



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Autumn Term: Friday 13th November 2020



Newsletter 9

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a wonderful week and are looking forward to the weekend ahead. This week the children returned their 'SPARK' Steam Homework Projects – and they were excellent; very creative and imaginative ideas. Well done to everybody. If you have not yet managed to watch the video of the projects, please find attached the link here: <https://gems-twickenham.primarysite.media/media/spark>. We hope that you enjoy watching this when you get a moment.

Prospective Parents:

If your child is born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, you will need to apply for a Reception place at the school by Friday 15th January 2021 if you want your child to attend Twickenham Primary Academy. You will be sent the outcome of your application during the evening of Friday 16th April via the local authority. Unfortunately, due to the current lockdown restrictions we are no longer able to conduct onsite tours at the school. However, a virtual tour of the school has been created for prospective parents - which can be found here: <https://gems-twickenham.primarysite.media/media/online-school-tour>

School Hub:

As you may be aware, the school has a School Hub. The School Hub is part of the pupil voice and leadership in the school and their key role/s is to:

- To have a voice over a variety of issue e.g. playtimes, new resources and school initiatives
- Speak to staff and parents to gather pupil feedback
- To be involved in day to day decision making that impacts the children

Miss Courtney will be leading on our School Hub this academic year, and in order to select a School Hub in a democratic way the pupils must be voted in by their class. In order to do this, the pupils must put their name forward if they want to be potentially elected as the School Hub leader. They must also complete a task, which is listed below:

Reception to Year 2: These pupils should design/draw a Mascot for the School Hub, and label or write about why their Mascot would be the best one for School Hub. They should link this to theme of 'What makes a good Leader'. Once the School Hub has been decided, they will elect one of these mascots to be their emblem.

Year Three to Five: These pupils need to write a two-minute presentation on 'why I should be our classes school Hub Leader'. Again, thinking about the skills needed to make a good leader.

These should be handed in or ready by Friday 27th November when School Hub elections will take place. Please do email Miss Courtney directly, if you have any further questions to ask c.mower@GEMSTWICKENHAMPRIMARY.co.uk.

Speak Out and Stay Safe:

Next week, we will be participating in the **NSPCC's, speak out. Stay safe** online programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. *Speak out. Stay safe* is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly, interactive way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.

The NSPCC have developed an online version of their *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme to help overcome some of the challenges that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has presented in relation to having external speakers in school. In the online assembly, the *Speak out. Stay safe* messages continue to be delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec.

We have studied the content of the materials and are confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of the programme, we're positive children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe* programme you can find more information on the NSPCC website at www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout .

Parents Evening:

Please check your Parentmail email alongside this newsletter for your link to Parents Evening. A reminder, please only join the meeting at your allocated time slot. If you have not made a booking, please contact Miss Joy at j.chapple@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk although availability may now be limited.

Remembrance Day:

Thank you to Miss Vicky who came and played the Last Post and Reveille as part of our remembrance celebrations. A clip of the video can be found on our twitter page here: <https://twitter.com/GemsTwickenham/status/1326489074086141952>

School Office News:

Breakfast Club Payments

Charges for Autumn 2020 1st half term have now been applied to Parentmail. Payments should be made in Parentmail (not Parentpay) in full by Friday 20th November. Charges for this half term will be applied w/c 23rd November.

Parking:

From next week Mr Nick will be patrolling after school to ensure that parents are not parking down Colne, Knowle, Albion or Edwin Road. If you are parking down these roads, you will be politely asked to move on. Thank you to all our parents who continually follow the School Travel Policy.



House Points:

The House Treat is a Pantomime in School at Christmas... restrictions allowing!

House	Previous Week	This Week
Parks	1400	1501
Gandhi	1412	1520
Pankhurst	1488	1530
Shackleton	1467	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	98.2
Year 1	97.7
Year 2	98.7
Year 3	98.7
Year 4	97.3
Year 5	97.5
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 16 th November	Switch off Fortnight
Tuesday 17 th and Thursday 19 th November	Parents Evening via google hangouts
Friday 20 th November	Whole School Flu Immunisations
Thursday 3 rd December	Book Fair Cancelled due to Lockdown

Have a lovely weekend,



Mr John Smith, Principal



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