



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Autumn Term: Friday 16th October 2020



Newsletter 6

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a wonderful week, and that you are looking forward to the weekend ahead. The children had a wonderful experience at the African Drumming Workshops this week and were excited and enthusiastic to play the range different drums within the drumming circle as part of our Black History Month Celebrations. It really gave them a wonderful opportunity to explore African Culture!

COVID – 19 half term updates:

After October half term, there are some updates and changes that are happening within the school regarding our COVID – 19-risk assessment and the school's operations:

- The pupils will now play outside in Year Group bubbles as opposed to class bubbles – this is support a longer lunch times / breaks for the pupils whilst retaining a balance between pupil safety and their mental health and well being
- Year 5 will be dismissed at 3:50 pm alongside Year 2. Both Year 5 classes will be dismissed the Reception playground and Year 2 will be dismissed from the main door and ramp leading into the side of the school. **Please continue to use the one-way system that currently is in place.**
- The Reception classes will no longer sit in rows but will have the hexagonal group tables put back into the classrooms; this is to support the overarching provision and the curriculum teaching within the classroom; in particular productive play
- There will still be no provision for after school clubs apart from Energy Kidz until at least January 2020

The rest of the schools logistical processes will remain the same; and you can continue to read this and the rest of the updates in detail on the website located here:

<https://www.gemstwickenhamprimary.org/return-to-school/>

Please note: For now, it is not compulsory for parents to wear facemasks when dropping off and collecting pupils however, we do encourage this, and this may alter in line with government guidelines.

Key Dates:

We have updated the key dates for the remainder of the Autumn Term. A copy of these are located at the bottom of the newsletter. We have identified where we have adjusted workshops or meetings and timings.

The school's online calendar has also been updated to reflect any changes that are taking place.

STEAM Open Homework Project:

Our annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) open homework project is set for children to complete by Monday 9th November.

We would like the children to think about the STEAM linked phrase 'Spark' and respond in a way of their choice. They may wish to do a scientific study, experiment or activity, produce a piece of art, design something on the computer, create a 3D model, compose a piece of music, write a poem or story.... there are lots of possibilities. There is no right or wrong way to approach "Open homework" and it provides the children with the opportunity to be creative and develop their lateral thinking.

Please could you set aside some time to talk to your child/children about this and allocate time for them to complete their response.

Please bring the responses into school on Monday 9th November. We will arrange a display of everything in the hall and create a video for all parents to see. Each class will also have the opportunity to view the projects throughout the week.

Parent Workshops:

Thank you to the parents in Key Stage Two who attended the English and Mathematics workshops this week. We hope that you have found them insightful and supportive especially around how the core subjects are taught within the school.

The next parent workshop is [Phonics](#). This is for Reception parents only, and will be conducted via Microsoft Teams by Miss Kizzie on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 09:30 am. A link will be sent out to parents in advance of this workshop.

School Office News:

Mr John's Email:

After half term, Mr John's email is changing to principal@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk. Miss Hana will now monitor this email address, and she will distribute the emails accordingly. As part of Miss Hana's overall job role and development, she is extending her hours and will be acting as Mr. John's Personal Assistant for part of the week throughout the rest of this academic year.

Parents Evening (Tues 17th Nov & Thurs 19th Nov, 4.15pm – 7.15pm) – ONLINE:

This term parents evening will take place via Microsoft Teams. Invitations to sign up for your 10 min time slot will be issued via Parentmail on Wednesday 21st Oct at 9:00am, bookings close Friday 13th November. Please allow 20mins between appointments for siblings. Prior to the event, your class teacher will email your logon for the event and instructions. If you have any questions or difficulties please contact Miss Joy directly.

Year 5 – Walk Alone / Mobiles:

Please contact Miss Joy for a form if you would like your child to walk alone after half term. We also have a short term form available for one offs, should you wish your child to walk alone with a friend who also has consent to walk alone. This must be in place by 12:00pm on the day. A reminder that only children with walk alone consent may bring mobiles into school.

End of day dismissal:

A polite reminder once your child has been dismissed from school, for social distances purposes can we please ask you leave the school premises promptly and not congregate in the car park or playground. Children waiting on siblings to be dismissed should wait with their parents. For health and safety purposes, we ask they do not run or cycle around the playground or parked cars and not to climb on the wall or gates. Thank you.

Uniform:

A reminder that after half term, the pupils now need to wear their full winter uniform including a named coat. A full list of the school uniform can be found on the school website:

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/gems-twickenham/UploadedDocument/5cbc479da4e145fc97b0a6d6be305f04/uniform-policy.pdf>

House Points:

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

House	Previous Week	This Week
Parks	787	989
Gandhi	702	988
Pankhurst	711	980
Shackleton	720	950

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	97.1
Year 2	98.3
Year 3	98.7
Year 4	96.7
Year 5	97.0
Whole School	97.7

Key Dates:

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

Mon 19 th -Wed 21 st October	Safe Walking for Y3 pupils only
Friday 23 rd October	Halloween Dress Up – Age Appropriate costumes only. Any costumes that are not age appropriate will asked to be removed by the children
Friday 23 rd October	STEAM Homework Project begins
Monday 2 nd November	School is closed for Staff Training
Tuesday 3 rd November	All pupils return to school
Tuesday 3 rd November	09:30 Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents Via Microsoft Teams – you will be sent a link for this

Have a lovely weekend,





FRIENDS
OF GEMS TPA

PTA News:



Thanks to everyone who purchased one of our Halloween craft kits! We are bowled over that they completely sold out within a couple of days!

We now have over 200 parents registered on Classlist, our new parent-led platform. If you haven't registered yet, just click on this link <https://classlist.page.link/KTXdY9yMEKLCjbgC7>.

Coming up!

Friday 23rd October

Halloween Dress Up Day! - £1 donation

This year you can make your £1 donation to the PTA via Classlist.

Yummy treats after school!

Whilst we would normally be running a bake sale, please step away from your ovens this time around, as we are NOT asking for donations of home-baked goods. However, we WILL be selling yummy treats straight after school

Over half term...

Join us in our first ever Virtual Balloon Race!

Join our super spooky Halloween virtual balloon race, taking off from Dracula's Castle on midday on 31st October. Track your balloon as it travels virtually around the world for a whole week. Fantastic prizes for the balloons that fly the furthest

Grand Prize: £500

Runner up: iPad

PLUS: extra fantastic prizes for the top 3 TPA balloons

Personalise and buy your balloon here: <https://ecoracing.co/user/fundraisingfor/edit/id/779>

Get Christmas Card ready!

This year we are again partnering with Rudolf Cards. Your child can design a special picture, which can be printed on their very own packs of Christmas Cards, or on a ceramic mug and even on a wide range of products from teddies to coasters! Full information and design sheets will be sent out via Classlist and book bags next week, for children to enjoy designing over half-term. Deadline for designs is Tuesday 3rd November. Please return these to the school.

Thank you,

Emma Love

Chair of the PTA

Key Dates – Remainder of the Autumn Term:

Friday 23 rd October 2020	House Day – Halloween Theme (pupils to wear <u>age appropriate</u> Halloween costumes)
Friday 23 rd October	Homework Project 1: To be returned on Monday 9 th November Parent Viewing: Tuesday 10 th – online video
Monday 26 th October – Friday 20 th October	Half Term
Monday 2 nd November 2020	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 3 rd November 2020 from 09:30am	Phonics workshop for Reception Parents - ONLINE
Tuesday 10 th November 2020	Parent Viewing Homework Project – ONLINE video
Wednesday 11 th November 2020	Remembrance Day
Friday 13 th November 2020 from 09:30 am	Principal's Forum – ONLINE Questions to be submitted in advance to h.hamilton@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk
Monday 16 th November 2020	Switch off Fortnight
Tuesday 17 th and Thursday 19 th November 2020	Parents Evening – ONLINE BOOKINGS / and via Microsoft Teams
Friday 20 th November 2020	Whole School Flu immunisation
Thursday 3 rd December 2020 from 3:30 pm	Book Fair - After School in the school hall – masks to be worn and please enter via 'The Green' entrance Thurs 3rd – Reception 3.30 – 3.45 // Year 1 3.45 – 4.00 Friday 4 th – Year 2 Monday 7 th – Year 3 Tuesday 8 th - Year 4 Wednesday 9 th – Year 5
Tuesday 8 th December 2020	Report 1 – out to all parents
Thursday 10 th December	Varsity Match – cancelled – School Open ALL DAY
Wednesday 16 th December 2020	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 th December 2020	Term Ends at 12:00 pm – no lunch will be served on this day

57 Colne Road TW2 6QF | Telephone No: 0203 019 6196 | Email: office@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk | www.gemstwickenhamprimary.org



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