



OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Inspiring a love of learning”



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Dear Families,

It has been lovely to welcome you all back! Last week was a very positive week with children settling back very well into their routines for hygiene and learning but more than that, it was lovely to see them back playing, talking and laughing with their friends in the playground.

A reminder that if your child or anyone in your household shows Covid19 symptoms, please **DO NOT** send your child to school but **DO** get a test! As before, if we do have a positive case in school, we will send children home and close a 'bubble' which would mean children returning to remote learning.

Staffing Update... At the end of this term, we will be saying farewell to three members of staff who have all made significant contributions to our school.

Firstly, we say farewell to Miss Patel, who in 8 years has taught across all year groups in KS2 and has led PE and Maths. In the last year she took on the role of Acting Assistant Headteacher in the midst of a pandemic! Miss Patel has worked tirelessly supporting myself, Mrs Dean, the staff team and all our children. Much of that work may have been invisible to many, but she has made a real difference! We wish her every success for the future!

Secondly, Mrs O'Connell, our school administrator will be fully retiring after 25 years of dedicated service to our school community. The office is a central heartbeat to school life and in her role, Mrs O'Connell has shown great care and support for children, parents and staff. Visitors to the school often speak about the warm welcome they receive. We thank her for all she has done for us and wish Mrs O'Connell a very happy retirement!

And finally, after 35 years at OGPS, Mrs Driscoll will also be retiring. She has been a class teacher across most year groups and has taken on leadership in science, RE and English. Mrs Driscoll has been a mentor to trainee teachers as well as newly qualified teachers, giving them the benefit of her experience, skills and wisdom. She has also been a staff governor and an active member of the parent & staff association which we now know as FFG, Friends & Family of Goldsmith. Mrs Driscoll's passion and enthusiasm for teaching is an inspiration to others; over the years she has made such a difference to so many children and their families. We thank her and wish her every happiness in retirement.

But as well as farewell, we also say welcome back! Mrs McAndrew returns from maternity leave and starts back from Monday 29th March.

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes

Mr. James Simmons
Headteacher

A note from Mr. Simmons on Traffic and Parking!

Last week I was told of three incidents, each where children were close to being hit by a car! YOU MUST NOT PARK ON YELLOW LINES/ZIG ZAGS! THEY ARE THERE TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE!

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.

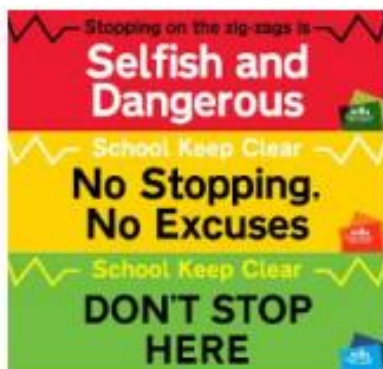


Do Remember...

- 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!



The Government have announced that...

**All households with children of school age to get
TWO rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>



Department
for Education

Whole families and households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home as schools return from 8 March.

Testing will continue to be a vital part of our response to coronavirus (COVID-19), supporting the roadmap set out by the Prime Minister earlier this week. As we cautiously ease restrictions in England, starting with the return of schools and moving towards more social mixing at the end of March, we need to be sure that each COVID-19 case is found as quickly and as easily as possible. Although cases are declining, everyone needs to play their part to keep the virus under control while keeping children and young people in school.

The government has confirmed twice-weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests will be given for free to all families and households with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles, to help find more COVID-19 cases and break chains of transmission. Twice-weekly testing will also be offered to adults working in the wider school community, including bus drivers and after school club leaders.

With about a third of individuals with coronavirus showing no symptoms and potentially spreading it without knowing, targeted, regular testing will mean more positive cases within households are found and prevented from entering schools and colleges, helping to keep educational settings safe.

Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately. This can be the difference between children being able to stay in school, or a class being sent home due to an outbreak. It could also be the difference between a workplace having to close for a period, or being able to stay open and running.

All households with primary and secondary school and college age children, and childcare and support bubbles, will be encouraged to start regular twice-weekly testing as schools return. Tests will be available for adults in these households to collect on 1 March. As with student testing, this is encouraged but not mandatory. A secondary PCR test will be required for positive lateral flow tests which are taken at home, either through at home PCR testing or at a local PCR testing site.

Getting a rapid test is quick and convenient. The expanded regular testing offer for people without symptoms will be delivered through:

- *testing in-person via workplace testing*
- *local authority test sites*
- *collection at a local PCR test site during specific test collection time windows*
- *a new home ordering service, which once launched on 1 March will allow people to order lateral flow tests online to be delivered to their home. See link below...*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff#primary-or-secondary-school-staff>

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

PLEASE NOTE: LOCAL ELECTIONS take place on THURSDAY 6th MAY and OGPS will be a Polling Station which means the site will be closed for children. Details for this day will be shared with parents in future newsletters.

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.



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