



OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL



“Inspiring a love of learning”



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@OGPSinspired



School Newsletter: The Goldsmith Gazette
Edition Number: 111 Date: Fri 11th Sept 2020



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome Back!

It has been wonderful to welcome you back this week; the school has not been the same without you all! We particularly welcome new families who have joined or are about to join the school community. We are always pleased to welcome not only our new Nursery & Reception pupils but also a number of children transferring to our school into other year groups.



THANK YOU for your support and patience this week as we introduced new dropping off and picking up procedures. We now have a very calm and orderly start and end to the day as we are all used to the lines, signs and arrows!

Staff Update!

We warmly welcomed Mr Thorogood as class teacher in 1T. Whilst Mrs Driscoll and Mrs Shewell are no longer leading classes, they are working in specific year groups this term to lead catch up classes for our children.

What next for the new OGPS dining hall?

As you can see in photos on a later page, the old dining hall has been demolished. The autumn term will see the planning process finalised so that ground can be broken in early 2021. The plan is for the new dining hall to be built by the end of the autumn term in 2021 so that we can start using it from January 2022. As the project moves forward, I will keep you updated.

Our New Normal & Government Guidance from Monday 14th Sept...

I have been really impressed with how quickly our children have settled into their new routines. It is lovely to see so many smiles and hear so much laughter in the playground. Behaviour has been brilliant, old friendships have been reignited and new friendships formed in their classes.

As you will have seen on the news and online, there is concern both nationally and locally about a rise in Covid-19 positive cases. **We must ensure we all follow guidance to help keep our families and local community safe.**

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/council-news/september-2020/covid-19-cases-rising-in-brent/>

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july>

We still face challenges ahead but we will meet them together and find ways forward together, doing everything we can to give our children the safest and best educational experience we possibly can.

Mr. James Simmons
Headteacher

Please don't forget key information...



If your child is unwell for **other reasons than Covid-19**, you must report the sickness absence of your child in the usual way (call the school office) and send your child back to school when they are well. Please be clear about your child's symptoms when speaking to our office team.

For drop off and pick up times and which gate to use...

Year Group	Which Gate?	Drop Off Time	Pick Up Time
Reception	Coniston Gnds Gate	8.40-8.50	3.20-3.30 (from 21/9/20)
Year 1	Coniston Gnds Gate	8.40-8.50	3.20-3.30
Year 2	Coniston Gnds Gate	8.30-8.40	3.30-3.40
Year 3	Kingsbury Rd Gate	8.40-8.50	3.30-3.40
Year 4	Kingsbury Rd Gate	8.40-8.50	3.30-3.40
Year 5	Kingsbury Rd Gate	8.30-8.40	3.20-3.30
Year 6	Coniston Gnds Gate	8.40-8.50	3.30-3.40

If you have more than one child, start at the gate for the earliest drop off and we will guide you what to do next. Senior staff and other staff are available each day to help you.

Please don't forget to social distance from other families as you arrive and leave school. We have set up lines and signs to help but we need your support to make it work. Please follow our guidance and keep social distance rules to help keep us all safe. Thank you.

What does my child need to bring to School?

- Children **DO** need to bring a packed lunch to school, unless they are having a school packed lunch.
- Children **DO** need a named water bottle.
- Children **DO** need to bring a coat to wear as needed for the autumn weather!
- Children **DO NOT** need to bring in pencil cases – we will supply them with equipment.
- Children **DO NOT** need to bring in bags.
- Children **DO NOT** need to bring in PE kits – they should wear their PE kits to school to avoid the need to change on their PE day.
- Children **DO NOT** need to bring in book bags, we have set up electronic books for children to access and homework will be completed online to reduce paper and books going between school and home. More details will be sent home later.

What does my child need to wear to school?

- Children should wear school uniform as per our uniform policy.
- On PE days, children should wear school PE kit to school.
- Children in Y1 & Y2 can wear trainers for PE rather than plimsoles.
- See the next page for details of when each class has PE and which days they should come to school in their PE kit.



What days does my child need to wear PE kit to school?

Class/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
RN		✓			
RP					✓
1O		✓		✓	
1T	✓		✓		
2B	✓		✓		
2D		✓		✓	
3AV		✓	✓		
3B	✓			✓	
4M	✓		✓		
4P		✓		✓	
5L		✓	✓		
5S	✓			✓	
6C	✓		✓		
6S		✓		✓	

What should my child wear on PE days?

- Grey or black shorts
- Plain white t-shirt without any logos/badges or designs
- Grey or black jogging bottoms may be worn in the winter months.
- Trainers for all children as they will spend the day wearing them - plimsoles are not suitable for children to wear all day.



If your child has an old PE kit from last year which they still fit, please use it. 2020/21 is a transitional year between our own uniform and our new uniform policy.

NOTE: On PE days, trainers DO NOT need to be all black, they just need to be safe and comfortable. Please do not rush out to buy new ones!

OGPS IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL



We do have children with NUT allergies at so we ask that children do not bring in nuts or snacks or foods that contain nuts. Thank you for your support.

Medical Information or Food Allergies

If your child has a medical condition or food allergy that we should know about and you have not already told us, please let the school know the details as soon as possible. It is very important that we have knowledge of your child's medical condition and any medications they may require. If your child does have a condition that requires us to keep medication in school please make sure that you have signed a consent form and passed it to Mrs Halai.

Permission for Picking Children up at the end of the day or in an emergency

We are using last years' list for these permissions. If there have been changes to the people you want to give permission to collect your child at the end of the day or in an emergency, please contact the school office to update us. If someone who is not named tries to collect your child, we will not let them do so unless we have confirmed this with you.

Free School Meals

If you think your child is entitled to free school meals, please speak to the school office. Please don't forget to register for free school meals as the school will receive further money to help support them with their learning.

Celebrating Birthdays

We know that children like to celebrate their birthdays with others but at OGPS the tradition is that children **do not bring in cakes or sweets.** In the current new normal we ask that families donate a book to the school library on behalf of their child instead. Thank you for supporting our healthy school approach!

School to Home Communication - Great ways to stay connected

- **Parent communication through texts & emails** - so long as we have your details we will be able to email you and text you with important school information. Have you given us your most up to date contact details? (mobile, email)
- **School Website** – a great source of information about the school
- **Twitter** – you can also follow us on twitter [@OGPSInspired](https://twitter.com/OGPSInspired)
- **Facebook** - find us by searching for **Oliver Goldsmith Primary**
- **OGPS You Tube Channel** — we use this channel to publish videos to our school community https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCovGykj7T2HTcG_ZS4RWffw



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School Council

Due to school closures last year, children who were elected to the position of School Council in Sept 2020 will continue to serve as School Councillors for the first two terms of this academic year so they have the chance to complete a full year in the role. We will review this at Easter and see what we do for the summer term of 2021. If a school councillor from last year has left the school, classes will have the chance to elect a new representative.



Achievement Assemblies

Each Friday we will hold our "Achievement Assembly" as normal. Rather than all the children squeezing into the hall to celebrate each others' successes, it will be a virtual assembly beamed into each classroom! Children who receive a star of the week award will receive a certificate from their class teacher.

Residential Trips for Year 5 & 6 in 2021

At this current time, residential visits are still **not allowed** to take place as per government guidance. However, we have booked trips for next year in case this guidance changes in time. Residential visits create such memorable moments for children and I do hope they will be able to take place.

As our Y5 pupils missed their trip to Gordon Brown last year due to school closure we have booked two trips to Gordon Brown, one for our current year five pupils and one for our year six pupils.

Please note that the residential visits will only go ahead if government guidance changes and we have enough interest from families for children to go. We will write to parents with children in year 5 & 6 with more details and what to do next.

Getting ahead for September 2021...It's never too early!!!!

Year 6 Pupils transferring to Secondary School in September 2021

For parents with children in year six, the process of selecting and applying for a High School starts now! You will need to visit Brent's website (www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/education-and-schools/apply-for-a-school-place/secondary-school/). Do watch out for local High Schools Open events in the local press and on their websites to help you find out more about the schools you are interested in. **The deadline for Secondary School applications is 31st October 2019!**

OGPS Reception School Places for September 2021

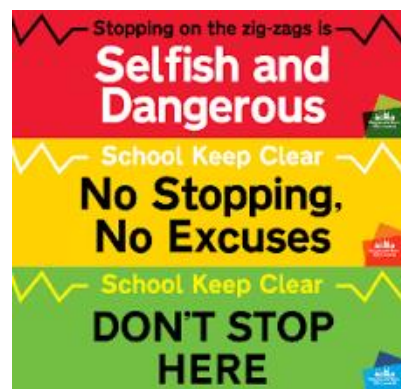
Likewise, all applications for **Reception places must be sent to Brent by 15th January 2021.** Please remember to indicate if your child has a sibling attending the school. Those children who have brothers and sisters in Year 6 at the moment cannot use the sibling option as the older child will no longer be at the school come next September. Don't forget, just because you have a place in our Nursery does not mean you will be automatically given a place in our reception. If you need help with your application just speak to the office, we are always happy to help.





Parking: Coniston Gardens & Kingsbury Road

Remember that cars should not be stopping or parking on the zig-zag lines for the safety of our children; nor should they be blocking residents driveways to help us maintain positive relationships with our neighbours.

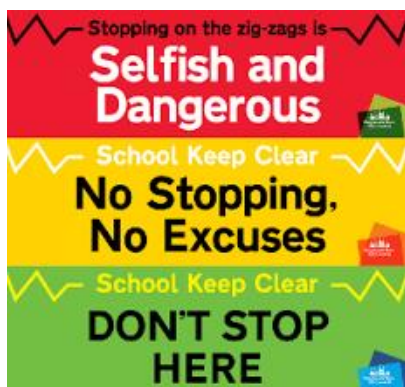


Do Remember...

- Cars should **NOT STOP** or **PARK** on the yellow zig-zag lines **BETWEEN THE TIMES SHOWN**
- Cars should **NOT** be blocking residents' driveways to help us maintain positive relationships with our neighbours.
- Cars should **NOT** be performing dangerous manoeuvres such as three point turns outside the main gate of the school or end up driving onto the pavement.
- Cars should **NOT** be parked in Holy Innocents Church car park on Kingsbury Road; it is their **PRIVATE PROPERTY AND NOT A PUBLIC CAR PARK.**
- Finally, please **switch off your car engine** if you are waiting around the school area to help reduce emissions in our local area.

*If you do see a vehicle obstructing the pavement, stopped or parked on the yellow lines or blocking a neighbour's driveway I would urge you to contact Brent's **Parking Enforcement Team** on 020 8937 4972.*

By working in partnership we can all help to keep our children safe & neighbours happy!



Coniston Gardens Main Gates



If, when you leave the site, if the pedestrian gate is shut, press the **OPEN** button which is located next to our school sign—see the photos below.



Push button to open to get out!



Farewell to the dining hall...



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



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.