

Gosforth East Middle School

Head Teacher: T J Stout

Harewood Road Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5JT
Tel: (0191) 285 5445
Email: admin@gosfortheast.newcastle.sch.uk



In the Pursuit of Excellence

19th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of the academic year 2023-24 it is a good time to reflect on all of the achievements of the year. So many of our children have made fabulous progress in a wide variety of areas, both in school and out, and have seen their self-confidence, self-esteem and abilities grow as a result of the opportunities and experiences they have been offered. This is both in lessons and in clubs, residentials, Key groups, True North, musical events, sports events, the list is endless... It is uplifting to see so many children positively engage in the opportunities and learn and develop in ways which can enhance their lives for many years to come. These developments can only be achieved by the support of the staff at GEMS and yourselves as parents and carers, and I thank everyone involved in the life of GEMS for all the opportunities they enable the children to participate in.

As you can see from our *School News*, this term has been no exception to the wide variety of opportunities on offer. The magazine is produced by the children but overseen by Mrs Hilary Leahy, who is a member of our support team and is leaving us at the end of this term. We all would like to take the opportunity to thank her for the enormous amount of hard work and opportunities she has given to everyone at GEMS. Her book club, theatre visits, Lit and Phil expeditions, residential visits are well renowned and she is going to be a huge miss to many of the children and staff that she has supported over the years. Thank you so much on behalf of all the GEMS community. Enjoy your retirement Mrs Leahy!

Also leaving is Mr Christopher Gray, who has been an excellent innovative and creative member of staff, doing a lot of work in raising awareness of diversity, as well as supporting the children's learning. A big thank you to you and enjoy your new job working in children's mental health services. Miss Anna Tweedy is also leaving us to train in Educational Psychology. Miss Tweedy has worked one-to-one with our children, giving lots of her time and dedication to enable children to make progress. She most definitely has the patience of a saint and we wish her every success in her future career.

As of 19th August 2024 the law on school attendance is changing. The principle behind it is that all children receive a full-time suitable education as their legal entitlement and that parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure this happens. The aim is that all children attend school regularly in order to maximise their educational achievement and social development. We will send out the new attendance policy in the next academic year following its approval by the Governing Body.

As a school, through various different means, walks, fairs, baking etc. the community of GEMS has managed, in challenging times, to raise a huge amount of money for charity and it is a real credit to everyone involved behind the organisation of such events, which has enabled this to happen. Really well done everyone and thank you so much for your generosity. Our Summer Fair raised over £1500 which enables us as a school to provide a wide range of enhancement opportunities for all of the children in our care. Thank you again for this.

As we say goodbye to our Year 8 pupils and the other children all move through school, it is a good time to highlight what a positive year group this year's Year 8 children have been. They have had many successes in all sorts of avenues – academic, social, sporting, cultural – and have very much reflected the values of



our school. We all wish them well in the next phase of their educational journey and we are sure that the key skills and attributes they have developed at GEMS will stand them in great stead for the future.

Just a reminder that school reopens for all children on Tuesday 3rd September at 8.50am and a reminder that children should not be on site before 8.30am on any day unless it is for a school club or activity. I hope you all have a fabulous summer, that we get some sunshine and that everyone gets the opportunity to have some valuable family time. Thank you for all your support throughout the year and we look forward to seeing you back at GEMS in September.

Best wishes,

Mr T J Stout