



OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Inspiring a love of learning"



Artsmark
Gold Award
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School Newsletter: The Goldsmith Gazette
Edition Number: 200 Date: Weds 9th Sept 2026



Dear Families,

Welcome back to the autumn term of the new academic year and welcome to the 200th edition of our Goldsmith Gazette! Today marks a special day as all our new children in both Nursery and Reception classes have now started with us. They finish this week each day at 1pm and then go full time from Monday 14th September. We offer a very warm welcome to all new children in our Early Years as well as a number of other children who join us in other year groups. Our sincere hope is that they settle quickly, feel happy and make friends for now and for life!



As usual, this is a packed newsletter with lots of key information to last the whole year. Our Goldsmith Gazette is emailed directly to you but is also available on the school website to refer to at any time - head to our home page and click on the big white box that says newsletters!

It has been a busy summer on site with building works taking place on our new extended library - see later pages for updates and photos!

Please remember that class teachers are in the playground with classes **at the end of each day**. There are always senior members of staff in the playground each morning and afternoon if you need to see us.

NUT FREE SCHOOL: We have children with NUT allergies so we ask that children do not bring nuts, snacks or foods that contain nuts into school. Thank you for your support.



Safe & Kind - No Excuse for Abuse: We all want our school to be a welcoming, safe and inclusive space where respect is shown to all. Everyone benefits from a positive school culture and we all have our part to play. We will always listen and work quickly to solve any issues that you or your child might face but we will not tolerate behaviour that is threatening, abusive or violent either face to face, on the phone or in written communication. Together we can all set the best example for our children in being respectful.

STOP PRESS - NEWS JUST IN: After one year as our PE leader, Mr Carry has helped the school achieve GOLD as part of the government's School Games Mark; a wonderful achievement. It is great to see so many children involved in PE, Sports and Games each week at OGPS. Thank you Mr. Carry!

Mr. James Simmons
Headteacher



SOME KEY ANNUAL REMINDERS

Smart Phone Free School: As shared in our last newsletter, we are now a SMART PHONE FREE SCHOOL. Governors will be ratifying our updated mobile phone policy next Thursday which will then be made available to families. **Where a parent wishes a child to have access to a phone as they walk to and from school alone (usually year 5/6 pupils), they will need to bring in a BRICK STYLE PHONE i.e. a non-internet enabled phone with a visible keypad and small screen. This will be collected and kept safe during the school day.**

Uniform Policy for 2026-27: Our uniform policy for the year ahead remains unchanged; it already complies with DfE's new rules. We had already reduced our branded uniform items to just one item which is the school jumper/cardigan. Remember, footwear needs to be all black, this can be trainers but they should be **ALL BLACK**. Also, **Children should leave jewellery at home for safe keeping, if they wear earrings, please wear studs and not hoops or others that hang down as they can be a safety issue.**

Celebrating Birthdays at OGPS: We know that children like to celebrate their birthdays with others but at OGPS the long held tradition is that children do not bring in cakes, sweets or other food items. Instead, families either share an alternative small gift such as stationery (pen/pencil) or donate a book to the school on behalf of their child. Thank you for supporting our healthy school approach!

School Lunches: Our three week menu remains the same from the summer term. Please do look at menu options daily to help children decide what they might like to choose!

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 Orghidan.

Asthma Inhalers: If your child has a **prescribed asthma pump**, please ensure we have an in-date pump in school to support your child along with a completed medical form. If you need to speak with us, please contact Mrs. Orghidan in the school office to discuss your child's needs.

Term Dates: Our term dates are at the end of each newsletter as well as on our school website. High attendance and perfect punctuality make a great difference to a child's achievement. Please do check term dates before booking any family holidays.

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 AND/OR for emergency contacts, please email or call the school office to update us. ***If someone who is not named tries to collect your child, we will not let them do so until we have confirmed this with you. If your plans change and you need to add a new person, please let us know by 1.30pm so we can tell the teacher dismissing the class.*** For children in Year 5 & Year 6, if you wish your child to walk home from school alone, please email the school office.

School to Home Communication - Stay connected

- Parent communication through texts & emails - so long as we have your details we will be able to email 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
- Facebook - find us by searching for olivergoldsmith1938
- Instagram - we are launching a new account, search for olivergoldsmith1938



OGPS Stars of the Week: Each Friday we hold our “Achievement Assembly” to reflect on our school values and rules. We celebrate our stars who have demonstrate them in action.



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School Council 2026/27: Each class elects one girl and one boy to be class representatives on our School Council. To be elected, children need to run their own campaign to persuade the members of their class to vote for them. Children might like to create posters for the classroom, make leaflets to give out or make badges to spread their message! They give a short speech to the class to say why they think they would make a great “School Councillor”. The campaign trail starts on Monday 14th Sept with Election Day on Friday 18th Sept.



Homework at OGPS: Homework is set weekly on a **THURSDAY** with the expectation that it is completed and returned the following **TUESDAY**. Homework is set using Google Classroom so children can login and find their tasks to complete. If you have any issues logging in, please contact your child's class teacher so we can solve any issues that may arise.

Bags & Bits: We know that children love to personalise their bags but we ask that this is kept to ONE keyring per bag - when there are more it becomes hard to get them into our trays to store them during the day! Also, children in Year 5 & Year 6 can bring their own pencil case and stationery to school if they wish - we encourage children not to share these items as it can become a issue which causes upset if items go missing when lent out. Please ensure any stationery is labelled.

High School Applications - Getting ahead for Sept 2027: For parents with children in year six, the process of selecting and applying for a high school starts now! I have already sent out the key information you need by email to help you get started.

Our two closest high schools have already set their open events as follows;

- Claremont High School - Thursday 17th Sept 2026
- Kingsbury High School - Tuesday 22nd Sept 2026 then four further dates (see their website for further details)

The deadline for Secondary School applications is 31st October 2026! We urge families with children in Y5 to use this year to familiarise themselves with the process. If you have any questions, do call or email us.

OGPS Reception School Places for September 2027: All applications for Reception places for September 2027 must be sent to **Brent (or the local authority in which you live) by 15th January 2027.**

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 would 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, please speak to the office, we are always happy to help.

Prospective Parent Meetings Autumn 2026: Events for prospective parents to see the school and ask questions will take place after the half term break. Contact us from that time to book your place on a tour - please pass this message to anyone who might be interested.

OGPS Library - The Story So Far

Way back in 2016 we moved our school library from upstairs to downstairs. This created space for our new Cooking Zone so children could complete high quality food design technology lessons but also put the library in a more accessible place.

Unfortunately, when Covid hit back in 2020, the library had to be closed and was used as short term staff room. As the dining hall building project started, the room was then needed as the base for our Breakfast and After School Club provision led by School Friends.

When our wrap around care moved into their new home based in the dining hall block, we were able to revisit the library space. Initially it was needed for extra space for group learning as well as keyboard lessons, but we always wanted it back as our library.

Whilst we loved the position of the library, it did feel a smaller space - there was room for books but not space for children to then sit and enjoy reading. SO.... Governors agreed to invest funds into extending the space so we could have a new library space virtually double the size of the old one.

The great news.... The room is complete and we are now shaping the inside space. We are moving back the shelves, the books as well as looking at investing in new books and new resources for the seating area.

Our aim is to have the new enhanced library space ready to open after the half term break. There are many books to move and catalogue in a new system!

We can't wait to hold a ceremony to officially open our new library space which will once again support our children to develop a love of reading at Oliver Goldsmith.



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 kit is as follows;

- Plain grey or black shorts or plain grey or black track suit bottoms (no logos or designs)
- Plain white t-shirt (no logos or designs)
- School jumper or cardigan (school logo)
- Trainers suitable for being active (these can be any colour)

Here are PE days for **AUTUMN Term 2026** - We do our very best to keep to these days, if there is a change for any reason, we will text families to let you know.

Year Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1M	PE Day		PE Day		
1N	PE Day		PE Day		
2B	PE Day				PE Day
2M		PE Day	PE Day		
3D	PE Day			PE Day	
3S	PE Day			PE Day	
4F	PE Day		PE Day		
4L	PE Day				PE Day
5C				PE Day	PE Day
5V				PE Day	PE Day
6P				PE Day	PE Day
6S				PE Day	PE Day



Wrap Around Care at OGPS

Our breakfast club and after school club is run by [SchoolFriend Clubs](https://www.schoolfriendclub.com/); this is the same company who have run our after school club provision for many years. If you want your child to access the breakfast club or after school club, you will need to book a place by 8pm the night before.



To read more about SchoolFriendClubs, please see their website

<https://www.schoolfriendclub.com/>

To book a place for your child/children you need to first register with the company through their website. Once registered, you can then book places for the days that you need. You will need to book by 8pm the day before you need a space **AND** you **MUST** pay for provision **IN ADVANCE**.

To register and book a place at Breakfast Club, please use the following link...

<https://www.schoolfriendclubbookings.com/>

If you have any issues, please contact SchoolFriendClub directly rather than our school office as we do not have access to their booking system. You can contact them in the following ways...

Telephone: 0333 355 7374

Email: office@schoolfriendclub.com

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Celebrating Birthdays at OGPS: We know that children like to celebrate their birthdays with others, but at OGPS the long held tradition is that children **do not bring in cakes, sweets or other food items** but instead parents either give out an alternative small gift such as stationery (pen/pencil) or donate a book to the school on behalf of their child. Thank you for supporting our healthy school approach!



It's Good To Be Green...

Don't forget we have a recycling station for batteries in our entrance reception area! Please send them into us rather than putting them in the ordinary bin at home! Every little bit of recycling helps!



Parking Reminders:



Car Parking on Coniston Gardens

Brent Council have made Coniston Gardens a SAFER SCHOOL STREET. Cameras are used to issue fines to drivers who use the road during prohibited times. See the next two pages for more details...



Please remember that the school car park and Holy Innocents Church car park SHOULD NOT be used when dropping off or picking up.

The school car park SHOULD NOT be used when dropping off or picking up children to or from the Breakfast Club, After School Club or other clubs.

- Cars should NOT be stopping or parking on the zig-zag lines at the times specified for the safety of all our children.
- Cars should NOT be stopping or parking on the yellow lines at the times specified for the safety of all our children.
- 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 gates of the school or drive onto the pavement.
- Cars should NOT be parking in the disabled bar marked along Coniston Gardens.
- Finally, please switch off your car engine if you are waiting 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 Enforcement Team 020 8290 8300**.



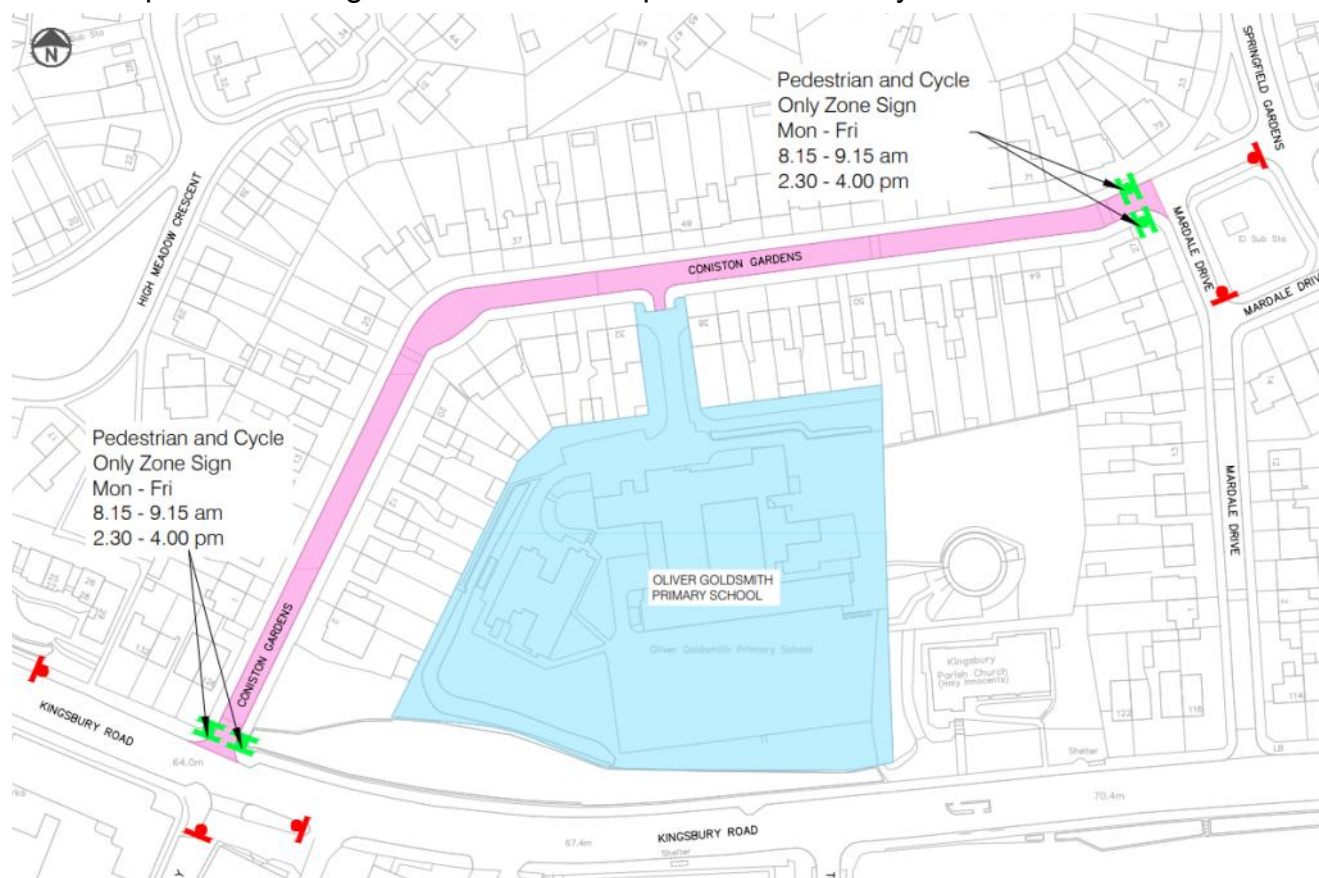
SAFER STREET: CONISTON GARDENS

Our School Street Scheme SZ32 is now in operation. A map below highlights the school street zone which is in Coniston Gardens between the junction of Kingsbury Road and Mardale Drive NW9.

All restrictions apply as per the signs and **unauthorised vehicles entering the zone during these times will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs).**

The objective of the School Street is to make the school run safer, healthier and more enjoyable for the whole community, as well as for children travelling to school; not to penalise parents. For those who need to rely on the car for children to travel to school, they can park slightly further away and walk the last part of the journey.

Pupils, parents and carers holding a blue badge should discuss this with us, we can then arrange for an exemption from the restrictions. Please note you should still avoid parking on school keep clear markings and be mindful of pedestrians and cyclists within the zone.



Our community neighbours at Shree Swaminarayan Mandir, opposite the school, have kindly agreed for families to use their car park facilities. They are happy to support the school by offering this from 8.30-8.50am and 3.00-3.30pm. We are really grateful for their help. Please see the next page for details on how to access their car park.

When parking in their car park, please be mindful as you drive/reverse your car, I have had some families saying there have been near misses with drivers not fully checking before moving their vehicle. Please be mindful of smaller children around the cars!

Please park away from the school and walk the last few minutes as this will help families avoid tickets, reduce congestion and pollution and create a safer and more healthy space for all our children.

A place to park with thanks to our community neighbours:

Our neighbours at Shree Swaminarayan Mandir, opposite the school, have kindly agreed for families to use their car park facilities. They are happy to support the school by offering this from 8.30-8.50am and 3.00-3.30pm; you can access the car park as per the map below. We ask that you use their facilities with respect.

Also, please avoid parking on the double yellow lines or pedestrian crossing white zig zag lines by the school gate on Kingsbury Road.



Please remember that Holy Innocents Church car park SHOULD NOT be used by family members when dropping children off or picking up. It is private property.

Key Dates for the future



Please Note:

- **Applications for leave of absence are only granted in exceptional circumstances.**
- **Holidays or visiting sick relatives are not considered exceptional circumstances.**

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 60mins (11:20-12:20pm for Reception & KS1, 11.50am-12.50pm for KS2)
- 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 2026-27

- Autumn Term: Tuesday 1st Sept 2026 to Friday 18th Dec 2026
Tuesday 1st Sept 2026 is a CPD day – no children in school
Children (Y1-6) start on Wednesday 2nd Sept 2026
Half term week Monday 26th Oct to Friday 30th Oct 2026
Children break up for Christmas Holidays on Friday 18th Dec 2026 at 1.30pm
- Spring Term: Monday 4th Jan 2027 to Thursday 25th March 2027
Monday 4th January 2027 is a CPD day – no children in school
Children return to school on Tuesday 5th Jan 2027
Half term week: Monday 15th Feb - Friday 19th Feb 2027
Children break up for Easter Holidays on Thurs 25th March 2027 at 1.30pm
- Summer Term: Monday 12th April 2027 to Wednesday 21st July 2027
Children return to school on Monday 12th April 2027
Half term week Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027
Children break up for Summer Holidays on FRIDAY 16th July 2027 at 1.30pm
Monday 19th July 2027 is a CPD day – no children in school
Tuesday 20th July 2027 is a CPD day – no children in school
Wednesday 21st July 2027 is a CPD day – no children in school

To confirm the Staff Training days (CPD days) are as follows for 2026-27

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Monday 4th January 2027
- Monday 19th July 2027
- Tuesday 20th July 2027
- Wednesday 21st July 2027



Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2026...



Please Note - Some dates may change, we will update families with any changes.

Autumn Term Part 1

- Mon 7th Sept: Year 6 Activity Days & Y6 Gordon Brown Residential (4 days)
- Mon 14th Sept: OGPS Maths Week
- Mon 14th Sept: Y6 Elect their House Captains
- Mon 14th Sept: School Council Campaigns begin today
- Mon 14th Sept: Children in Reception go full time from today
- Fri 18th Sept: School Council Election Day
- Weds 23rd Sept: School Photographs: Individual & Siblings
- Mon 28th Sept: Book Fair this week
- Weds 30th Sept: Flu Immunisations at OGPS Round 1
- Weds 30th Sept: Parent Evening 1 (3.30-6.00)
- Thurs 1st Oct: Parents Evening 2 (3.30-6.00)
- Mon 5th Oct: Y5/6 Bikeability Week
- Fri 9th Oct: Harvest Assembly
- Fri 16th Oct: FFG Disco - Fundraising Event (to be confirmed)
- Fri 23rd Oct: Learning Adventure Day "OG Diversity Champions"
- Fri 23rd Oct: Break up for half term at 3.15pm

Autumn Term Part 2

- Mon 2nd Nov: Back to school - gates open at 8.35am as usual
- Tues 3rd Nov: Flu Immunisations at OGPS Round 2
- Fri 6th Nov: Y6 Assembly - Diwali & learning reflections (letter to come)
- Mon 16th Nov: Anti-Bullying Week at OGPS
- Mon 16th Nov: Safety Week at OGPS
- Fri 20th Nov: Be Bright Be Seen Day
- Fri 4th Dec: Y3 Assembly - Hannukah & learning reflections (letter to come)
- Mon 7th Dec: Donations in for our Christmas Fair (letter to come)
- Fri 11th Dec: Christmas Fair Day run by Y6 pupils & FFG volunteers
- Weds 16th Dec: Y2 Assembly - Nativity (letter to come)
- Thurs 17th Dec: Non-uniform day - Party Afternoon
- Fri 18th Dec: End of Autumn Term - Children finish at 1.30pm

Where new events are added, we will update newsletters, send letters and send texts to keep families up to date.



Key Dates for the Spring Term 2027...



Please Note - Some dates may change, we will update families with any changes.

Spring Term Part 1

- Tues 5th Jan: Back to school - gates open at 8.35am as usual
- Mon 11th Jan: OGPS Maths Week
- Mon 11th Jan: Extra Curricular Clubs begin today
- Mon 1st Feb: Learning Adventure & Arts Week - "OG Sustainability Champions"
- Fri 5th Feb: Families join the Learning Adventure
- Mon 8th Feb: E-Safety Week begins
- Tues 9th Feb: Safer Internet Day
- Fri 12th Feb: Break up for half term at 3.15pm

Spring Term Part 2

- Mon 22nd Feb: Back to school - gates open at 8.35am as usual
- Thurs 4th March: World Book Day at OGPS
- Mon 8th March: Book Fair at OGPS
- Weds 10th March: Parent Evening 1 (3.30-6.00)
- Thurs 11th March: Parent Evening 2 (3.30-6.00)
- Mon 15th March: Spring Musical Performances this week (letter to come)
- Weds 24th March: Y4 Assembly - Easter & learning reflections (letter to come)
- Thurs 25th March: End of Spring Term - Children finish at 1.30pm

Where new events are added, we will update newsletters, send letters and send texts to keep families up to date.



Key Dates for the Summer Term 2027...



Please Note - Some dates may change, we will update families with any changes.

Summer Term Part 1

- Mon 12th April: Back to school - gates open at 8.35am as usual
- Mon 19th April: OGPS Maths Week Begins!
- Mon 3rd May: Bank Holiday
- Fri 14th May: Y5 Assembly - Eid & learning reflections (letter to come) TBC
- Mon 17th May: Walk to School Week
- Thurs 20th May: Y1 Assembly - Vesak & learning reflections (letter to come)
- Fri 28th May: French Learning Adventure Day
- Fri 28th May: Break up for half term at 3.15pm

Summer Term Part 2

- Mon 7th June: Back to school - gates open at 8.35am as usual
- Weds 16th June: Class Photographs
- Fri 18th June: Reception Assembly - (letter to come)
- Mon 28th June: KS1/KS2 Sports Day (letter to come)
- Tues 29th June: EYFS Sports Day (letter to come)
- Fri 2nd July: Learning Adventure Day
"OG Neuro-Diversity & Disability Champions"
- Weds 7th July: Performing Arts Concert
- Sat 10th July: OGPS Summer Fair 12-3pm
- Mon 12th July: Transitions Day - meet new teachers/class
- Thurs 15th July: Y6 Leavers Assembly - (letter to come)
- Fri 16th July: End of Summer Term - Children finish at 1.30pm

Where new events are added, we will update newsletters, send letters and send texts to keep families up to date.





Term Dates for 2027-28

...to be confirmed.

In order to help families plan their holidays, we publish dates well in advance. The dates for the 2027-28 academic year will be published in the autumn term of 2026 when they have been ratified by the Board of Governors.

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