



# OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Inspiring a love of learning"



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@OGPSinspired



Inspired to...  
★ CARE  
★ CO-OPERATE  
★ COMMUNICATE  
★ CREATE  
★ CELEBRATE

**School Newsletter: The Goldsmith Gazette**  
**Edition Number: 148 Date: Fri 9th December 2022**



Dear Families,

It has been a challenging few weeks with pupil and staff illness and absence. I know many of you have seen your children and wider families feel the effects of a number of illnesses and bugs; if you are feeling under the weather at the moment we wish you a speedy recovery.

You will have also seen in the news that scarlet fever cases have been rising; we have been working with the UK Health Security Agency and Brent to report cases and follow their guidance. You will already have received letters about this, a further letter from Brent Public Health has been sent home with this newsletter.

***If you child has vomited or has had episodes of diarrhea, guidance is to keep them at home for 48hours to avoid passing any infections onto others.***

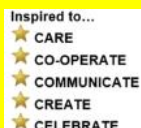
**STAFF UPDATE:** At the end of this term we are saying farewell to two members of staff. Firstly, we say farewell to Miss Amrit who has been teaching in our Nursery provision. We thank her for settling the children so well into school life and wish her all the best for her next steps. Secondly, we say a sad farewell to Mr Crawford, class teacher in 3C. Mr Crawford has been part of the staff team for six years and before that was a student teacher at the school. He has worked across all year groups in KS2 and was also our Computing Leader. We thank him for the difference he has made to many children, families and colleagues in his time at OGPS; we wish him every success for his exciting new career. In January we welcome two new class teachers, Miss Ellis in Nursery and Mr Carry in 3C.

As you will be aware, Mrs Dean will be starting her maternity leave very soon, her last day at school will be Friday 16th December with her baby due in the school holidays. We look forward to hearing exciting news from Mrs Dean in the days ahead and wish her a happy and healthy time with her family. Mrs Dean will be returning to the school after her maternity leave.

Whilst Mrs Dean is on maternity leave, from January 2023, Mrs McAndrew and Mrs Amui will both become Acting Deputy Headteachers. Mrs McAndrew will be linked to supporting Years 1, 2 & 3 and Mrs Amui will be linked to supporting in Years 4, 5 & 6. Mrs Polewczyk continues to lead in Early Years and I will be there to support her. If you need to speak to a senior leader, please come and see us in the playground or contact us via the school office.

**DINING HALL UPDATE:** With great frustration I need to share with you that the dining hall project has met with delays! Due to design and material issues we have been told by the contractor that the project will now be completed by the end of March 2023. We will need to carry on with hot meals delivered into school for a further term.





### **OGPS CARES....about the environment:**

Our new solar panels are working well and generating electricity in the winter sunshine! We have had a digital panel installed in our entrance area which shows at any point in time how much electricity we are making! I have been told our panels can generate a maximum of 40kW and when we get to above 30kW the panels would be meeting all our energy needs. Even on duller days when less is produced we still create enough energy to meet the needs of an average family home!



**OGPS CARES and supports charities:** At the start of each year, children of our School Council select the charities they want to support. This year, children of the school have chosen to support 'Make a Wish' and 'Cancer Research'. They will be arranging fundraising events in the spring and summer term.

**OGPS CARES and entertains local residents:** Yesterday, members of our school choir visited the local residents at Ashton Lodge and sang them some festive songs. The children loved singing to them and the residents really enjoyed our visit.

**OGPS CREATES & CELEBRATES:** It was wonderful to welcome so many families to our Learning Adventure earlier this half term. You can see some photos and read family feedback on our website by clicking [HERE!](#)

**OGPS CREATES & CELEBRATES:** We look forwards to two more year group assemblies next week. On Monday 12th Dec at 9.00am it is Y3 and on Thurs 15th Dec at 9.00am it will be Y2.

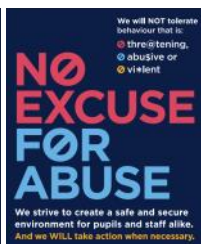
**Help with the cost of living:** Brent are providing support for residents linked to the cost of living; please see the booklet sent along with this email. If your family or you know a family going through a challenging time, please speak to us.

### **Finally...**

Don't forget that if children wish to send a Christmas card to children or adults in the school they can use the Christmas Postbox in the entrance area. We have magical elves who check the box and deliver cards all over the building!

Also, whilst we are always very grateful for your generosity at this time of year, we never expect gifts from children and families. With the current cost of living situation we are only too aware that all families are facing tighter financial times and we do not want any families to feel under any pressure to give gifts. Rather than sending a gift, you can always write a card or letter to express your thanks - your time and words will mean just as much to us as any gift could bring.

**With best wishes,  
Mr. James Simmons  
Headteacher**



## PE Days

Children have TWO PE lessons each week. On the days that children have PE they should wear their PE kit TO SCHOOL rather than their school uniform.

Our School PE kits is as follows;

- Grey or black shorts or grey or black track suit bottoms
- Plain white t-shirt (no logos or designs)
- Trainers suitable for being active (these can be any colour)

Here are PE days for Autumn Term 2022 - We do our very best to keep to these days, if there are any changes for any reason, we will text families to let you know.

Year Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1M			PE Day		PE Day
1T			PE Day		PE Day
2L			PE Day	PE Day	
2P		PE Day		PE Day	
3AV	PE Day			PE Day	
3C				PE Day	PE Day
4B		PE Day		PE Day	
4D		PE Day			PE Day
5LA	PE Day				PE Day
5O	PE Day	PE Day			
6D	PE Day		PE Day		
6S	PE Day		PE Day		

**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.

- 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, contact **Brent's Parking Team on 020 8937 4972**.

**IT IS UNACCETABLE TO ABUSE NEIGHBOURS, MEMBERS OF STAFF, OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS OR OUR LOCAL POLICE TEAM - PLEASE FIND A LEGAL PLACE TO PARK!**

## Key Dates for the Terms Ahead...

***NOTE: Dates & times may need to change; we do our very best to stick to the dates we plan in advance but sometimes changes are unavoidable.***

### **Autumn Term Part 2**

- Mon 12th Dec: Y3 Assembly, families invited from 9.00am
- Thurs 15th Dec: Y2 Assembly - families invited from 9.00am
- Thurs 15th Dec: Non-uniform day - Christmas Party
- Fri 16th Dec: End of Autumn Term - children finish at 1.30pm

### **Spring Term Part 1**

- Thurs 5th Jan: Children return to school
- Mon 9th Jan: Maths Week - timetables and fluency!
- Mon 9th Jan: Extra-curricular clubs start from today
- Fri 20th Jan: Be Bright, Be Seen Day! A day to promote road safety!
- Mon 6th Feb: E-Safety Week
- Tues 7th Feb: International Safer Internet Day
- Fri 10th Feb: Break up for half term

### **Spring Term Part 2**

- Mon 20th Feb: Children back from half term
- Weds 1st March: Parent Evening 1 (3.40-7.10pm)
- Thurs 2nd March: Parent Evening 2 (3.40-5.20pm)
- Thurs 2nd March: World Book Day at OGPS
- Fri 17th March: French Learning Adventure Day
- Tues 28th March: Spring Musical Performances - details will be sent closer to time
- Thurs 30th March: Y4 Assembly, families invited to join at 9.00am
- Fri 31st March: Break up for Easter at 1.30pm

### **Summer Term Part 1**

- Mon 17th April: Children back from Easter break
- Mon 17th April: Maths Week - timetables and fluency!
- Weds 19th April: Y5 Assembly, families invited to join at 9.00am
- Mon 24th April: Y5 Activity Week - Residential to Gordon Brown
- Mon 1st May: MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
- Weds 3rd May: Y1 Assembly, families invited to join from 9.00am
- Mon 8th May: BANK HOLIDAY for Coronation of King Charles III
- Tues 9th May: Y6 SATs Week begins
- Mon 22nd May: Walk to School Week - promoting healthy living & safer streets!
- Fri 26th May: Break up for half term

### **Summer Term Part 2**

- Mon 5th June: Children back from half term
- Fri 23rd June: Reception Assembly, families invited to join from 9.00am
- Fri 30th June: Learning Adventure Day - Disability Champions
- Mon 3rd July: EYFS Sports Afternoon - details will be sent closer to time
- Thurs 6th July: Sports Day for Y1, 2, 3 & 4 (to be confirmed)
- Fri 7th July: Sports Day for Y5 & Y6 (to be confirmed)
- Weds 12th July: Performing Arts Concert - details will be sent closer to time
- Tues 18th July: Transition Day - Meeting new teachers/classes
- Weds 19th July: Y6 Leavers Assembly, families invited to join from 9.00am
- Weds 19th July: Y6 Leavers Celebration Afternoon!
- Thurs 20th July: End of school year at 1.30pm

## Term Dates for 2022-23

Autumn Term: Thurs 1st Sept 2022 to Fri 16th Dec 2022 (with 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept as CPD days)

**Children (Y1-6) start on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022**

**New Reception children receive letters with start dates**

**New Nursery children receive letters with start dates**

**Half term week Monday 24th Oct to Friday 28th Oct 2022**

**Children break up for Christmas Holidays on Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022 at 1.30pm**

Spring Term: Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2023 to Fri 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 (with 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Jan as CPD Days)

**Children return to school on Thurs 5th Jan 2023**

**Half term week: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023**

**Children break up for Easter Holidays on Fri 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 1.30pm**

Summer Term: Mon 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to Fri 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 (with 21<sup>st</sup> July as a CPD day)

**Children return to school on Monday 17th April 2023**

**May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 1st May 2023**

**ADDITIONAL BANK HOLIDAY for the Coronation of King Charles III will be Monday 8th May 2023**

**Half term week Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July is a CPD Day**

**Children break up for the summer holiday on Thurs 20th July 2023 at 1.30pm**

**To confirm the Staff Training days (CPD days) are as follows for 2022-23**

- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023



## Key Dates for the future...



### **Please Note:**

- Requests for leave of absence are only granted in exceptional circumstances.
- Holiday is not considered an exceptional circumstance.

### **A Reminder of school timings:**

- 7.45-8.35am Breakfast club (only if booked in advance)
- 8.35-8.45am Soft start time - drop off time – gates close 8.45am
- 8.45am Registration (when children **must be in their classroom**)
- Lunchtime Will last for 60mins (11.50am-12.50pm)
- 3.15pm End of the school day - pick up time - children collected by 3.20pm
- From 3.15pm Afterschool Club wrap around care provision and other clubs

### **Term Dates for 2023-24**

Autumn Term: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2023 to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023  
*Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 is a CPD – no children in school*  
**Children (Y1-6) start on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023**  
*Half term week Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023*  
**Children break up for Christmas Holidays on Weds 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023**  
*Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023 is a CPD day – no children in school*

Spring Term: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
*Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 is a CPD – no children in school*  
**Children return to school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024**  
*Half term week: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024*  
**Children break up for Easter Holidays on Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Summer Term: Mon 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024  
**Children return to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
*Half term week Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024*  
**Children break up for Summer Holidays on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024**  
*Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 is a CPD day – no children in school*  
*Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 is a CPD day – no children in school*

### **To confirm Staff Training days (CPD days) as follows for 2023-24**

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

***In order to help families plan their holidays, we publish dates well in advance. The dates for the 2024-25 academic year will be published to parents early in the autumn term of 2023 as soon as they have been ratified by the Board of Governors.***