjects
- Topic and Science work to be uploaded by the end of the week for marking but all other subjects and activities given do not need to be uploaded. We will also give children more flexibility with their reading and timestable tasks.
- We will continue with our small live group sessions on Wednesday, and teachers will offer an additional whole class session once every two weeks so the whole class can interact with each other – they will set a small task or game for the children to do during this session. The teachers in individual classes will inform you about when this is happening.

#### Laptops:

- A reminder that if your child is pupil premium and they require a laptop, please contact Miss Hana in the school office to book this on [h.hamilton@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk](mailto:h.hamilton@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk). If you haven't done so already, please do this as soon as possible so that your child is able to access the remote learning. Thank you.

#### School Office News:

#### Workbooks:

If you need to collect an exercise books for your children to complete their work in before they upload onto google classroom these will be left outside the main entrance of the school from 08:30 am each day in a box from next week for you to collect. These books do not need to be sent in once we return to school as the teachers will already have the evidence of learning via google classroom; and this will have also been marked.

#### Richmond Music Trust:

For those pupils who play instruments Richmond Music Trust will contact you directly regarding the tuition of instruments.

#### Pupils in School:

Please ensure your pupils arrive on time – 08:30 am and are picked up promptly at 3:30 pm

#### Tuition:

Tuition will resume w/c 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for years 3 to 5. Your class teacher will make contact with you about this.

#### Key Dates:

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> January | Health Week – Remotely |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|

Wishing you a lovely weekend,



**Mr John Smith, Principal**

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