



OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL



“Inspiring a love of learning”



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@OGPSInspired



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Dear Parents & Carers,

I do hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. We continue in lockdown, albeit with a new slogan, and we are reflecting on the latest announcement by the Prime Minister. We are really missing you and hope you could see that in our special video message to you all. We hope it put a smile on your face.



Like many schools and communities, we have been affected by the virus; we have members of staff and families of children who have been ill, and some suffering bereavements of friends and family. We all remain anxious at this time and are trying our best to shield and protect our families. We send our sincere condolences to those in our community who have suffered the loss of loved ones.

As you are aware, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson gave a speech on Sunday giving information about the roadmap for the coming weeks and months. In that speech he said that the government's aim is for schools to start a phased return for children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 from 1st June. Whilst I want nothing more than to re-open the school to more children, I will only do so if it is safe for children and staff. Like all schools we are currently working through the guidance that has been shared, consulting with our local authority for more clarity, consulting with the relevant unions and carrying out planning and risk assessing to see how we can respond safely and responsibly to the government's proposals. ***At this time I am unable to share with you what will happen next, but please be reassured that much planning and discussion is taking place behind the scenes. When I have more information I will contact parents as soon as I am able.*** We must get this right for the safety of our children and staff team; the stakes are too high to rush a response.

To help my thinking and planning I really need feedback from parents. I have set up a quick electronic survey that will help me to know more about how you feel at the moment. Please use this link to provide some feedback.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G3WBRX3>

Please remember that OGPS is here for you. If you need help or support, please call the school office between 8.30am and 4.00pm.

Stay safe and take care.
My very best wishes to you all.



Mr. James Simmons
Headteacher



Keeping in touch with you...



Phone Calls...

Over the next week, class teachers will be calling all pupils in their classes to say hello and see how they are doing. Please bear with us, our OGPS team are not only teachers but they are parents and carers juggling a great many demands at this time. They will call you as soon as they can, we hope to be in touch with everyone by the end of next Wednesday.

The aim of the call is to catch up with children and hopefully put a smile on their face! We want to hear about the lovely things you have been doing at home and also about the home learning they have been working on as best as they can. If you can, please put the teacher on speaker phone so you can join in the phone call too! I know parents are also missing the chats we would normally have at pick up time!

Please do not ask teachers about what will be happening next as the simple answer is, they do not know!

Emails...

Also, we are setting up class email accounts so you can email your class teacher directly. When these are completed I will send them out to parents in an email.

Please use the email to...

1. Send in pictures of you or your work that you would like us to upload to the class pages on the school website so you can see each other. If you send a photo of yourself, please don't have your name visible in the picture.
2. Send a piece of writing or topic work to your class teacher to have a look at. Teachers will then be able to email back with some feedback about your work. We will look to share what we call two stars and wish - two great things you did and then a wish about what you might do next time to improve. Teachers will do their very best to respond to emails within 2-3 days of receiving them. Please be patient as there will be many messages to get through! Each teacher is in a different situation and we ask you to respect that it may take some staff longer to reply than others. We will be doing our best given our different circumstances.

We will send you the email addresses by the end of this week.

School Blogs...

You can leave a comment about French and Music for Miss Dardenne and Mrs McNeil by using the school blog, which you can find using this link. Miss Dardenne and Mrs McNeil can also be reached using the main school email address, we will forward any messages to them.

<https://www.olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk/blog>

We hope these ways of communicating will help you to feel closer to us and more connected to the OGPS community. If you need to contact a senior leader, Mr Simmons, Headteacher, Mrs Dean, Deputy Headteacher or Miss Patel Acting Assistant Headteacher, please call or email the main school office; we are here for you.

Announcing our Writing Competition Winners



We ran a virtual writing competition; Mrs Dhall and Mrs Shewell received lots of entries. They have read them all and were thrilled to see your love of writing shining through! All those who took part will be sent a certificate. They have decided on the following winners...

KS1

Mahi Shah in 1B

This was a very good story all about Mahi's adventures on her birthday.

Lower KS2

Adam Butt in 3L

This was a lovely story based on being able to travel around the world and eat lots of different types of food!

Upper KS2

Aashi Rai in 5L

This was a very imaginative story, with lots of brilliant vocabulary and description.

Thank you to all those who took part!

Home Learning

The links for next week's home learning will be emailed out this coming Friday. We won't be setting home learning over the half term break but will send you some ideas to keep busy at home during the break. The half term break can be a great opportunity to try something different!

There are so many things on social media about our current situation and this is one that really spoke to me.

Yes, we miss you all very much, but I think the French version of I miss you says so much more.

You are all indeed missing from us and we feel it greatly.

We look forward to a time where we are back together again.



How school events are being affected and our planning for the future...



We will write in future newsletters about what will happen to events that we had planned to take place.

Y6 Leavers Assembly: Like you, we will be very sad if we do not get to say farewell to our year six leavers. As I said to them in our final assembly on Fri 20th March, if we are not back in school by the end of the school year, we will put on a special event in the autumn term and invite our current year six pupils back so we are able to say a proper goodbye!

Thank you for your patience and understanding at this challenging time.

Term Dates for 2019-20

Summer Term: Monday 20th April 2020 to Tuesday 21st July 2020
(with 20th & 21st July as CPD days)

NOTE: The early May Day Bank Holiday has been moved by the Government to Friday 8th May 2020 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe.

Half term week Monday 25th May 2020 to Friday 29th May 2020

NOTE: Children finish school year on Friday 17th July

Term Dates for 2020-21

Autumn Term: Weds 2nd Sept to Fri 18th Dec 2020 (with 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sept as CPD days)
Children (Y1-6) start on Monday 7th Sept
Half term week Monday 26th Oct to Friday 30th Oct 2020

Spring Term: Monday 4th Jan 2021 to Weds 31st March 2021 (with 4th Jan as CPD Day)
Children return to school on Tuesday 5th Jan 2021
Half term week: Monday 15th Feb - Friday 19th Feb 2021

Summer Term: Monday 19th April 2021 to Fri 23rd July 2021
Children return to school on Tues 20th April 2021
Half term week Monday 31st May 2021 to Friday 4th June 2021
Children break up for the summer holiday on Friday 23rd July

To confirm the Staff Training days (CPD days) are as follows for 2020-21

- Wednesday 2nd September 2020
- Thursday 3rd September 2020
- Friday 4th September 2020
- Monday 4th January 2021
- Monday 19th April 2021

In order to help families plan their holidays, we publish dates well in advance. The dates for the 2021-22 academic year will be published to parents early in the autumn term of 2020 as soon as they have been ratified by the Board of Governors.



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