



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith



Spring Term: Friday 18th January 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well, and are looking forward to the weekend ahead. It has been a very busy start to the spring term but I believe the teachers, children and yourselves are back into the routine of school now. The children's learning is well underway in class - learning about their new topics, and I have been visiting a range of lessons this week as part of our teaching and learning review and I have seen first-hand the engagement and very good behavior from the children in class. I am sure your children have been sharing at home what they have been learning at school.

I just wanted to thank you for the lovely gifts that were given to staff at Christmas, they were wonderful and very much appreciated – I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas, and a superb time celebrating New Year.

Safeguarding:

Please can parents not use their mobile phone when they are in the school building. It does form part of our safeguarding policy and procedures, which is available to read when you sign in. If parents are seen to use their phone, we will ask you to put it away for the safety of the children. We follow this procedure so that everybody is kept safe, therefore it is important that mobile phones are not used in and around the building.

Key Dates:

There have been some slight amendments to the key dates this term. This includes the visit to Windsor Castle, a change in the PTA bake sale, and we have now confirmed the Author visit for Year Two. I have placed an updated key dates into the newsletter, and also updated the website accordingly for you to access. Furthermore, we now have a calendar on the school website which will remind you of the important events, and you can also sync this with your own calendar.

New Staff:

I'm sure you would like to join me in welcoming our new staff members - Miss Katie and Miss Lauren. Miss Katie is our new teaching assistant who will be working across and alongside key stage one and Reception; supporting both classes and booster groups. Miss Lauren, is the permanent teacher who is taking over from Mr. Oliver in Hawking Class. I would like to thank Mr. Oliver for all his hard work last term.

Mobile and App: We have now started to use our text and app service and part of our new website system. Please do feedback to the school office on how you think this is working; and whether you feel this communication is or is not helpful to you. Please sign up to the APP service if you haven't already.

Books:

I would like to say thank you to all our parents who have donated books or provided book vouchers for the school over the last term. We are going to display all our new books in our libraries, and I am sure our children will enjoy the new literature that we have on the shelves. Just remind you, that we do not accept **cakes or treats** in school for your child's birthday but we welcome a donated book to the school. On your child's birthday, please hand this into the school office where it will be labelled and put onto our library shelf.

House Points: This house point treat will be an 'Easter Festive Treat!'

House	Points
Parks	234
Gandhi	276
Pankhurst	274
Shackleton	245

Attendance:

Just a reminder, in line with DFE guidance, that the school does not authorise any holiday. Thank you. All holiday is coded as an unauthorised absence on the school's register.

Year Group	Target (97%)
Reception	95.1%
Year 1	97.2%
Year 2	97.4%
Year 3	97.5%
Whole School	97.1%

Key Dates

Monday 21 st January	Health Week
Monday 28 th January	Author Visit to Year 2
Friday 1 st February	3:30 PM – PTA Clear Out
Thursday 7 th February	Whole School Mathematics Workshop
Wednesday 13 th February	Year 1 to visit Windsor Castle
Thursday 14 th February	Reception to visit Polka Theatre

Twitter:

Please follow us on [@GemsTwickenham](https://twitter.com/GemsTwickenham) for all the latest news and updates. Please download the school app for regular updates

Principal's Question: For a house points on Monday, please answer the question 'can you write two wise responses and two unwise responses about losing a game to your friend. **Think about what we discussed in assembly this week!** '

- Please hand your answers to your classroom teacher

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr John Smith
Principal

Monday 7th January 2019	Inset Day – School Closed
Tuesday 8th January 2019	All pupils return to school
Tuesday 8th January 2019	Year 3 Safe Walking (Group 1)
Week Commencing 14th January	Afterschool clubs begin for all pupils
Friday 18th January at 2:45 pm	PTA litter pick for Year 2
Week Commencing 21st January	Health Week
Monday 28th January	Author Visit for Year 2 and whole school assembly
Friday 1st February from 3:30 pm	PTA Clear out sale
Thursday 7th February	Mathematics Workshop – Whole School
Wednesday 13th February	Year 1 visit to Windsor Castle
Thursday 14th February	Reception visit to the Polka Theatre ‘Wind in the Willows.’
Friday 15th February from 3:30 pm	PTA Year 1 Bake Sale
Friday 15th February	House Day
Monday 18th February 2019 – Friday 22nd February 2019	Half Term
Tuesday 26th February from 4:00 pm	Parents Evening
Thursday 28th February from 4:00 pm	Parents Evening
Friday 1st March from 3:30 pm	PTA Second hand uniform sale
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
Friday 8th March	Parent drop off Y1, 2 and 3
Week Commencing 11th March	Science Week
Wednesday 13th March	School Hub to GEMS Didcot Primary School
Week commencing 18th March	Waste Week
Thursday 21st March	School choir VIAM concert
Wednesday 27th March	PTA Wacky Wheels
Thursday 28th – Friday 29th March	Year 3 Residential trip to Woodrow House
Week Commencing 1st April	Final week for Clubs
Monday 1st April	Bee Keeping talk for Year 2 and Year 3
Wednesday 3rd April from 6:30 pm	Year 2 SATS Meeting
Thursday 4th April from 09:00am	Year 2 Performance
Friday 5th April 2019	End of Term – School Closes at 2:00 pm

December 2018 Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to all those parents who completed the school December 2018 parent questionnaire. As a school, it really supports us in understanding what we are doing well, and what we could further improve from the view of the parents. We do take your responses very seriously as we know that parents are at the heart of the learning community in a school.

The School questionnaire was very positive, and your teachers will have attached a copy to their email but there is also a copy located on the school website under 'What People Say about us'

Below summarises some of the key points that were raised:

Homework:

Some parents felt that there was too much homework and that there was also a lot of homework for the children to work through. As a school, we do have a homework policy that can be found on the school website which displays a matrix of what homework to expect in each year group. However, we do want to emphasise that homework is not compulsory, and though we strongly encourage it, it is up to you as parents to make the decision about whether your child completes this or not. However, we do ask that you read with children on a nightly basis as this has a significant impact on the progress in reading that your children will make within school.

How we teach:

Parents raised that they would like to know more about how we teach subjects within school, and the methods that we use so that they can support their children more effectively at home. We think this an excellent point to raise – so we are going to organise more parent workshops in which you can visit the school to observe a lesson, or attend a workshop with our subject leaders so that you can ask questions about how to support learning outside the classroom, and the best methods to use when working with your child at home.

Anti bullying:

A number of parents raised that they were unsure about how we deal with bullying as a school. We have recently updated our Anti bullying policy, and you can find this on the school website. This policy goes through what bullying is (it is not one off incidents) and all the procedures that we have in place as a school, but most importantly how we would tackle bullying if there was ever a case in school. I can assure you, that this would be tackled in a robust and rigorous manner.

Concerns:

A very small number of parents felt their concerns hadn't always been dealt with. We do aim as a school to respond swiftly, and deal with concerns as they arise but if you feel this has not been the case please do make contact with myself.

Spanish:

To confirm, Spanish is the Modern Foreign Language at Twickenham Primary Academy. In Key Stage One, this was taught by a peripatetic teacher in the autumn term – each class receiving a half an hour session weekly. In Key Stage Two, Miss Sara, who speaks Spanish, leads on this area of the curriculum.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you again for completing the questionnaire. In the meantime, if you feel that there is anything further that you wish to raise, please do not hesitate to get in contact with myself.

Mr. John Smith

Principal

Elgar Class: Week 2

This week we have started our new topic on Tudors "A Touch of Royalty". The children have been very excited about it and shared all their knowledge about the topic with the class. We have been looking at the Tudor family tree and learned some basic information about each of the family members.

Our past two art lessons were linked to our topic and children painted a tudor landscape using water colours as well as learned more about coats of arms. They designed and painted their own coat of arms using the language of heraldry. Both have already been displayed for everyone to see.

In English we have started our Information text unit and learned about the key features. The children worked in small groups to make posters and also used their knowledge to identify and label the different key features within Tudor related information texts. Today we looked more closely at the purpose of paragraphs and children summarised given paragraphs.

In Maths we have been working on multiplication and division, in particular on formal written methods using partitioning. We have been used the column method for multiplying 2 digit and 1 digit numbers and introduced the bus stop method for short division. The children really enjoy using the bus stop method and showing greater understanding of division with remainders.

Our science lessons have been focusing on Humans and what we need to survive as well as healthy eating. The children had to imagine that they were stranded on a desert island and what they need to survive and how they can get the necessary things. Children had some great ideas like using coconut shells to drink water out, building a shelter using leaves and wood from the trees..... Yesterday we talked about how the different nutrients are important for a healthy diet and what would happen if they were missing from our diet.

STAR WORK:

This week Jasper and Rose received the star certificates. Jasper for some fantastic ideas on what he would need to survive on desert island and how they could be found. Rose painted a lovely Tudor landscape using watercolours.

WEEK 3:

ENGLISH – We will continue our information text unit.

MATHS – We will be focusing on Time.

TOPIC – We will be looking at the timeline of the Tudor period and some key events.

SCIENCE – We will be looking at how an adventurer stays healthy.

Reminders:

Residential Trip: Thank you all for completing the online form. We have had a great response to the trip and are all looking forward to our adventure. We will be holding an information evening about the trip at the beginning of March – date to be confirmed.

Wider Opportunities Violin lessons: Children will start their violin lessons at school on Monday. Thanks to the PTA we have been able to purchase 30 violins for the children to use. We will have 2 teachers from Richmond Music Trust to conduct the lessons.

Best wishes

Miss Sara



'Inspiring Education and Achievement for Life'