



# GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Spring Term: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020



Newsletter 20

## Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a wonderful week, and that you are looking forward to the weekend ahead. We hope that you enjoyed the half term break and that you and your children are ready for the busy term ahead. Next week, we have two very exciting days in school– we will be celebrating both World Mathematics Day and World Book Day.

Below is a reminder about what will be happening at school during World Book Day:

## World Book Day:

Throughout the day the children will be taking part in literacy, maths, music, art and cooking activities based on well-known children's stories that feature an animal character.

In the afternoon, the children will spend some time reading with a child from another year group.

## Competition:

This year we are holding a competition #shelfie. We invite all children to take a photo of themselves and their bookshelf or a picture of themselves and their favourite. Please then send the photo in to us with your child's name and class written on the back. These will then be put in the school libraries for all children to share, and there will be prizes for the winning photo! Please send in your photo no later than 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020.

Furthermore, we would like to invite children to take part in a **BOOK SWAP** - From Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February children can bring up to 5 unwanted books (good/moderate condition only please) for a book swap, which will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March (WBD). Every time a child brings in a book, their teacher will write their name on a token (1 token per book). Each teacher will collect the tokens and children can swap their token for another book on WBD. It's a great way to receive a new collection of books and stories to read at home.

World Book Day celebrates the joy and value of books and reading, especially for children. Every child receives a £1 World Book Day Book Token that can either be exchanged for one of TEN special £1 World Book Day books or used to get £1 off any book costing £2.99 or more. You can find out more about the books at [worldbookday.com/books](http://worldbookday.com/books). The token will be placed in your child's book bag and can be redeemed at most UK bookshops.

*Children are never too young to start their journey with books, and the benefits of reading are fantastic! We hope you celebrate World Book Day like us, as it is a brilliant time with such fun opportunities.*

### **Parents Evening:**

Thank you to all those parents who attended parents evening on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February. Please note: if you haven't yet managed to arrange an appointment to see your child's classroom teacher then please call Miss Joy in the school office to reschedule a time. It is really important that as a school we meet with every parent so that we can give you the most up to date information about your child's progress and achievements, and discuss their targets for the rest of the academic year with you so that you can support at home effectively.

*A reminder that parents of Hawking Class your parents evening has been rescheduled to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. Please contact Miss Joy if you have not had your new appointment confirmed.*

### **Year 3 Residential – Parents Meeting:**

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, the Year 3 Children will be going on their Year Three residential visit to Woodrow High House. There is a parents meeting regarding the visit on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30 pm. During this meeting, the staff will explain the activities which the children will be taking part in, the structure of the overnight visit as well as the kit that the children will need to bring along with them. We do request that at least one member of the family attends this meeting so that you have a detailed overview of the trip.

### **Playground Timetable:**

The school has now altered its lunchtime play schedule so that the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils are no longer in the playground at the same time. We are going to monitor the success of this over the next few weeks, and continue to make adjustments as needed. Please do not hesitate to contact myself if you have any feedback on this both from yourself or the pupils as we strive to continually improve the children's playtime experiences.

### **Principal's Coffee Morning / Forum:**

The next Principal's coffee morning is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2:00 pm. Please do submit your questions the Local Academy Board in advance – [lab@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk](mailto:lab@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk) . The LAB and I will have our governance meeting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, and we will be discussing the questions that have been submitted in preparation for the coffee morning. I look forward to seeing as many parents at the meeting as possible to answer your questions and queries.

### **School Office News**

**Afterschool club** : Afterschool Club information and bookings for Summer Term 2020 will be sent out via email at the end of next week. The deadline for applications will be Wednesday 11th March and email confirmations will go out on Wednesday 18th March should your child receive a place.

**Breakfast club:** Applications for Breakfast club Summer Term 2020 will be sent out via email on Monday 23rd March and the deadline for responses is Thursday 26th March. Email confirmations will go out on Tuesday 31st March

**House Points:** The House Treat is a Balloon Artist visitng the school...

House	Last Week	This Week
Parks	1050	1116
Gandhi	1056	1118
Pankhurst	1060	1115
Shackleton	1059	1115

**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	96.8%
Year 1	95.6%
Year 2	95.6%
Year 3	96.6%
Year 4	96.9%
Whole School	96.6%

**Key Dates:**

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

<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Mathematics Day
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Book Day (Animal Theme)
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March Onwards</b>	British Science Week
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y3 Woodrow House Residential Meeting for Parents (6:30 pm)
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Pop Up Planetarium in school
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Principal's Coffee Morning (2) at 2:00 pm
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parent Drop off Y1 – 4 only (08:30 am onwards)  Reception (3:00 pm) the doors will be open early for parents to go into class
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	PTA Litter Pick at Kneller Gardens 2:45 pm (Year 4)
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Voice in a Million Concert (Choir Only)
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Final week for all Before and After school clubs

Have a lovely weekend,



**Mr John Smith, Principal**

## **Safeguarding Update:**

The school has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools and the Metropolitan Police.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has been exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Dedicated Safeguarding Lead, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence. This will ensure that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Best Wishes,



## Swimming Gala report

On Thursday 13th February, the children from Year 3 and Year 4 competed in their first swimming gala and we are immensely proud of their tenacity and enthusiasm.

The swimming gala took place at Pools on the Park. Eighteen schools arrived to compete in a small schools swimming gala. Our team swam against: *Thomson House School, St Richard's CofE Primary, Meadlands Primary School, St Richard Reynolds Catholic College and St Osmund's Catholic Primary School.*

All swimmers swam incredibly well against some extremely tough and much older competition. Our swimmers had a chance to compete in a Freestyle (Front Crawl), Backstroke and Breaststroke races. Unfortunately we couldn't compete in a school's relay races due to lack of swimmers from Year 5 and Year 6. Our goal for the next year will be to create a team that gives the children a chance to compete in a school's relay.

### GEMS TPA swimming squad:

George Hodder, Willow Finch, Sam Morris, Belle Burchell, Georgie Thatcher, Howard Thomas and Kiana Mistry.

Well done to everyone who competed and we would like to thank Belle's mum, Mrs Rachel Roseman for her help and support during the gala.

Best Wishes,

Mr Wojciech

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