



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy
Principal: Mr John Smith

Date: 31/12/2020

School Closed

Dear Parents,

The school has now received confirmation that it will not reopen as planned on Tuesday 5th January 2021. This will be reviewed by the Department for Education by the 18th January 2021.

This means the school will remain closed to most pupils apart from those pupils who are vulnerable or have parents who are critical workers. The school will be following the governments' contingency framework during this time which can be found in the link below. This document identifies which pupils can attend school at this time.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948630/Contingency_framework_implementation_guidance.pdf

What will happen next?

- If your child is in a family that has a parent who is a critical worker you must contact the school – j.chapple@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk on Monday 4th January 2021 to confirm your child's return to school. Please do not email before this point as the school is currently closed for the Christmas Holidays and the email inbox is now not being monitored until Monday. A list of critical workers is defined below in [Annex A of this letter](#). In your email to the school, please state the following:

Child's Name	
Year	
Class	
Your role as Critical Worker	
Which days you need provision for	

- If your child is classed vulnerable they must attend school, we will contact you on Monday 4th January 2021 to book and confirm your child's place at the school during the closure. The classification of a vulnerable pupil is identified in [Annex B of this letter](#).

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Vulnerable and Critical Worker Educational Provision:

Because the numbers of these pupils will be lower than usual class numbers, these children will be taught in small bubble classes of

- Reception and Year 1
- Year 2 and Year 3
- Year 4 and Year 5

These pupils will complete the same learning at school that is set for the pupils who will be remaining at home via google classroom. Staff will be allocated to lead these classes to support the pupils with accessing and completing the learning – this won't be their usual classroom teacher. These pupils will not receive any further home learning to do at home as what they are receiving at school is in line with what all the children will be receiving.

Please find further information below:

- The first day of school for these pupils will be Tuesday 5th January 2021
- The school day will operate promptly from 08:30 am and end at 3:30 pm for all pupils. Please drop off and pick your children up via the main entrance. Please queue as usual, following the signs and the socially distanced markings - **do not collect until it's your turn in the queue**
- Make sure your children sanitise their hands on arrival (do not send your children in with their own hand sanitiser)
- Pupils with EHCP plans will have their designated support via an adult as usual throughout the day to support with accessing the learning and their provision
- Lunch will be provided for as usual by Edwards and Ward - catering for our usual dietary needs; pupils can also bring a packed lunch if they would prefer
- Pupils need to wear uniform
- Pupils may bring a healthy snack to have at break time
- Pupils can bring in their bags and coats as usual (Pupils should attend school wearing a coat)
- The school's current risk assessment regarding hygiene and cleaning protocols will continue to be followed with an enhanced clean each evening in the rooms that are in use during this time as well as the touch points across the provision on an hourly basis.
- If a case of coronavirus is confirmed within the small classes / bubble we will continue to follow Public Health England guidelines of identifying close contacts and ask these pupils to self-isolate for 10 days

All other pupils:

- All other pupils will receive home learning from Wednesday 6th January 2021 and must complete this as detailed in the school's remote learning policy. This policy can be found on the school's policy here <https://gems-twickenham.secure-primariesite.net/remote-learning-policy>
- All home learning will be set via google classroom, and the teachers will be online to check on how pupils are getting on at 10am, 12pm and 2pm and answer any messages received
- Work must be handed in by 1 pm on the day to receive marking by 5 pm for English and Mathematics

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Please do not email the classroom teacher regarding work set, please send all communications regarding home learning via google classroom and these will be answered there

On Wednesday 6th January 2021, your children will be invited to attend a 30 minute live group session with their teacher, this will take place via google classroom throughout the morning in small groups. You will be sent a link by your classroom teacher on Tuesday for your child to access this live session. This will then happen again on Mondays each week thereafter from 09:00 am. Please can we ask that you stay close by so you can support your child as needed with using the ICT equipment

Laptop:

- If your child is a pupil premium pupil and you require a laptop, please email h.hamilton@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk on Monday 5th January to request the loan of a laptop from the school. This laptop will then delivered to you and arranged via Miss Hana.

Please note: Your child will not need a laptop if they are pupil premium and will already be attending school as part of the critical worker or vulnerable pupil provision.

Reminders:

- If you child is unwell, please support us in making the decision about whether your child should attend school or not – you can find the school guidance here: <https://www.gemstwickenhamprimary.org/sending-my-child-to-school/>
- Please remember to follow these actions below if your child or a family member develops symptoms of COVID – 19.

Symptoms of coronavirus

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- You and anyone you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- Anyone in your support bubble should also stay at home if you have been in close contact with them since your symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

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Thank you for taking the time to read all of the information above, I wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all soon!

Mr John Smith
Principal

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Annex A: Critical Workers

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

Health and social care

- This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes:

- those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery

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- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport

- This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

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Annex B: **Vulnerable children and young people**

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services
 - adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - others at the provider and local authority's discretion

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