



# GEMS Twickenham Primary Academy Newsletter

Principal: Mr. John Smith



## Autumn Term: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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	1868
Gandhi	2097
Pankhurst	1924
Shackleton	1790

### 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 <sup>th</sup> December	Flu immunisation for the whole school
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Parent Dropoff from 08:30 am – Y1, 2 and 3
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Varsity: School closed at 1:15pm – error on key dates
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	The Christmas Fair from 2:00pm
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Final week for afterschool clubs
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> 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



Dear Parents,

In Literacy this week we have focused on digraph “ch”. The children also worked together to write and illustrate a story ‘Harry and the bucketful of dinosaurs visit Reception Turner’. I have been really impressed with their ideas and their developing writing and drawing skills.

In Maths our main focus was `Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s`. The children worked hard to gain basic understanding of the different number patterns through practical activities, online games and songs. Learning these times tables is quite tricky so it is something we will continue to practise and re-visit.

Making snowflakes to decorate the school hall ready for the Christmas play was also very popular, as was playing with some of the new resources we have in Reception!



## Next Week:

LITERACY – We will be focusing on the digraph th, revising all of the letters and sounds as well as key words covered this term

MATHS – We will be focusing on 'time'. The children will undertake activities using sand timers and stop watches and think about daily routines

TOPIC – We will be focusing on the beginning of Advent, introducing the Christmas celebration and talking about how and why it happens. We will also continue to practice for the play.

## Reminders:

- Adrian has lost his school jumper; his mother has asked if you could please keep your eyes out for this!
- Miss Marie our teaching assistant on Thursday and Fridays has sadly left TPA but will be returning from time to time to take on a volunteering role
- Please remember to collect your child at 1.15pm next Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December. On this day, we will be **dismissing from the Reception playground** to avoid congestion with the other year groups!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Miss Kizzie

57 Colne Road | Twickenham TW2 6QF | Telephone No: 0203 019 6196 | Email: [office@gemstwickenham.co.uk](mailto:office@gemstwickenham.co.uk) | [www.gemstwickenhamprimary.org](http://www.gemstwickenhamprimary.org) |



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