



OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Inspiring a love of learning"



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Dear Parents & Carers,

As we reach the end of the half term and the half way point of the current school year we reflect on the challenging situation we continue to find ourselves in and remain hopeful for what the future holds.

It has been a true team effort and we sincerely thank parents and families for the way you have supported with remote learning over the last six weeks; your feedback and positive comments in our recent parent survey were much appreciated.

I am truly thankful to the entire staff team who have worked tirelessly this half term. Whether on-site supporting children with accessing learning, providing remote learning through Google Classroom, in the office answering calls and emails to follow up queries and questions or ensuring the school is safe and clean, every role is vital and every role supports our school community. I am incredibly proud to be part of such a dedicated team.

We received positive feedback on our "No Screens Day" last week and were sent some amazing photos, some of which you can find later in the newsletter.

On Monday 22nd February, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, will release plans and details for the weeks that lay ahead. Whatever is announced, myself, senior leaders, school staff and our board of governors will be ready to put new plans into place to respond to whatever new guidance is released. We all want more than anything to be back in school together but this must be done in a safe way.

Over the half term break we will not be setting any formal homework as I believe that both parents and children need a break from their remote learning schedules! We ask that you find some time to continue with reading at home using Reading Planet where you can and teachers will publish a spelling list onto Google Classroom. Also, you can join in with Miss Patel's Times tables "Battle of the Schools" which you can read about on the next page. Over the break, please find some time to take some rest, take some regular exercise and enjoy some activities together such as cooking or art and craft.

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes
Mr. James Simmons
Headteacher



Remote learning re-starts on Monday 22nd February. Onsite provision for children of critical workers or vulnerable children restarts the same day from 8.40am.

A Message from Miss Patel...

Dear children of OGPS,

This February half term we are taking part in an epic competition called, 'BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS,' and it's all done online via play.ttrockstars.com.

We will be competing against Kingsbury Green Primary School, Roe Green Juniors and Fryent Primary School for **one week only!** This exciting competition will start **February 12th 2021** and end **February 21st 2021**. In order for us to show we are the most dedicated TTRS school we have been invited to compete and show what we are made of!

Here are some of the rules:

- Answer as many questions as possible
- You can play in any game type.
- The winning class will have the highest number of correct answers per pupil.
- We know some of you will play more, and some will play less.
- We suggest 30mins of playing per day.

Strum your air guitar if you are ready to rock and roll with the 'BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS' competition!

Good luck OGPS- I know we can win this! Miss Patel



What to do if your child HAS been on the school site AND starts COVID 19 symptoms on Saturday 13th or Sunday 14th February...

If your child develops Covid 19 symptoms within 48 hours of the end of the half term on Friday 12th February, please make sure you access the national testing system.

IF, as a result of these symptoms YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE, YOU MUST inform the school so we are able to send out information to others who might be affected.

How to contact us: **SEND A TEXT MESSAGE** to this emergency number **07919 199860** and a member of the school's senior leadership team will contact you.

When you text, please ensure you provide the following information in your text...

- Child's name and class
- Date they started symptoms
- Date they tested positive
- Details of any siblings at OGPS or other local schools

The school office will be closed from Monday 15th February until Friday 19th February and will reopen from 8.30am on Monday 22nd February, so please **DO NOT** leave a message on the school's answerphone or use the school admin email address. The emergency phone number listed above will be checked daily. Please **ONLY** use this number to report a **POSTIVE TEST** result until the end of Tuesday 16th February.

Support for Mental Health & Wellbeing—No Screens Day Last Week!

Thank you for the wonderful photos you sent to us showing the outcomes of no screens day last week.

Here are some highlights...



No Screens Day Highlights continued...





Hope for the future

An important message from Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of Brent Council

What a tough month January was. We've had a hard start to 2021 but these restrictions are necessary to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in Brent and around the country.

Thank you to everyone who has been staying at home. Thanks to you, our case numbers are dropping and we have around half the number of new cases now than we did in the second week in January.

However, we are not out of the woods yet, not by a long way, so please continue to stay safe and stay at home.

The vaccine programme is offering hope for the future. Nationally over 9 million of the most vulnerable people have received a first dose of the vaccine and this is a key tool in our fight against this virus.

I know in Brent there is a thirst and hunger for more information about the vaccine. The amazing response we've had to our webinars about vaccines have demonstrated that. Over 1,500 of you have tuned in to learn more in recent weeks and I'm so glad we have been able to hold these sessions so you can get your questions answered by Doctors and community leaders. We are doing all that we can to give you the information you need to make an informed decision when the vaccine is offered to you.

Rest assured the vaccine is equally effective for all ethnic groups and over 10 million people have had the vaccine, with zero serious reactions. The vaccine does not contain animal products or egg.

We are moving in the right direction but we need to keep supporting each other and making the right decisions. Please stay safe and continue to stay at home.



NHS doctors, nurses and other frontline staff have recorded messages in 11 community languages to explain how the COVID vaccine is safe and effective. You can download each video using the links below. The videos have been designed to be shared among friends, families, faith and community groups via WhatsApp, text message or on social media. Videos in more languages are currently being created.

[Arabic](#)

[Bengali](#)

[Gujarati](#)

[Polish](#)

[Punjabi](#)

[Romanian](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Swahili](#)

[Turkish](#)

[Urdu](#)

[Yoruba](#)

You can access information from Brent using this link...

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKBRENT/bulletins/2bee8b3>

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



Term Dates for 2020-21

Spring Term: Monday 4th Jan 2021 to Weds 31st March 2021 (with 4th Jan as CPD Day)
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

Term Dates for 2021-22

Autumn Term: Weds 1st Sept to Fri 17th Dec 2021 (with 1st Sept as CPD day)
Children (Y1-6) start on Thursday 2nd Sept
Half term week Monday 25th Oct to Friday 29th Oct 2021

Spring Term: Tues 4th Jan 2022 to Fri 1st April 2022 (with 4th & 5th Jan as CPD Days)
Children return to school on Thursday 6th Jan 2022
Half term week: Monday 14th Feb - Friday 18th Feb 2022

Summer Term: Tues 19th April 2022 to Fri 22nd July 2022 (with 19th April as CPD day)
Children return to school on Wednesday 20th April 2022
Half term week Monday 30th May 2021 to Friday 3rd June 2022
Friday 22nd July is a CPD Day
Children break up for the summer holiday on Thursday 21st July 2022

To confirm the Staff Training days (CPD days) are as follows for 2021-22

- Wednesday 1st September 2021
- Tuesday 4th January 2022
- Wednesday 5th January 2022
- Tuesday 19th April 2022
- Friday 22nd July 2022

In order to help families plan their holidays, we publish dates well in advance. The dates for the 2022-23 academic year will be published to parents early in the autumn term of 2022 as soon as they have been ratified by the Board of Governors.