



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith

Autumn Term Term: Friday 18th October



Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a lovely week and are looking forward to the weekend ahead. There continues to be lots of excellent learning happening in the school as the first term draws to a close, and the children in Year 3 and Year 4 had an excellent visit to the British and the Natural History Museum; I am sure they were very excited to discuss what they had learnt on their Educational Visits at home and how they have furthered their knowledge.

A Message from Zahid Khan the current Chair of the Local Academy Board: Being a parent of a Year 4 and a Year 1 child myself, I have been able to look at my responsibilities as a governor not only from the angle of paperwork but from the eyes of each one of you. The challenge has been difficult and pleasurable at the same time. Four years ago we were told that the school term would begin but the children would have to sit in porta cabins on the grounds of the local rugby club and now to see the amazing and modern facilities we have is incredible. Over the years, I have had the opportunity of getting to know the children on a personal level, accompanying them on trips, spending time with them reading as well as other activities. It would be an understatement to say that each and every single one of them have the talent and character to achieve anything in this world. It has been a very difficult decision to step down from the LAB, but it felt like the right thing to do. The foundations have been set for an exemplary school to be built and it will be a pleasure to see someone new take on that role in assisting Mr John and our superhero teachers in continuing to strive to get better each year. I'm grateful to you all for placing your trust in me and allowing me the opportunity of serving this amazing school as Chair of the LAB and am now looking forward to a new challenge, a challenge of lifting some trophies with our school cricket team as their coach.

Warmest Regards, Zahid Khan

- *I would personally like to thank Zahid Khan for all support he has given myself and the school since its opening. Mr John*

Relationships and Sex Education Consultation: As you may be aware, all schools will be adopting the new Relationships, Health and Sex Education policies by September 2020. At the end of next week – Friday 25th October you will receive your consultation pack regarding how the school plans to adopt the Relationships, Health and Sex Education policies at Twickenham Primary Academy in 2020 using the guidelines that have been set by the Department of Education. The consultation document will explain in detail what topics are being covered in school, and when the topics are being covered in each year group.

- *Parents will be allowed to remove their children from Sex Education if they choose to however Relationships and Health Education will be compulsory for all pupils.*

After half term, on Wednesday 6th November myself, Miss Petra and Miss Kizzie will be hosting a coffee morning at 08:45 am in the dining hall to answer any of your questions or go into further detail about the teaching where necessary. We hope you will find the information helpful and supportive, and we thank you for your feedback and engagement in advance of the consultation process.

LAB News:

Have your say!

Our first Principal's coffee morning is coming up on the 14th November and the LAB is keen to hear from you! The LAB is a group of elected parents, staff and local community members who meet termly with John, our principal, to look at the school's performance, to review policy and to engage with key stakeholders (parents, pupils, staff and the community). We are keen to improve our engagement with parents and this coffee morning is one way for us to do that. So what's the point of the coffee morning? It's your opportunity to give us your feedback on your child's experience at the school, to give suggestions for what you'd like to see happening and to ask any questions you may have on topics such as uniform, clubs, sports, facilities and more. To enable us to give you meaningful responses we ask that you submit any questions in advance via the LAB email lab@gemstwickenhamprimary.co.uk and you can submit questions even if you can't make the coffee morning and we'll find a way for answers to be fed back. Hope to see you there or to hear from you via our email or feel free to talk to one of us at the school gates. Please send your questions to the LAB by the 6th November 2019.

Pari (mama of Jaya in year 1) and Stuart (dad of Kitty in year 1 and Poppy in year 4).

- *Please remember that Voting Closes for the new LAB members on Wednesday 23rd November. The school office will have sent home voting slips regarding this.*

Didcot Visit:

Next week, we have a visit from the School Hub at GEMS Didcot. Our school Hub went to visit GEMS Didcot last year and each member discussed how they are improving their schools, and this time our School Hub will be hosting; we have a range of activities planned for throughout the day including Science experiments in the Science Classroom.

PTA Reminders:

Just a reminder, that next week to coincide with our House Day that on Friday 25th October it is Halloween Dress up and the PTA bake sale. There will be a best costume prize in each class as well as an overall winner! Hopefully, it will be an enjoyable day for all the children as our House Captains have worked very hard to plan the activities for the afternoon. Please donate a £1.00 if you can.

Principal's Question:

For a House Point on Monday – 'Can you write a Halloween Poem?' *Please hand your answer into the class teacher who will give you a house point!*

Have a lovely weekend,



Mr John Smith, Principal



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

House	Previous Week	This Week
Parks	603	660
Gandhi	612	669
Pankhurst	611	662
Shackleton	614	628

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	97.9%
Year 1	95.5%
Year 2	96.7%
Year 3	97.8%
Year 4	96.6%
Whole School	96.9%

Key Dates:

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

Monday 21st October	PTA movie night – Year 3 and Year 4
Monday 21st October	VIAM choir workshop and audition
Friday 25th October House Day – Halloween Special!	House Day – No House T shirts as the children will be wearing Halloween costumes! £1 donation 
Friday 25th October	PTA Bake and Uniform Sale
Friday 25th October	End of Term – usual timings / and clubs for all pupils
Monday 4th November	School Closed for Inset
Tuesday 5th November	All pupils return to school
Tuesday 5th November	09:15 am Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents – just turn up!
Wednesday 6th November	08:45 am onwards – Relationships, Health and Sex Education coffee morning in the dining hall / consultation will be sent out just before the end of term
Friday 8th November	2:45 PM – PTA litter Pick Reception and Year 1
Monday 11th November	Remembrance Day





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