



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Autumn Term: Friday 20th November 2020



Newsletter 10

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a wonderful week and are looking forward to the weekend ahead. Thank you to all our parents who attended parents evening – hopefully you found the online meetings useful and were able to have a thorough discussion on your child's progress, achievements and targets so far this year, and have a good understanding of what you can do at home to support.

If you were not able to attend your parents meeting, the classroom teacher will be in touch to arrange a phone call, as we do need to speak to every parent.

Parent Forum:

Thank you to those families who attended The Parent Forum – over 60 families attended which was an excellent turn out. Thank you to those parents who submitted questions; I hope that you found the answers useful and supportive. The Parent Forum minutes have now been put onto the school website. Please visit this link in order to read them: <https://www.gemstwickenhamprimary.org/parent-forum/>

To further update all parents, The Parent Forum is a new direct link between home and school, and is an opportunity for all parents to have a voice and inform the school of the wider needs of children and families. These meetings facilitate more communication between all parents/carers and the school. The school no longer has a Local Academy Board as this was dissolved when the governance was restructured this academic year.

Parents are also formally represented on the Quality of Education and Standards Regional Boards, which each govern up to two Trust schools. The parent representative on the Quality of Education and Standards Committee is Stuart Bessent. Please visit this link <https://www.gemstwickenhamprimary.org/new-governance-structure-from-september-2020/> to view the governance structure of the trust or for further information about governance within GEMS Learning Trust.

School Hub:

A reminder that School Hub entries need to be completed and handed in on 27th November 2020 ready for the election. Once the pupils have presented their mascots or presentations a vote will happen within the class to elect the new representative democratically.

Book fair:

Sadly, book fair has been cancelled due to the lockdown therefore this will now not take place this term.

School Office News

Afterschool Clubs:

The school is making preparations, and is in the process of planning to bring back some after school clubs in the Spring Term if it is safe to do so, and that the Department for Education guidance allows us to. Miss Hana will be coordinating the after school club process and will be the point of contact for all arrangements in regards for children attending clubs. h.hamilton@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk .

The clubs will be operated in Year group bubbles to begin with, and you will of course see that there will not be the full range or access to the clubs as there was prior to the school closure.

However, this is the start of us building up our extracurricular offer again, and this will take some time for the school to do. It may also be that clubs **do not** start on the exact dates stated but are held until the school is able to safely conduct the club; this is dependent on any updated DFE guidance we receive.

Timeline

20th November	Afterschool information to go out
23rd November	TPA clubs forms to go out via parent mail
27th November	Deadline to submit club choices
4th December	Outcomes for Afterschool clubs will be communicated

Payment Items:

Please check your Parentmail account for any outstanding items due i.e. Lunches and Breakfast club.

In Parenmail click on Payments on the Left Hand Side, select the Shop Icon at the bottom of the screen; this will take you to a page where any outstanding items are listed that have been assigned to you. Select items to be paid and add to your basket. You will then be taken to a basket summary with the total amounts due and choose your preferred payment method. Please do not make payments to Parent pay as TPA no longer use this.

If you wish to pay by voucher, please email Miss Karen directly k.surey@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk

Principal's email:

Just a reminder emails to Mr John should now be directed to principal@GEMSTWICKENHAMPRIMARY.co.uk

House Points:

House	Previous Week	This Week
Parks	1501	1602
Gandhi	1520	1611
Pankhurst	1530	1620
Shackleton	1523	

Attendance:

In line with DFE guidance, that the school does not authorise any holiday. Thank you.
All holiday is coded as an unauthorised absence (G) on the school's register.

Year Group	Target (97%)
Reception	98.3
Year 1	97.7
Year 2	98.8
Year 3	98.7
Year 4	97.5
Year 5	97.6
Whole School	98.0

Key Dates:

Please note: All the key dates for this academic term can be found on the school's online calendar

Monday 14th December	Report 1 out parents – change from the key dates
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Friday 18th December	Last Day of Term – 12:00 pm finish, no lunch provided

Have a lovely weekend,



Mr John Smith, Principal



PTA Update



At this time of year, we are normally putting the finishing touches to our annual Christmas Fair which is always an event the kids really forward to.

Whilst we are unable to run the fair this year (we thought we'd give the fire brigade a rest after last year's epic disco), Santa has been helping us find alternative ways to sprinkle some Christmas magic 😊...

Christmas Trees on sale now!

We are once again selling beautiful, premium and sustainable Nordmann Fir trees. Just hop onto Classlist and put your order in before the 27th November.

3-4ft £22
4-5ft £25
5-6ft £31
6-7ft £38
7-8ft £46



The trees will be delivered to school on Monday 7th December. If you are unable to pick your tree up from school, we can deliver to your home (on or around 7th December) for a small fee of £5.

Any questions please drop Areeba a note on 07787 584 313.

'Christmas Fair in a Box'

The elves are hard at work creating a very special box filled with all the magic of the Christmas fair for you to take home. These will be going on sale soon. More details to follow.



Virtual Christmas Market

Checkout Classlist for a list of independent and local businesses offering our school community discounts and donations in the run up to Christmas.

Festive Raffle Extravaganza!

Next week is the launch our fabulous annual festive raffle! The elves have been busy collecting some amazing prizes, all of which have been generously donated by local businesses and individuals.

Tickets will be sent home next week so watch out for a festive envelope in school bags! Feel free to sell raffle tickets to friends and family also.

Please return ticket stubs and cash payment to the school office by **Friday 4th December**. The draw will be held remotely the following week.

Any questions / extra tickets, or if you would like to donate a raffle prize, please email Suzie at sioux2001@hotmail.com.

Earn donations every time you shop online!

Black Friday is coming up! If you're shopping online, don't forget to register with [Amazon Smile](#) and [easyfundraising](#).

... and more! You'll find all the latest info from the parent community on [Classlist](#). Over 250 parents have joined so far – hope to see you there!



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