



GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith



Autumn Term: Friday 30th November 2018

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a wonderful week and that you are looking forward to the weekend ahead – I'm sure many of you will have started or will be starting your Christmas shopping, and I hope that it all goes well for you wherever you are this weekend.

I wanted to start by saying congratulations to our excellent choir, and Miss Petra, who sang at the Try Twickenham festival on Sunday for the Christmas lights switch on. The children sang with such enthusiasm and gusto, and we thoroughly enjoyed watching them. It was so enjoyable to see Twickenham Primary Academy coming together during a festive community event, and how excited the children were to be on stage. Hopefully, many of you managed to watch some of the performance on Twitter!

Christmas Cards:

The postbox for Christmas cards will be located in the foyer from next week. Please ask your children to put their cards into the postbox in the morning, and then our Christmas post monitors will deliver the cards in the afternoon. Please remember to write the child's name and class on the envelope so that they receive their Christmas cards on time.

Parent Drop off:

Wednesday 5th December is our parent drop off for Years 1, 2 and 3. Please arrive from 08:30 am and make your way to your child's classroom. The teachers will have the children's books out so that you can talk to your child about what they have learnt this term. I know that the children have enjoyed a very exciting and rich curriculum, and I am sure they will have lots to say. Hopefully we will see you all there!

Website:

My apologies that the website is taking a little while longer than expected to launch. I am hoping to have this resolved within the next week – but I shall keep you updated about this.

Christmas Fair:

It won't be long until our Christmas Fair (Saturday 8th December from 2:00pm). One of the stalls will also be a book fair from which you will be able to buy a selection of books. Please do come along and buy some books for Christmas; for every £100 the school sells in books it will receive £40 in commission to purchase new books for the school.

Varsity:

Just a reminder, that we are closing at 1:15pm on Thursday 6th December for the varsity match. There will be no after school clubs or provision this day.

Christmas Tree:

We look forward to the arrival of our Christmas tree next week! This year the children will be attending a workshop in which they make their own Christmas bauble. They will then put these baubles on the Christmas tree in the school hall. At the end of term, we will send these home for the children to keep.

House Points:

House	Points Collected
Parks	1927
Gandhi	2193
Pankhurst	2017
Shackleton	1853

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 (96%)
Reception	94.5%
Year 1	97.4%
Year 2	97.8%
Year 3	96.6%
Whole School	96.5%

Key Dates

Tuesday 4 th December	Flu immunisation for the whole school
Wednesday 5 th December	Parent Dropoff from 08:30 am – Y1, 2 and 3
Thursday 6 th December	Varsity: School closed at 1:15pm – error on key dates
Saturday 8 th December	The Christmas Fair from 2:00pm
Monday 10 th December	Final week for afterschool clubs
Thursday 13 th December	PTA movie night (Year 3)

Twitter:

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

Principal's Question: For **3 bonus** house points on Monday, please answer the question 'Why will we be opening our advent calendars next week?'

- Please hand your answers to your classroom teacher

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr John Smith

Principal



Elgar Class: Week 11

This week we went on our second school trip and it was a really unique experience for the children. The children listened and watched with great awe when the Philharmonia Orchestra played different pieces based on bravery and courage. We learned about the composers, the background story of each piece of music played as well as how the different instruments and sounds portray the feelings and/or characters within the piece. The children even got a chance to be actively involved in one of the pieces using their voices and rhythm – they did really well with limited practise time. A big thank you to my lovely parent helpers who joined us on this trip!

On Monday the recorder and piano students showed off their impressive skills in assembly. What a treat for us to hear them play and sing with such enthusiasm and confidence. Well done and a huge thank you to all of them and Mr William!

In English we have been exploring poetry by looking at the different devices used and analysing the purpose, context and intended audience. The children used their creativity and understanding of poetry when writing alliterated poems and enjoyed the use of onomatopoeia. We will continue with poetry next week and ask children to find and bring a poem they enjoy to share with their peers.

Maths has been very practical this week when we were learning all about measurement. The children have been using the ruler to measure the length of objects and worked hard to convert the measurement units using their multiplication and division skills.

In Topic we used computers and atlases to research the human and physical geography of different European countries. The children worked well with their partner and were able to answer the relevant questions.

Our Science lesson was about Magnetism. We learned that not all metals are magnetic and used Venn and Carroll diagrams to show the results of our comparative tests.

Today we enjoyed investigating and identifying the human geography of Spain and how different areas contribute to local ingredients for tapas dishes. The children used different cooking techniques to prepare and cook a Spanish tapas dish "Patatas bravas".

Throughout the week we continued to practise for our Christmas concert and this afternoon we made the props for the different songs and poems. The children are very confident when reciting their parts and sing with great enthusiasm.

STAR WORK:

This week the star certificates went to Christopher and Maddie. Christopher for some fantastic converting mm and cms in maths and Maddie for exploring human and physical geography in our Topic.

WEEK 12:

ENGLISH – We will continue to focus on poetry.

MATHS – We will continue to learn about measurement.

TOPIC – We will be learning about major capital cities of Europe.

SCIENCE – We will be learning to measure the strength of a magnet in different ways.

Reminders:

Spelling and Maths bee: The school will have their first spelling and maths bee. It will be a fun way for the children to show off and celebrate their spelling and maths skills in an exciting atmosphere. On Friday 7th December we have our in-class test and 2 children from each class will then move on to the finals which is taking place on Tuesday 11th December in the hall. The finalists from each year group will be asked to spell different words and answer times tables and mental calculation questions until we have a winner. All children will receive a participation certificate and the winner from each year group also gets a special prize!

Parent drop off morning: On Wednesday 5th December from 8.30-9.00 am we invite you all to come and have a look at your child's books and any new displays.

Varsity Match: On Thursday 6th December is the annual Varsity match so the school will close at 1.15pm. Please note there will be no after school clubs or provision on that day.

Best wishes,

Miss Sara



News from the School Office

Tickets for the Reception and Year 1 production will be sent home in book bags next Wednesday. Reception and Year 1 parents that have yet to request tickets please use the link below – thank you.

[Reception & Year 1 Christmas Performance](#)

Please find attached information on the council's consultation for 20MPH on the street where you live – for your information.

News from the PTA

Only a week to go until the Christmas Fair 🎄

Thank you to everyone so far who has volunteered to help at the fair. We really couldn't do it without the support of the school community. We are still looking for helpers so do let your rep know if you can help.

Thank you for all the Christmas Tree orders. We will have raised over £200 from sales so that is amazing! For those that still need to pay, please leave payment with the school office or see Dani Meredith (Finn in Glennie and Freya in Turner mum) who can answer any queries.

Thank you for all the generous donations to the tombola.

We are still looking for TPA Teddy 🧸 donations and any 2nd hand toys, if you are doing a pre-Christmas clear out please send items our way.

We have some completely brilliant raffle prizes including:

A One month VIP voucher to Plan B fitness worth £150 A Bike Academy course from Birdie Bikes Beauty treatments and haircuts A hamper from The Meat Room And bike rental for a year from Bike Xchange! Plus many, many more donations from local businesses.

The year 3 classes wrote beautiful letters asking for prizes and it's been lovely to see how much support the local business community were willing to show our school.

The PTA will be selling raffle tickets from Monday at most mornings and afternoons.

We will also send some home in your child's book bags to purchase yourselves or sell to others. Just return the stubs and money collected by Friday to be in with a chance of winning a great prize!

Many Thanks
TPA PTA



'Inspiring Education and Achievement for Life'