

OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Inspiring a love of learning"

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Thursday, 16 July 2020

Chair of Governors End of Year Letter to Parents

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing during these unusual times to update you on the issues that the Board of Governors at Oliver Goldsmith have been considering this year. As you would imagine, the Board's attention has been predominantly focussed on minimising the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown on the school. In doing so, we have had at the forefront of our minds our strategic and statutory responsibilities to consider the safeguarding of the children; the health & safety of staff and children; and to ensure that the impact on your children's learning is minimised as far as possible.

In terms of the children's learning, at the start of the academic year, the Board had begun monitoring the school on its commitment to embed a diverse curriculum. We were pleased to support the school in its plans to introduce forest school learning (an outdoor approach to delivering the curriculum) and had been impressed with the work the school leaders were introducing around Maths Mastery.

Whilst it has been unavoidable that the children's learning has been impacted by the lockdown, the Board have nonetheless stayed closely engaged with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that elements of the curriculum continue to be delivered remotely as best as possible. We have done this by ensuring that some of those who do not have access to home computers are able to do so and by funding workbooks for each child. We also have begun discussions at Board level to understand how the school intends to gauge what elements of the curriculum need to be covered in September to ensure children catch up. This work includes looking at the school's finances for the next academic year to understand whether additional teaching resources will be needed and how any additional funding provided by the Government might be best used. There will continue to be some elements of disruption. For example, the Board have decided that class trips away from the immediate vicinity of the school are not to be arranged in the first half term from September. However, we continue to plan throughout the summer to ensure children can access as wide a curriculum as possible from September and in the safest possible circumstances.



Inspired to ★ care ★ cooperate ★ communicate ★ create ★ celebrate



The Board have also been working to improve the school learning environment by making key decisions around the building works which will begin in the summer. As part of the planning to replace the very old dining hall, we are thinking about how best to allocate our capital resources. This is so that we can maximise the flexible learning spaces for the children in that area of the school. As the demolition work begins over the summer, we will continue to discuss the plans with the school to ensure the new building provides value for money, whilst minimising disruption to the school site once children return.

On behalf of the Board I wanted to pass on our thanks to all the staff at Oliver Goldsmith (both the teaching and non-teaching staff) who have remained truly dedicated and professional throughout these unique and challenging times. We have been proud of the way that everybody has pulled together to continue to provide education to the children of key workers since March and to support the return of children in years six, one and in reception. We recognise how crucial it is to continue to provide excellent education for your children whilst keeping them safe during the public health crisis and the Board will continue to work with the school to meet those challenges.

Should you wish to discuss the contents of this letter with myself or members of the Board, please contact the school using the school email address.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Your sincerely

Hannah Panayiotou, chair
On behalf of the Board of Governors

