



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Summer Term: Friday 5th June 2020



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Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your families are well and safe; and that if your children started back to school this week that they continued to find it both a supportive and nurturing environment even with all the social distancing measures that have been put in place as well as the new way in which the school is operating. The children did an excellent job adhering to all of the new rules, and they should be very proud of themselves. And, thank you to our parents who made sure they kept to their timeframes within the pickup and drop off slots.

I also wanted to take a moment for the school to extend its deepest sympathies to any family that has lost a family member, a friend or somebody they know to Coronavirus. For many of our children this will be their first experience of death and bereavement, and as a school we are very much here to support all our families during this difficult time.

Mental Health and Well-being:

The school will be prioritising the pupils mental health and well-being above all areas of learning as we begin to bring the school community back together, and below is the overview of our mental health and well-being strategy which will be tailored for each class based on the pupils needs.

1. Routines

Routines are important to create a sense of stability in our world, as many of us will have discovered during the lockdown period. As much as we might resent getting up at certain times, or living lives by the clock sometimes, where there is uncertainty these things will help our young people to maintain a sense of normality and a sense of unity. When we complete certain tasks at the same time as others, it creates a sense of community. That is why the Thursday night clapping has drawn people together, and shared remote viewing, for example of the theatre productions online, has been effective in creating a feeling that people are together when they are actually apart. We emphasise the routines in schools and use technology wherever possible to have shared moments, such as delivering assemblies or key messages across the school.

2. Questions

We will give the children time to ask questions and address concerns. These may be done individually or as an open discussion, depending on the context. As we see when addressing PSHE topics, it is important to know that others have the same questions or concerns as you and this will help to build empathy and strengthen relationships. We will set aside distinct times where they can discuss the issues which are important to them and let them suggest ways forward for each other.

3. Learning

As with other school-based routines, there is familiarity in continuing to learn. Getting on with the learning provides a clear definition of roles, and the children will gain comfort in returning to this. That is not to say this will be easy; for some children, they may well have had less practise over the past few months or may have had other things dominating their lives. They will need gentle reintroductions to this world, building their confidence up by showing them that they haven't forgotten everything they have learned.

4. Smile

Humour and positivity is needed to be shared. We will make this a communal activity so we are all brought together in an incredibly positive way. We will end each day with a "What made you smile today?" session.

Collective Worship / Assembly:

Below is the overview of the collective worship timetable for the next four weeks. This supports the 'routine' aspect of our mental health and well-being programme. The assemblies will be available to those pupils not yet attending school under the assembly section of the school's website. The assembly is led by myself on a Monday and Friday, and then the teachers will explore this theme further in class Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Date	Collective Worship	Outcomes	Led by	Supported by
Monday 1 st and Friday 5 th June	Self-Efficacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WALT: understand that the challenge might be difficult but the important part is to use our skills to keep trying	Mr John	Teachers in class as this will be pre-recorded or to be shared at home
Monday 8 th Friday 12 th June	Loss and Hope	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WALT: understand why it is important to have hope when we have faced challenges	Mr John	Teachers in class as this will be pre-recorded or to be shared at home
Monday 15 th and Friday 19 th June	Gratitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WALT: understand why it is important to be thankful for our mental health and well being	Mr John	Teachers in class as this will be pre-recorded or to be shared at home
Monday 22 nd and Friday 26 th June	Connectedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WALT: understand why it is important to connect and reconnect with those that we have missed	Mr John	Teachers in class as this will be pre-recorded or to be shared at home

Home learning:

From next week, parents can drop the completed home learning books at the school for the teachers to start to review. There will be a drop box outside the school gate from 09:30 – 11:30. Please put your child's books into this box, and this will then be taken into the school for the teacher to review.

And, just a reminder that the home learning for Reception and Year 1 will be posted onto the school website every Monday for that week. The school will be deleting the previous weeks learning to limit any confusion so please do save the resources to your own computers if you feel you may need to go back and use them.

Year 2, 3 and 4 will continue to use google classroom with some pre-recorded videos which the children seem to enjoy.

Whole School Challenge – Guess the teacher:

We have another exciting challenge for the children of TPA this week. The Reception – Year 4 teachers have given me each a photo of them as a child. Can you guess who the teacher is in each picture? Go on the website and look at the pictures, write your answers on a piece of paper and email it to Miss Petra. Happy guessing and good luck!

In need of extra books?

If the exercise books that we provided you with are running low then you will be able to collect extra resources from the school. These books will be located outside the school gate for collection between 09:30 and 11:30 each day.

Groups Attendance next week:

Group	Week commencing	Days
Rec and Year 1 Group 1A and 1B	8 th June 2020	Tuesday, Thursday
Rec and Year 1 Group 2A and 2B	8 th June 2020	Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Key worker children	8 th June 2020	Monday – Friday

Nursing Team Job Advert:

Are you a nurse looking for flexible / casual / term time hours? Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH) are recruiting bank nurses to their local school immunisation teams. Training and revalidation support are offered as part of this role. N.B. Closing date: 3rd June 2020

www.jobs.nhs.uk

Job reference: 779-Bank-2424648 Bank Immunisation Nurse

School Office News

PE Kits

For those children that are in school, we will begin to send home PE kits next week. Where possible we will send home sibling kits at a later date.

We please ask that for those children not attending you do not call the school office or come to school to try and collect their PE kits. They will be sent home at a later date once they return.

Thank you.

Thank you, and have a lovely weekend



Mr. John Smith

Principal



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'Inspiring Education and Achievement for Life'

Horizon Ballet

ONLINE BALLET LESSONS FOR JUNE 2020



15% OFF WHEN BOOKED BY THE 2ND OF JUNE

Horizon Ballet is excited to offer **Online RAD Ballet Lessons** for your children.

We want to ensure that your child can still continue with their ballet training and give them a way to connect with friends and find focus, movement and joy through dance during these uncertain times.

About our Ballet Classes:

Horizon Ballet classes follow the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus. The renowned RAD syllabus give young dancers a wonderful foundation to develop their classical technique whilst enhancing their sense of performance. The classes are designed to help each child build their physical strength and artistic development. We will slowly work towards a repertoire of RAD syllabus exercises accompanied by a variety of traditional ballet music and creative dance.

May Ballet classes run from the 2nd until the 26th of June every:

TUESDAYS:

Reception & Year 1: from 3 - 3.45pm

Year 2 - 4: from 4 - 4.45pm

FRIDAYS:

Reception & Year 1: from 3 - 3.45pm

Year 2 - 4: from 4 - 4.45pm

Ballet monthly fee for April:

1 Ballet class per week: £36, block of 4 classes (or £30.6 for early birds)

2 Ballet classes per week: £56, block of 8 classes (or £47.6 for early birds)

To secure a spot for your child for the April please visit our website www.horizonballet.com and go to CONTACT or contact us directly via horizonballet@gmail.com. If you are new to our Ballet lessons feel free to book a **Free Trial Online Ballet Class** for your child. After having tried your first class you can then decide if you'd like to continue.

Warmest Regards,

Simone Schmidt - Principal of Horizon Ballet