



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Autumn Term: Friday 9th October 2020



Newsletter 5

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a wonderful week, and that you are looking forward to the weekend ahead. Thank you very much for supporting our Mental Health awareness day; it was fantastic to see the children wearing yellow and supporting 'Young Minds'. The children took part in a range of activities throughout the day which focused on mental health; supporting their understanding and development in this subject matter.

Parents Evening Confirmation:

Parents evening will now be taking place virtually this term on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th November. The parents evening bookings will open as usual the week before half term for you to select your appointment and book your slot as usual. Your slot will be confirmed via the booking system, and Miss Joy will be managing this.

Once the bookings have been closed and confirmed, the classroom teacher will send you a generic link for the meetings via parentmail for Microsoft teams; you don't need to have Microsoft teams yourself as you can attend a meeting as a guest but you will need a device at home to be able to access the meeting.

You will then use this link provided to enter the meeting at your appointment time, and your appointment will last 10 minutes.

If you do not have access to ICT equipment at home in order to access the meetings, then please inform the school office during the booking process as your meeting will be conducted via phone.

- We do recommend that a 10 minute gap is left between sibling bookings to account for any meetings running over

Halloween Costumes:

On Friday 23rd October will be a Halloween costume day. There will be class prizes for the most creatively dressed. We hope the children really enjoy getting dressed up for the day but please can we ask that all costumes are age appropriate. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Individual Photos:

A reminder that on Monday 12th October, it is individual photos. Please ensure that your children are in full school uniform. P.E is not going to happen on this day so please do not send your child in their P.E kit or with a change of clothes.

Black History Month: African Drumming Workshop:

As part of our celebration of Black History Month, the school has organised an African drumming workshop for the children to take part in. As part of these workshops the children will be using traditional African drums, create sounds and music from the African continent. Every child immerses themselves in a different culture whilst they experiencing a feeling of unity as part of a drum circle. These workshops will take place on the 13th and 14th October in class groups.

In order to facilitate this workshop, we are asking for a small contribution of £2.00 if you are able to. This will be added to your parent pay account. We are sure that this will be a wonderful experience which the children will thoroughly enjoy and engage in.

School Office News:

Attendance:

Attendance in school has been very good as a whole since we returned in September despite the current circumstances, however, we have already noticed an increase in absences on Mondays and Fridays. Please ensure your child is in school if they are well enough to attend. Where attendance or patterns of absences is of concern, this will be brought to the attention of our EWO, Education Welfare Officer and the Principal

Starting Primary School 2021:

If you have a child born between 1/9/2016 – 31/8/2017 they are eligible to start Reception in September 2021. Please visit the Richmond Admissions website and read their online brochure which can be found at www.richmond.gov.uk . Applications can be made online at www.e-Admissions.org.uk. The deadline for applications is **Friday 15th January 2021**. If you require further assistance please email the admissions team at richmond.admissions@achievingforchildren.org.uk.

Spare clothes:

Can we please ask if your child has borrowed or been sent home in school spare clothing, these are laundered and returned to the office as we currently have limited supply of spare uniform in school.

School Governance:

New Governance Structure

As you may remember we altered our governance structure at the start of this academic year to merge Local Academy Boards and the Standards Committee to create regional boards called Quality of Education and Safeguarding Boards. As part of this change we have asked two of our parent governors, Beth Hodder and Erika Oddy, to step down in order to ensure there is an even balance of parents, staff and community perspectives in the group. Our thanks to Beth and Erika for their support and commitment to the LAB over the last year. Parent elections will be held again in the Autumn of 2021.

In order to replace our LABs and increase the opportunity for parents to have a say, we have introduced three parent forums per year. More information can be found on the Parent Forum section on the school website.

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

House	Previous Week	This Week
Parks	476	787
Gandhi	488	702
Pankhurst	467	711
Shackleton	461	720

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	98.0
Year 1	96.6
Year 2	98.5
Year 3	98.4
Year 4	96.3
Year 5	96.9
Whole School	97.4

Key Dates:

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

Monday 12 th October	Individual Photos for the whole school
Tuesday 13 th October	Key Stage 2 – Parent Curriculum Workshops via zoom
Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 th October	African Drumming Workshops
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

Have a lovely weekend,



Mr John Smith, Principal

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