



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Autumn Term Term: Friday 15th November



Newsletter 9

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a lovely week, and are looking forward to the weekend ahead. Thank you to all those parents who attended parents evening this week, I am sure that you found these useful; especially around the progress that your children have made socially and academically, and how they can be supported even further to reach their potential throughout the rest of the academic year.

If you did not manage to attend parents evening, then please make direct contact with the classroom teacher as we do need to see every parent to ensure that you have a good understanding of your child’s development and progress withing school.

Christmas Performances:

Next week, the school will be sending over the link to confirm your booking to come and watch the Christmas Performances that will be taking place during November and December. The link will go directly to your email address, and each family will be allocated x 2 tickets per performance. Please book these as soon as possible

The school wont be printing tickets. However, we will have a log of who to expect for each performance, and will tick this off on your arrival. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas events.



Performances:

Friday 29 th November at 09:15 am	Reception - this will be located in the School Hall (Reception Parents Only)
Friday 6 th December at 2:00 pm	Year 1 and 2 - this will be located in Holy Trinity Church (next to Archdeacon Cambridge School) – Year 1 and 2 Parents Only
Friday 13 th December At 2:00 pm	Year 3 and 4 - this will be located in Holy Trinity Church (next to Archdeacon Cambridge School) – Year 3 and 4 Parents Only

Admissions for September 2020:

Parents or carers of children born between 1st September 2015 and 31 August 2016 (inclusive) need to apply for a primary school place. All parents/carers must apply for a school place by 15th January 2020. You are able to apply on line for a place from 1st November 2019. It is very important that you meet the deadline in order to hopefully secure a place at a school.

Please go to Richmond County Council School Admissions pages for more information. Places are allocated according to the Admissions policy which can be found on our website and on the school information page on Richmond County Council website pages.

Principal's Coffee Morning / LAB update

Thank you to all those parents who attended the Principal's coffee morning, I hope that you enjoyed the meeting and that you felt you had your questions answered or heard.

One of the most recent outcomes regarding the Local Academy Boards functions within school is / was developing a Stakeholder / Parental Engagement policy. This policy is now ready, and I have placed this at the bottom of the newsletter for you all to read; hopefully it will clarify and continue to support positive relationships between us and parents. We will also place a copy on the School Website for you to use as you need.

The minutes from the most recent LAB (November) are now on the school website. Please do read these to find out more about what the LAB will be working on throughout this academic year.

PTA News:

Attached to today's email is a full update from the PTA regarding events, funding and how you can get involved with PTA events over the forthcoming year. The PTA have also purchased an app which parents can download to keep you up to date and involved with funding and initiatives for the school.

Reception Educational Visit:

As Reception parents would've seen from the key dates we were hoping to take the children to the Polka Theatre for their first Educational Visit. However, as the Polka Theatre has been undergoing a refit this term so we have been unable to make a booking. Instead, we have arranged for a performance of Aladdin to come to the school on Tuesday 3rd December 2019. The office will email over the details shortly.

Principals Question:

Next week is Switch Off Fortnight, for a housepoint from your class teacher please write the answer to 'why is important that we switch things off when we aren't using them?'

Have a lovely weekend,



Mr John Smith

Principal



Year Three Boys Football – Rocks Lane

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

House	Previous Week	This Week
Parks	820	888
Gandhi	821	889
Pankhurst	815	878
Shackleton	819	889

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	97.6%
Year 1	95.9%
Year 2	96.9%
Year 3	97.5%
Year 4	97%
Whole School	97%

Key Dates:

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

Monday 18th November onwards	Year 3 Safe Walking
Wednesday 20th November	School Nurse into see Reception for Healthy Eating
Sunday 24th November	School choir performance at the Twickenham Christmas Tree Lighting event
Friday 29th November 09:15	Reception Christmas Performance
Friday 29th November	Pledge to Plant
Tuesday 3rd December	Key Stage 1 parent workshops 09:15 – English 10:00 – Mathematics
Wednesday 4th December onwards	Whole School Book Fair
Friday 6th December at 2:00 PM	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Concert – Holy Trinity Church
Saturday 7th December	PTA Christmas Fayre
Monday 9th December	Final Week for clubs
Wednesday 11th December	Parent Drop off 08:30 Year 1 – 4 only
Thursday 12th December	School Closes at 1:30 PM for the Varsity Match
Friday 13th December 2:00 PM	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Concert – Holy Trinity Church
Monday 16th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch



The Parental Engagement Policy reflects the School's vision; "Inspire Education and Achievement for life". In order to achieve this, we foster a shared and collaborative approach with parents, carers and adopt a multi-agency approach. Two-way communication between home and school is vital and by working together we can ensure the best outcomes and opportunities for our children. We pride ourselves in involving everyone in school improvement by informing, listening, valuing and responding.

When parents work with their children at home there is evidence of greater achievement, but engaging parents to attend and actively support school activities will also have benefits. If done well it not only improves pupils' achievements, but develops aspiration, as well as transforming the atmosphere in the school. We believe that in order to achieve "Excellence" and to continue to innovate a shared approach with parents, carers and any agencies involved is paramount.

Twickenham Primary Academy has a proactive rather than reactive approach to engagement of parents and carers and is sensitive to the circumstances of all families.

Aims:

- To work with parents and carers to enable students of all abilities to fulfil their potential in every area of the curriculum and outside of it
 - To work with staff, parents and carers to ensure that the pupils are safe and secure and their basic needs are met appropriately.
 - To encourage parents and carers of students to participate in the wider life of the school and to support events to celebrate the achievement and success of their children and others.
 - To help parents and carers of all pupils develop high aspirations and to empower to move towards a rewarding and fulfilling future.
 - To promote effective parental engagement where parents/carers are involved in development of their child's learning.
 - To provide support and information for parents and carers about their child's progress, attainment, behaviour, attendance and successes within school
 - To work closely with parents and families who may need additional support and, if necessary, to sign post accordingly.
 - Foster an ethos and atmosphere where all parents feel supported, welcomed and valued.
 - Maintain an 'open door' policy so that parents are able to communicate with any staff involved with their child. Communicate with parents in a variety of ways including; website, app, twitter, email and newsletter, telephone, letters, marvellous me, parents evening or home visits if appropriate.
- Respond to any queries raised within 48 hours.

Processes:

- In the case of absence all parents/carers will be contacted by telephone. The school will refer to AFC Educational Welfare Officer where there is a concern regarding absence and parents are difficult to engage
- Acknowledge any complaints within 48 hours. Respond to complaints as in keeping with our complaint policy.
- Hold meetings at times and in locations that are accessible for parents/carers.
- Maintain an on-going dialogue with parents and other stakeholders with regards to progress, attainment, attendance, behaviour and the general running of the school.
- Ensure that all parents are able to access our website and other portals and where appropriate support parents in doing so.
- Regularly seek parental views and feedback via questionnaires. Recommendations will be shared and reviewed and very often action taken.
- Provide regular and accessible assessment data for parents so that they are able to monitor their child's progress, effort and any barriers to learning.
- Ensure that all parents receive three written reports as required and the opportunity to discuss any success or issues arising at parents evening.

- Ensure a multi-agency approach and share information with other professionals working with the young person or family as appropriate (with permission from the family) so that an open and effective approach can be possible and we can draw on their expertise.
- Provide support to families who may experience difficulty or crisis through a range of outside agencies where possible.
- Increase and improve information available to support parent's relationship with the school concerning for example, (though not exclusively) transition, Curriculum, extra-curricular activities and visits.
- Ensuring that parents are fully involved and are informed of any disciplinary concerns at the school and where action is taken they are a part of this process. Also we will support parents in promoting positive behaviour at home.
- Support parents where possible in making applications to other agencies or bodies for family or financial support.
- Ensuring that all of our up to date policies and news are available on the school website.
- To provide opportunities where possible for parents to also improve their learning through parental workshops e.g. Key stage 1 / 2 – phonics, SATS and curriculum
- Give all parents the opportunity to be a part of our Principals Forum and contribute to decision making and community events at the school.

Leadership Management and Governance:

- Use the Local Academy Board to specifically support parental and stakeholder engagement. Provide parents with an email address so that they can contact the Local Academy Board as required.
- The Local Academy Board will support events that are designed to engage the parent and wider community.
- The Governing Body will be kept informed of complaints and responses made by the school as per the school complaints policy. Responsibilities - The Principal and the Senior Leadership Team
- The Principal / Senior Leadership Team will monitor all home / school communication and the complaints policy and take action required if appropriate.
- The Principal and the senior Leadership Team and wider leaders will ensure a response from the school in acknowledgment to any complaints/ issues raised within 48 working hours.
- The Senior Leadership team will ensure organisation and facilitation of events to give information to parents or celebrate success.
- The Senior Leadership Team will facilitate the gathering of views of stakeholders and discuss any appropriate action to be taken as a result.
- To work with the Governing Body, Parents Forum and any other appropriate bodies to ensure the engagement of parents.

Staff:

- Staff are expected to read the Home School Agreement (which has been signed on their behalf)
- Staff are expected to communicate with parents/carers directly if there are issues arising inside or outside of the curriculum.
- All staff are expected to respond to any parental queries or concerns within 48 hours

Parents and carers:

- Parents and pupils are expected to read and sign the Home School Agreement in student planners and abide by expectations agreed.
- Parents are expected to communicate with the school directly where there are concerns or issues arising.
- Parents and students are expected to support opportunities to recognise and celebrate success.
- Parents/students should treat the staff at the school with respect. The School reserves the right to report to the police any verbal or physical abuse towards any of our staff and ask them to leave the premises – should this be the case we will continue to communicate and work with all parents in writing and by telephone.

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'Inspiring Education and Achievement for Life'

