

Primary Week 16th September 2022

Dear Community,

I would like to thank you, your children, and our staff for such an overwhelmingly positive start to the term. It is lovely to be welcoming the children back, and see new students gaining confidence by the day. Where any child continues to find any aspect of the new year at all daunting, we remain keen to help.

I hope you have found useful the various communications from colleagues so far giving information about masterclass, after-school activities, and curriculum evenings. All of this is to help hit the ground running and to ensure the children are active and engaged.

Happy Teaching Assistant Day!

There were cheers, cards and doughnuts as GEMS Metropole School celebrated Teaching Assistants Day. On Wednesday we celebrated TA Day to recognize the valuable contribution Teaching Assistants make to children's education and support. Please join us in thanking all our fantastic Teaching Assistants across the School for all their hard work and dedication.

Reading

Developing a love of reading alongside providing your children with the skills they need to read fluently with stamina and comprehension skills, is a clear aim for our school as we aim to ensure that: **Every child becomes a great reader.**



More information about this will be shared during the English parent workshops next week (see below) however, one way in which you can ensure that your child becomes a **GREAT** reader, is to ensure that they read every night for at least 20 minutes. This expectation should increase as your child gets older. Don't forget, reading to your child is also incredibly important as a way of modelling good reading techniques as well as sharing the pleasure of reading together. Your child will have visited the library and brought a reading book home, please remember to return this each week, so they can exchange for a new one.

Assemblies – Kindness

In my assemblies during the first week back, I spoke with the students about being kind, which is one of GEMS Metropolises' seven core values. Each week we will be reflecting on these values. In the assembly, I spoke about how a single act of kindness has a ripple effect, improving life at GEMS Metropole school for countless others. Next, we will focus on respect.

Traffic

The school have actioned a number of initiatives to ensure that drop-off and pick-ups are more convenient and safer. Some of these improvements include; additional drop-off zones, the introduction of gate 7, improvements to the drop-off area at gate 6, increased Marshalls to direct the flow of traffic, and the new one-way system for internal parking.

The most recent drop-off and pick-up system within the school, has improved the drop-off timing by 5 mins. To ensure that the drop-off time improves further, please help reduce congestion by dropping children from Year 3 – 13 at the designated drop-off zones so that they can walk themselves into school.

FS

Last week the students in the Foundation Stage (FS) have been settling in playing, learning, and creating together. The children have been getting hands-on with the paint, singing songs, enjoying story time, and learning in our Forest School. Please remember to send a hat in with your child so that they are able to play outside for short periods during the cooler times of the day. **ADD PICTURE**

Attendance

Please ensure that your child is in school and on time every day to prevent anyone from falling behind with their learning. GEMS Metropole School has a whole school attendance target which is 96%. To celebrate classes that have good attendance we will be rewarding the best class each week with the attendance cup.

Well done to the following classes with the highest attendance score this week

Infant School: Year 2 with 99.3% attendance

Junior School: 4F and 5D with 99.3% attendance

Upcoming Key Dates

WB Monday 19th September	Year 5 trip to the planetarium
Wednesday 21st September	Infant school English parent workshop 5.30pm
Thursday 22nd September	Junior school English parent workshop 5.30pm
Monday 26th September	House election week starts
Wednesday 28th September	Happy Meet with Mr. Nav (CEO/Principal) From 10.30am – 11.30am Microsoft Teams meeting Join on your computer or mobile app. Click here to join the meeting
Friday 30th September	House Colour day

Very best regards for the weekend,

Tara Foster
Primary Headteacher

