



# OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Inspiring a love of learning"



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@OGPSinspired



**School Newsletter: The Goldsmith Gazette**  
**Edition Number: 123 Date: Fri 26th March 2021**



Dear Families,

There is lots to update you on, so please do read page 1 & 2 carefully!

**School Council Charity Fundraising:** Our School Councillors have decided to support Cancer Research and have planned our own OGPS Race for Life for Mon 29th March. You have already received a letter about it but you can find it on page 3 of this newsletter. On Monday, ALL children can wear sporty clothes so they can join in their class Race for Life. They do not need to wear school uniform or PE kit but can choose other sporty clothes. You can donate by sending money in on Monday or use the link to Just Giving page (see page 3).

**Y1 & Y4 Year Group Assemblies:** Unfortunately, due to lockdown and settling children back into routine, it has not been possible to record assemblies to share with families. They will be creating year group assemblies in the summer term which we will share with families via our YouTube channel.

**Contact tracing for the start of the Easter break:** As at Christmas, we will be contactable over the initial 6 days of the holiday should a child start Covid 19 symptoms and go on to test positive **within 48 hours of being at OGPS**. Please read the full information on page 4.

**End of the Spring Term:** Our term ends on Wednesday 31st March at 1.30pm. We will have a staggered end to the day to avoid all parents being on the playground at the same time. Pick up times for next Wednesday will be;

- 1.20pm-1.30pm for Reception, Year 1 & Year 5
- 1.30pm-1.40pm for Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 & Year 6

**Important News for after the Easter break:** We had planned a staff training day for Monday 19th April BUT we have now moved this to Thursday 6th May to coincide with our closure for the London Mayoral election since we are a polling station for our local community. **Children should return to school on MONDAY 19th APRIL at their usual time with the usual staggered drop off system. OGPS will be closed for all children on Thurs 6th May.**

**Important News for after the Easter break:** Our Governors Health & Safety Group will be meeting in the first week back after Easter to review our Risk Assessment and agree any changes that might take place. They will be reviewing whether our Breakfast Club and After School Club can re-open. As a smaller school, we are unable to run wrap around care with lots of bubbles, this means children would end up mixing across all year groups which could potentially put all children and their families at a greater risk of coming into contact with the Covid 19 virus. Positive cases would mean classes or year group isolations and a return to remote learning; this is something we are all keen to avoid! I will update families after Easter.

**Headteacher update continues on page 2...**

**Headteacher update continued...**

**Ramadan Mubarak:** As the month of Ramadan is nearly with us, we understand that children may be fasting for some or all of the day. We want to ensure that any children fasting for part or full days are supported by the school. It would be very helpful to know if and when your child is fasting during the month. Please email us at [admin@olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk) by Monday 19th April with the following information;



- Name and class of your child
- If your child will fast every day in school during Ramadan
- If your child will be completing half day fasts in school during Ramadan
- If your child will fast on the specific days (please tell us which ones)

Thank you for your support; we wish you a blessed holy month.

**Dining hall update:** Brent have put the building contract out to tender, the building process will start in the summer term and be completed by the end of the autumn term so it can open in January 2022. We had the old dining hall demolished last summer so that children would not be affected by noise and dust during term time! I will keep families updated on the progress of this project over the summer term.



**Planning Ahead - School Timing changes from Sept 2021:** With a new dining hall coming, we have been able to review our school timings. The school day was very much organised around the timings we needed to make lunchtime work. With a new dining hall, we can plan a new day that is better for lunchtimes, better for learning and better for after school provision.

**From September 2021, our new school timings will be;**

- 7.45-8.35am Breakfast club
- 8.35-8.45am Soft start time - drop off time
- 8.45am Registration (when children must be in their classroom for the daily register)
- Lunchtime Will last for 60mins and be staggered for different phases
- 3.15pm End of the school day - pick up time
- From 3.15pm Afterschool Club wrap around care provision and other clubs

Governors agreed the changes last night and I wanted to ensure families had a full term's notice of the changes. Learning time is unaffected by the changes, by starting slightly early and having a slightly shorter lunch time we have gained the time to finish earlier.

May I finish by wishing all those celebrating a very Happy Easter. It is a special time for many families in our community; we hope it is a time of both joy and peace for you.

Have a great Easter break - whilst national rules change, please stay safe and do follow the guidelines!

Stay safe and well.

**Best wishes  
Mr. James Simmons  
Headteacher**



## School Council Fundraising...

You have already been emailed the letter below about our charity fundraising event on Monday 29th March. Our charity fundraising is chosen by our children on our school council.

Mon 29th March - **No school uniform, children should wear SPORTY CLOTHES & TRAINERS**

We ask for a £1 donation which children can bring to school on Monday or you can donate online using the link further below...



## School Council Charity Fundraising Day

Dear families,

This half term, we will be supporting Cancer Research UK with our very own version of the "Race for Life" event as part of the Race For Life Schools programme. This will be taking place on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March**. The event will be staged in line with official guidance and our school risk assessment to ensure the safety of all participating in this fundraising event.

Class bubbles have each made a pledge for the number of laps they will walk, run or jog on the day and will aim to achieve this target as a class within 20 minutes. **Children are encouraged to come to school in sports clothing and trainers to participate. We would ask for a £1 donation to support Cancer Research UK and help beat cancer or alternatively, you could donate online to the OGPS Giving page: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/oliver-goldsmith-primary-school>.**

We hope you are as excited as we are to get active and save lives!

Yours sincerely,

The school councillors



### **Local Safety-Children Walking to & From School Alone**

There have been reports in the local press and social media about children who have been approached by strangers on their way home from school. Reports have come in that affect both Brent and Harrow and it seems to have focused on girls walking home from High School. We have already spoken with all children in Year 5 & Year 6 about how to be safe when walking to and from school. They have also taken part in webinars about personal safety run by Constable Rose Shepherd from our Local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Very few of our children do walk on their own but if you have given permission for your child to do so, please take a moment in the holidays to remind them about how to be safe. The following steps are recommended;

- *Travel in groups where possible and stick to busy roads.*
- *Ensure that the students keep charged mobile phones with them where possible/appropriate.*
- *Inform family/friends when leaving school so that others will have an idea of when to expect them home.*
- *Do not engage with strangers who approach, run away and call 999 where there is fear for safety.*
- *Police should be contacted ASAP so that the circumstances can be investigated at the earliest opportunity.*

### **Covid 19 Contact Tracing Update**

#### **Easter Holiday Emergency Contact UNTIL Tuesday 6th April 2021**

With the Easter break just around the corner, as per DfE guidance, we will be available as part of the contact tracing system. It will run in the same way as the Christmas break

If your child develops Covid 19 symptoms **within 48 hours of the end of term on Weds 31st March**, please make sure you access the testing system. IF, as a result of these symptoms YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE in the 6-day period between Thursday 1st April and Tuesday 6th April, 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 Weds 31st March 1.30pm until Monday 19th April 8.30am, so please DO NOT leave a message on the school's answerphone or use the school admin email address.

The emergency phone number will be checked daily. Please ONLY use this number to report a POSITIVE TEST result until the end of Tuesday 6th April. The phone will be switched off from Wednesday 7th April onwards.

Should we receive information regarding a confirmed positive case, we will take advice from DfE/Public Health England. If advised to by PHE, we will text parents using our teachers2parents service. This may mean that your child is required to self-isolate.

Where a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, you do not need to contact us. If your child tests positive for Covid 19 from Wednesday 7th April onwards, please contact NHS test and trace and then report it to the school office on Monday 19th April from 8.30am.

We sincerely hope that no one from our school community will need to contact us and that we will not need to contact any of you and disrupt your holiday plans with news of further isolations!



## Please Remember...

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.

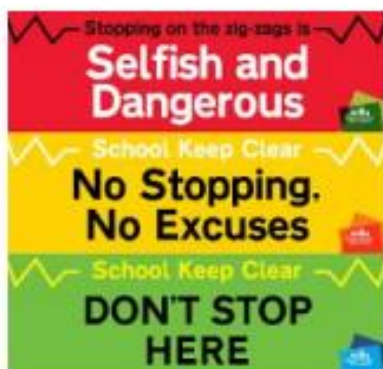


### Do Remember...

- 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!



## 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 (with 4th Jan as CPD Day)  
*Half term week: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021*

Summer Term: Monday 19th April 2021 to Fri 23rd July 2021  
**Children return to school on MON 19th APRIL 2021**  
*Half term week Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 to Friday 4th June 2021*  
*Children break up for the summer holiday on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July*

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

- Wednesday 2nd September 2020
- Thursday 3rd September 2020
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020
- Monday 4th January 2021
- **Thurs 6th May 2021 (was 19th April 2021)**

**PLEASE NOTE: We have moved our planned CPD day on Mon 19th April to Thurs 6th May to coincide with the ELECTION taking place on THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MAY. This will mean children will not lose a day in school. Children start back from the Easter break on Monday 19th April.**

### Term Dates for 2021-22

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

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

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

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

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021
- Tuesday 4th January 2022
- Wednesday 4th January 2022
- Tuesday 19th April 2022
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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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