



# GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Autumn Term: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020



Newsletter 14

**Dear Parents,**

I hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! It has been excellent to welcome back both you and the children to Twickenham Primary Academy this week. The children have settled very well into school life again, and are very excited and interested with the learning opportunities that lie ahead this term. Next week, we have our first Educational Visit to the Tate Britain with the Year Four pupils to view the Steve McQueen Year 3 Portrait Project.

I also just wanted to thank you for the generous cards and gifts that were sent to us during the Christmas Period; it was very kind of you and very much appreciated by us all.

## Parent Survey

Attached to this evenings email from your classroom teacher is the parent survey results from the questionnaire that you completed before the Christmas Holidays. Thank you very much to those parents who completed the survey; your responses and comments were very useful. Below is some narrative around some of the key questions that were asked or discussed in the comment section of the questionnaire.

### **How is the school going to ensure wrap around care meets the demands of a growing school?**

We have extended the Breakfast Club provision this term, and have now been able to accommodate most of the children who need to use this service in the morning; as the school continues to grow we hope to continue to develop the morning provision further by providing both breakfast club, and a range of morning clubs. We have also improved the way in which after school clubs and Breakfast Club is administered therefore supporting parents with making better informed wrap around care choices for each term.

### **My Child doesn't always have the lunch choice that they want?**

The children are able to choose any option for lunch when they come into the dining hall. We have asked Edwards and Ward to ensure enough food is cooked so that the last child through for lunch service each day can make a choice from any aspect of the menu. If you are finding that your child isn't having the meal they want, then please raise this with the school office who will inform the kitchen. Also, you can support your children further by discussing the options the day before so that they know what they would like to eat when they come into the dining Hall, and feel confident to ask for what they would like to eat.

### **How is the school managing the playground and the older children mixing with the younger children?**

From last term, we have introduced sports driven Lunchtime clubs for the older children which takes place in the school hall - daily. This means that not as many pupils are outside all of the time, and this also gives the older pupils an opportunity to play some ball games which we are not able to do outside as well as isolating any low level bullying / rough play incidents. Again, we will continue to develop this as the school continues to grow and develop an increasing lunch time club offer.

I must reemphasise that unfortunately the playground will remain the same size at this point; and it will always be one of the challenges that the school faces as we continue to grow but we are working hard to ensure that all pupils have a positive playtime experience through the structuring of playtimes and the provision that we have on offer during breaks throughout the day.

### **How are you developing sports across the school?**

Mr Wojciech is developing the sports provision across the school, and will continue to do so as the school grows; we currently use the local authority sports partnership, and will continue to attend the local authority games and competitions where relevant to ours pupils and age group.

We also have our first swimming gala this half term providing further opportunity for the pupils across the school to engage in sports related activities.

### **I would like more communication about how the children learn**

The school currently sends out three school reports a year and also conducts three parents evenings over the academic year which is more than the average primary school; the school has also developed parent workshops for English and Mathematics for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 – both which were well attended.

Further to this, each parent receives a curriculum overview and map about what your child will be learning this term, and next weeks learning is detailed in the class teachers section of the school newsletter

At this point, we feel that the school is providing a range of useful information for you to understand about how your child is learning, but if you are unsure or would like more clarity then please do not hesitate to contact the classroom teacher in the first instance.

*I hope that you have found the above helpful but please do contact myself if you have any further questions.*

### **Uniform:**

A reminder that the children need to be wearing the correct uniform at all times; some pupils in Key Stage Two have come back to school without their tie which they need to ensure they are wearing.

Miss Hana has communicated with Stevensons asking them to now stock the purple coat in a bigger size, and planning ahead for the Blazers being introduced ready for the Year 5 pupils; I will write to you and let you know when these are in stock.

### **School Office Notices**

Welcome back it's been lovely to see you all this week. Just a few gentle reminders from the school office as we get back into routine:

**Sickness:** Please call the school office before 8:00am on each absence. For vomiting and diarrhoea children will need to be off for 48 from their last bout, if you wish to discuss your child's health please feel free to call or pop to reception.

**Lateness:** Registers are completed in class at 9:00am, if you are late for any reason please sign your child in on the Inventory machine in Reception. Thank you.

**Lost Property:** To try and minimise the amount of lost property in school, please ensure your child's name is written clearly on all their clothing and bags. We do appreciate how frustrating it is for expensive items to go missing in school so we would also encourage that you talk with your children about being responsible for their clothing and returning items to their pegs at the end of break times. The lost property is located in the main reception office which you are welcome to check at the beginning and end of the school day. Wherever possible we will endeavour to return named items back to classes.

**End of day arrangements:** Please let us know before 2.45pm at the latest should you need someone else to collect your child. You can call us on 020 3019 6196 or email [office@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk). If someone new is collecting your child please email us a photo with their full name and relationship to your child for safeguarding purposes.

**Late Pickups:** Please call the school office to let us know if you are going to be late at the earliest opportunity so we can let your class teacher know prior their Year Groups dismissal time, or let us know if you have arranged for another parent to collect.

**Data Collection:**

We are updating our pupil records and therefore will be sending out a new data collection document on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Can we please ask that you fill in the form and return to the school office so that we can maintain as up to date and accurate records as possible.

Have a lovely weekend, and once again welcome back to the spring term.



Mr John Smith

**Principal**

**House Points:** The House Treat is a pantomime in school for the winning house

House	This Week
Parks	123
Gandhi	124
Pankhurst	130
Shackleton	129

**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	97.1%
Year 1	95.8%
Year 2	96.7%
Year 3	97.3%
Year 4	97.2%
Whole School	96.8%

**Key Dates:**

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

<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January Onwards</b>	All School Clubs begin for the Spring Term
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 4 to the Tate Museum
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Health Week in School
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	PTA Clear Out Sale from 3:30 pm
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Parents Evening
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 2 Performance from 09:15 am
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	House Day (Valentines Theme)
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	PTA Bake Sale and Second Hand Uniform Sale



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