



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Summer Term: Friday 22nd May 2020



Dear Parents,

I hope that you are well, and that you and your families are healthy and safe. As you are aware, the letter sent to parents around the school's plans for pupils to return is attached alongside this newsletter to your parent mail so please do take time to read that document again. However, for ease the key updates are written at the bottom of the letter with any changes that have taken place so far this week or due to take place for the next.

Staffing for 2020 / 2021 academic Year:

Although at present we are currently thinking largely about the pupils returning to the school after the closure, the school has continued its recruitment procedures for the next academic year to ensure that a robust staffing structure is in place. The teacher recruitment is now complete for this year and all teachers are in place, and ready for September.

Sadly, Miss Rebecca will be leaving us at the end of this year (July) as she has secured a position at the Harrow International School in Hong Kong. Miss Rebecca started at Twickenham Primary Academy the same year that I did; and I am sure you will agree that she is an excellent and committed teacher who will be missed very much. We look forward to hearing about all her adventures abroad and hopefully we can arrange a skype session with her new class at some point.

Below is a list of teachers for the next academic so you know which year groups the teachers are in.

Teaching Staff	Year Group	Class
Miss Stephanie Haley	Reception Teacher	Turner
Miss Andrea Eckhert	Reception Teacher	Hepworth
Miss Amy Suzor	Year 1 Teacher	Dahl
Miss Lauren White	Year 1 Teacher	Potter
Miss Leah Galloway	Year 2 Teacher	Hawking
Miss Natalie Baker	Year 2 Teacher	Darwin
Miss Kelly Hardy	Year 3 Teacher	Glennie
Miss Courtney Mower	Year 3 Teacher	Elgar
Miss Rachael Rees	Year 4 Teacher	Dickens
Miss Grace Burke	Year 4 Teacher	Austen
Miss Petra Gollob	Year 5 Teacher and Vice Principal / Miss Mira (trainee teacher)	Moore (After Colonel Tom Moore)
Miss Sara Thorley	Year 5 Teacher	Nightingale (After the Nightingale Hospitals)

Class Mixing:

The school has decided it now won't mix Reception going into Year 1 because of the changes that have taken place throughout this academic year and the impact that this has had on the pupils achieving their Early Years Learning Goals. However, we are still going to mix the Year 2 pupils going into Year 3, and the Year 4 pupils going into Year 5.

This is because we feel these children can handle the change better, and that those pupils who are in Year 3 upwards are in ability sets for English and Mathematics, and therefore quickly become used to the regrouping that takes place for these lessons throughout the day.

We do appreciate there may be some parental concern around this – and will continue to review any parental feedback that we get regarding the class mixing.

When will I know about class changes?

Once we begin our return to the school – at the earliest on June 1st 2020, we will then begin the process of deciding on the classes and class teachers for the next academic year. We will write to you by the end of June to let you know which class your child will be going into; we will base those classes that are being mixed on academic, social and emotional information as well of course friendship groups. As in previous years, children will write down 3 friends and we will ensure that at least 1 of them will be in their class, if not more.

What year groups are the support staff in?

We have not yet fully completed the support staff recruitment – this is likely to be finished by mid-June. Once we have recruited all of our support staff, we will let you know which year groups they will be in to support pupils with transition for the next academic year.

Cancelled PGL Year 4 residential:

Unfortunately based on the advice of our insurance company, we have had to cancel the Year 4 residential visit to Merchants Hill in Surrey. We will now begin the process of claiming back the funds via our insurers and the school will issue you with a refund once this has been returned to us. We know the children will be disappointed, but we will reschedule this visit in the future.

- PGL was unable to offer the school a rescheduled date therefore we have had to cancel visit. However, the Woodrow High House residential visit for Year 3 has been moved to Tuesday 8th – Wednesday 9th September 2020 at present, and therefore remains in place.

Reports:

Your child will still receive an end of year report and this will now be sent to you on Friday 17th July 2020. The report will give you a general overview of how your child performed this academic year up to the point of the school closure. However, we won't be able to report against end of year expectations because of the gap in teaching and learning during the school closure, and as you are most likely aware that all national reporting has been cancelled.

Parent Mail:

Now that most of our parents are accessing parent mail, this will be our form of communication going forward for all newsletters, office communications and wider information being sent out from the school that requires more than one parent in the distribution list. This is to ensure the the school is continually improving its GDPR processed. You will notice that you cannot reply to parent mail so you can still use the teachers school email address for 1:1 communication on an individual basis for now.

May Half term Home learning:

There will be no Learning Project sent to you for the may half term week but do use all the various online resources or any activities from any of the previous learning projects on the website.

Whole school challenge:

This new challenge has been inspired by 2 pupils from TPA (Poppy Y4 and Kitty Y1) who have been leaving painted pebbles with messages and pictures around Twickenham and our school.

During half term collect some pebbles or rocks - these might be from your garden or from a walk that you might go on – and decorate them! Can you make a pebble family? Can you design beautiful patterns on them? Can you recreate any book characters you know on pebbles? Can you draw your favourite gaming logos on them? You could decorate them with paint, chalk, crayons, felt tips and any other ideas you might have. Take a photo of your pebbles and send them to Miss Petra to upload on the website for all to see.

School Office News

Reception intake 2020

Just a reminder for those siblings due to join us in Reception for the September 2020 intake, to kindly return your admission forms by 8th June. Thank you.

PTA

'If any parent needs any help, support or a friendly chat over the coming weeks, the team and I will do all we can to be there. I don't want anyone to feel alone.'

Emma Love – Mobile Number: **0781 00 00 354**

Thank you, and have a lovely weekend



Mr. John Smith

Principal

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GEMS
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