

# OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Inspiring a love of learning"*

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Monday, 19 July 2021

Dear Families,

I can't quite believe that I am writing again at the end of another year where our lives continue to be affected by the pandemic. Not just our home lives but in seeing our school again forced to switch to provide remote learning for our children as a result of rising COVID infections during Christmas and the New Year.

I hope, like me, you have been impressed with the way the school has dealt with the sudden re-introduction of restrictions in January whilst continuing to provide lessons on site to the children of key workers. Indeed, the Board of Governors at Oliver Goldsmith have been immensely proud and are extremely grateful to the staff for the way the school has risen to the challenges faced. We have seen Google Classrooms introduced and were pleased to see that even after the school reopened, parents have even been able to see some of their children perform online in class assemblies. We have also kept a close eye on the school's E-Safety policy to ensure children were staying in contact with their teachers and classmates safely.

As a Board we continue to meet with the Headteacher and senior leaders to support the school in making decisions about teaching and learning with the safety of the children, staff and the whole school community as the overriding priority for all. I know where we have taken decisions, for example, to not reopen breakfast club provision until recently, I hope you will understand that we have done so to reduce the risk of passing on COVID infections to class bubbles and to reduce the number of children might need to be sent home. The Board will continue to work with the school over the summer to ensure it is safe to reopen in September in a way which continues to work to the national guidance and the local public health situation in Brent.

Whilst we continue to manage the impact of COVID, we have also been pleased to see how the school have maintained a strong focus on teaching and inspirational learning in the school. We have, as a Board, continued to understand how the school is striking the right balance between helping children catch up, using the national funding to help with this effort, and allowing the children to play and socialise together safely- something which we think has been so important for the children after being at home for so long. In understanding how children have responded to this we have, as a Board, looked at feedback from the children in Year 6 and at reports from the headteacher. We have seen faculty reports which shows how much of the curriculum has still been accessed by the children. We have also seen some early data to gain a view as to how the children are progressing in their reading, writing and maths. All this has reassured the Board that



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Oliver Goldsmith had struck the right balance between catch up learning and progression whilst making time for the children to learn to develop their relationships and interacting with their friends. We are already discussing how the school will be teaching the curriculum next year so Oliver Goldsmith remains a place which inspires a love of learning.

Thank you for your continued support in making sure your children were able to access remote learning in the spring term and for working with the school since to ensure the children are on time and ready to learn, even throughout these challenging times.

I wish you all a safe, restful and fun summer.

Yours sincerely  
Hannah Panayiotou  
Chair, Board of Governors, Oliver Goldsmith Primary School



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