



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Spring Term: Thursday 2nd April 2020



Newsletter 24

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well, and that you and your children are healthy and safe. Thank you to all the parents who have sent in photos of their children learning at home; it has been wonderful to see the children accessing the work we are providing for 'Home Learning' as well as them enjoying a range of other creative activities that parents have thought up for the children to take part in. Please do remember though to not put too much pressure on yourself in completing all of the work.

I, Miss Petra and all the teachers had our first 'online' staff meeting this week, and we have a planned model for the curriculum to be put place for when the children return to school which will be theme based and all key learning linked to the National Curriculum.

Easter Holidays:

The teachers won't be sending over any formal work during the Easter Holidays as both the children, teachers and yourselves need a defined break but there are range of learning websites should you wish to access them below:

- <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/> (there are daily lessons available here)
- <https://www.literacyshed.com/home.html> (a range of creative literacy ideas)
- <https://www.letters-and-sounds.com/> (supportive for phonics and early reading)
- <https://www.studyladder.co.uk/> (currently has free accounts for parents)

Learning Projects – Curriculum Post Easter

The curriculum after the Easter Holidays is to focus on creating learning projects. This has been decided to develop a set of learning opportunities that all children can access to maximise their learning at home. We fully acknowledge that the learning projects cannot replace face-to-face learning but are aimed to be more manageable for parents and engaging for the children.

What are the aims of the Learning Projects?

- To create specific and engaging learning opportunities for children.
- To create a resource for parents that is easy to access and use - the focus is on parents being able to help deliver the content or children accessing it independently.
- Key learning is linked to the National Curriculum.
- To enable children to continue with their learning at home during an enforced shutdown.
- To provide structure and focus to each day that an enforced shutdown occurs.

What is the structure of Learning Projects?

- Each weekly project includes maths (separate grid), reading, phonics/spelling, writing and a range of foundation subjects and practical/real life activities.
- Each Learning Project will be based around a theme - this will remain constant regardless of the year group (although activities will differ dependent on Key stage) to ensure that parents with multiple children have only one theme to consider. This also provides the opportunity for learning collaboration amongst siblings at home.
- Each Learning Project has a balance between learning that does not rely on technology and learning that utilises the internet.

How do use the Learning Projects?

- Parents and children look through the given activities and choose one from each grid to complete each day.
- Any paper based work is completed in provided books (squared book – Maths and Science; lined book – any writing activities; we will be dropping these off at your house over the Easter Holidays).
- Any extra resources such as phonics and spelling lists will be included.

Teachers will continue to support and communicate with you and your children via email on a regular basis however the weekly projects allow you and your children some flexibility and choice to complete the activities. The aim is for you to complete a minimum of two – three hours of learning a day with your child but this is very much your parental choice and you may wish for your child to do more or less.

Doodle Mathematics

The teachers have now unlocked the friend messaging function on Doodle Mathematics so the children can message each other over the app about their mathematics work. We highly recommend that you monitor any online conversations that take place between the children, and report any safeguarding issues to the school.



Please do send in your Home Learning photos for the Website!

Zoom or Skype teaching:

The school has decided not to use Zoom or Skype to conduct any teaching at present with some of reasons listed below:

- Most staff are currently not working on site, and we feel there are safeguarding risks that outweigh the benefit of teachers teaching from their own homes (we will review this if staffing restrictions change)
- Around 20% of the school's population have asked for paper packs regarding the work that has been set so far therefore their capacity to access these lessons could be limited

However, the senior team will continue to review this model, and will make adjustments if necessary.

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 over the holidays.'

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

Thank you again for your continued support, have a lovely Easter Break and I will send the next Newsletter on Thursday 24th April 2020



Mr. John Smith



Can you spot where and what TPA used to be?



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