



OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL



"Inspiring a love of learning"



Tel: 0208 205 6038

020 8205 6800 (Nursery)

Fax: 0208 205 4987

admin@olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk

www.olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk



@OGPSInspired



School Newsletter: The Goldsmith Gazette
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Dear Parents & Carers,

I would like to start by thanking parents for your time and support during our recent parent's evenings. There were many smiles and a great deal of positivity! Thank you!



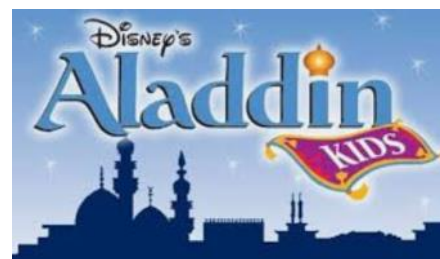
Unfortunately, our Friends & Family of Goldsmith (FFG) have not been able to run a fundraising event at the end of this term but they will be looking to run events in the summer term.

This really is a bumper edition of our school newsletter with information about music at OGPS, World Book Day, our spring learning adventure, our amazing poetry winners as well as our new EYFS/KS1 playground markings.

If you thought we would have a quiet end to the spring term, think again! On Friday 29th March we have our French Learning Adventure Day where the children come in non-uniform but with colours themed to the Tricolore and learn about French language and culture - not to mention a French lunch menu!



Then we have a magical end to the term with performances of our spring musical "Aladdin for Kids". We have a cast and crew of over 100, nearly 25% of our children are involved in some way with the performances, some visible on stage and others invisible but their art and design work very much on display. As of writing the newsletter we had 28 tickets left for the evening performances, so if you haven't got your tickets yet - get in quick before they sell out!



Year 4 pupils lead our final year group assembly of the term at Holy Innocents Church on Thursday where they will be sharing the Easter story with us all and explaining why it such an important time of year for Christians in our community.

Best wishes,
Mr. James Simmons,
Headteacher



Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment Concerts for Reception and Year 1

Year 1 focused on the music of Mozart and heard an entire symphony performed!

Reception learned about the instruments and elements of music (high, low, loud, soft etc.)



"I liked learning about the instruments, especially the strings!" Samuel 10

"We love the songs and the singing" Esha, Sofiya 10

"I liked the hello song" Hanzallah RP

"The bassoons made a very low sound." Mukti RP

"I liked the horns because they sounded really cool!" Elijah RM



World Book Day 2019 at OGPS



You can find magic
wherever you look. Sit
back and relax, all you
need is a book.

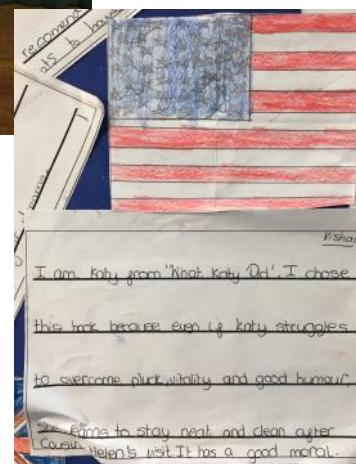
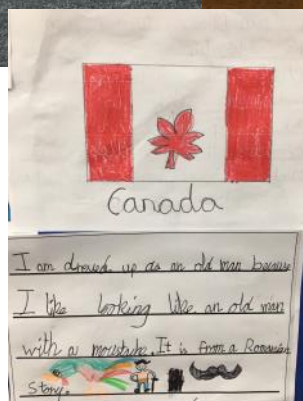
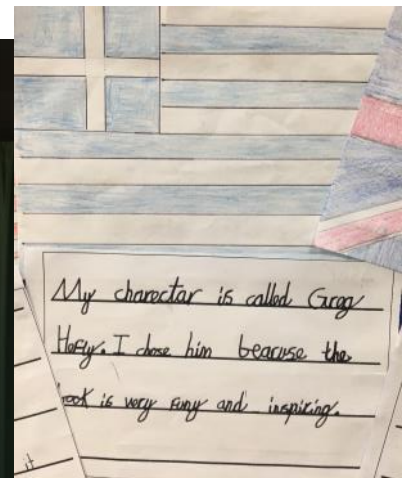
- Dr. Seuss

Reading is the **KEY** to learning

On Thursday 7th March we celebrated "World Book Day" by exploring stories from all over the world! World Book Day should be more than dressing up for a day as this can have the effect of stressing parents and adding to family costs! We hope our approach of giving children and families choices for the day helped to make it fun for you all rather than causing overdue stress!

It was great to see our children bringing in their books & stories from all over the world, many of which represented their own community or background. We had some children who dressed up brilliantly in costumes and others who created their own home made amazing t-shirts about their book, story or character.

At the very start of the day, all our children drew the flag linked to their book and wrote a few sentences on why the book was so special to them. All the flags and thoughts were put together to create a 3D piece of art work that was unveiled the next day at our weekly achievement assembly. You can see some photos below...



World Book Day 2019 continued...

In the afternoon, children swapped classes so that our older children read and shared books with our younger children and vice versa. It was lovely to see children of all ages enjoying stories together.



You can find magic
wherever you look. Sit
back and relax, all you
need is a book.

- Dr. Seuss



***'I enjoyed reading stories to the older children.'* Ronli 2D**

***'I read a story from Germany. I chose this book because it was unique in its own way. I also enjoyed reading to 2AJ.'* Aashi 4B**

***'I dressed up as Niki, which is a fiction book. I was inspired because she is always kind. I also enjoyed reading to Reception.'* Imaan 6D**

Spring Learning Adventure - Let It Grow!



Our spring learning adventure “Let it Grow” was a huge success and it was great to see so many parents and children join us after school last Thursday to see the new Forest School and the newly improved school garden area.

What heartened me most was the number of parents who said this is exactly what they wanted their child to be more involved with, saying that outdoor learning was really important to them. Whilst we believe in achieving high standards at OGPS, this should not be at the cost of the wider curriculum, outdoor learning and our children’s mental health and well-being.

We believe that our investment in an engaging wider curriculum, including a real focus on the arts, will truly inspire a love of learning in all our pupils as well as create successful and confident learners across many subjects!

I do want to thank the staff from [Woodland Adventure Forest School Harrow](#) who worked with children in Y2, Y4 & Y6 as well as all the staff team after school on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday to provide professional development for our teachers. I would also like to thank Ms Codner, our garden specialist who led sessions with Y1, Y3 & Y5 and brought our school garden back to life!

Thank you to parents for your financial contributions which helped the week to take place as well as for sending your children into school with the right clothes and footwear!

A special mention to Mr Iqbal, one of our new parent governors who spent two days helping to clear, cut, dig and improve the areas. Also a thank you to Carlton and Mr Williams for helping him!

Finally, a big thank you to our Science Leaders, Mrs McNeil & Mr Crawford for all their hard work behind the scenes bringing our learning adventure to life!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ***We need some watering cans to help us water the new garden area - do you have an old spare working watering can you could donate or could you buy us a new one? We will need about 10 to make life easier for our budding gardeners!***
- ***Could you offer any time to help us with gardening in the school day or after school to help weed and take care of our new space? If you are great at gardening, you are just what we need to help us keep the garden going for years to come!***

Contact the school office if you can help?

**OUR
SCHOOL
NEEDS
YOU!**

Some photograph highlights of the Spring Learning Adventure, "Let it Grow" 2019...



Some photograph highlights of the Spring Learning Adventure, "Let it Grow" 2019...



Reception Outdoor Forest School Learning



We spent the day in the Forest School, making friendship bracelets, going on a bug hunt, decorating our pots with natural resources and planting sunflower seeds in our decorated pots.

What new skills did it teach...

To make the bracelets and going on the bug hunt we had to work as a team and in partnership to complete the tasks. We also had to listen well and follow instructions to complete the tasks.



“I enjoyed making bracelets and planting my seeds. I know why planting is important!” Sahar

“I enjoyed the bug hunt. I have seen many mini-beasts. They live under the logs and I know now that if you use a magnifying glass you can see them even closer.”

Mayan

“We have to be careful where we walk or else we will step on small bugs.” Gabriel

“I liked going into the forest and seeing what fruits and vegetables will grow in the new garden.” Mahi



Year 1: Growing from Seeds and Cuttings



Year 1 planted a variety of fruit plants and potatoes in the school garden. They also went to the forest area where we identified and collected different types of leaves for their crowns!

The children worked together in teams and learnt how to dig holes, unpot plants and plant them in the soil. They observed seeds in fruit and planted these in their own pots.



"I loved digging the deep deep holes for the new trees." Razvan

"My favourite part was hunting for mini-beasts and finding seeds."

Yusra

"We learnt about finding seeds like apple and tomato seeds". Kymiah

"I liked being out in the garden and planting was fun." Zameyl



Year 2: Habitats



Used natural objects to make bird feeders, necklaces and friendship bracelets in the Forest School.

What new skills did we learn...

Collaboration, independence, leadership and resilience.



"I really enjoyed making the bird feeder it was amazing. It was fun to be outside and learn about nature." Zakariya

"Learning outside was challenging because someone said there were snakes which was scary but It was still fun anyway. I can make and hang things in the forest like bird feeders." Raphael



Year 3: Garden Ecology & Composting!



Gardening Session: Clear litter, weeds and roots to prepare the soil for planting, made a wormery for composting, completed an experiment to identify with soil type, found mini-beasts in their natural habitat. Forest School: Collected resources from nature to create a natural piece of art work inspired by Andy Goldsworthy . We photographed the art work. Then made a frame for the picture using sticks or twig. Finally we wrote a recount of events in our science books.

What new skills did it teach... cooperation, teamwork, resilience; respect for plants and animals, an understanding of why litter is bad for the environment; how to make a wormery and the role of worms in keeping soil healthy and full of nutrients. The link between worms, composting and plant growth. Inspired by the outdoor art of Andy Goldsworthy, children used their imagination to design and create art work using resources in the environment. They learned look at how patterns work together in nature.



"I enjoyed digging in our new garden and making sure it was clean and ready to grow plants. I enjoyed collecting the litter." Wahab

"I learnt that some artists use nature's resources to make art. I liked getting the supplies and putting them altogether." Aliyah

"I enjoyed composting. I didn't know you can mix rubbish with the soil to make good soil." Yasir

"I liked making patterns with the stones in the garden. I learnt that there are different types of worms." Viya



Year Group: 4 Funky Foresters



In year 4 children enjoyed leaf bashing, making leaf prints on air dried clay, as well as exploring the nature area. They also learned a great deal about handling leaves.

This experience taught our children how to respect fire and develop their knowledge of plants, recognising that some plants are poisonous.



"I learned that some leaves are dangerous and I enjoyed making up my animal name 'Meltem the Mouse'." Meltem

"I learned that nature is important and a new skill, using metal to create a fire." Adam

"I really enjoyed playing hide-and-seek and trying to camouflage ourselves." Ecaterina

"We used literacy skills to create alliteration with our names and animal & plant names." Emma



Year 5: Garden Preparation & Herb Gardens



For the spring learning adventure Year 5 had the opportunity to hone their gardening skills in the OGPS school garden by creating stunning herb gardens!

Year 5 learned to dig over beds; plant herb gardens & make sections using stone patterns; use secateurs safely to cut back brambles; scrape up moss and create compost!



"I loved pulling the weeds and cutting the long branches." Kaylan

"I enjoyed the gardening, it was a good experience to do more gardening at home and help more. It also made us learn new words like secateurs! I hope to do it again." Linda

"Not only did I learn new skills but I also made new friends in the class!" Adelina



Year 6: Forest Survival School - Shelters & Fire Lighting!



Year 6 enjoyed constructing shelters using ropes and tarpaulins in teams . They lit fires using steels and tinder, and learned to have respect for an open fire.

New skills included tying knots , striking a spark from a steel to light a fire, selecting different thicknesses of firewood, and using the 'respect' position when lighting a fire.



"I really enjoyed it when we made sparks in fire lighting , and I enjoyed building the shelter so much that I made my own 'debris den' out of sticks I found." Rayan

"I loved all the different activities, it was fun to be outside and to try new things like fire lighting." Joshua



New Playground Markings for EYFS & KS1

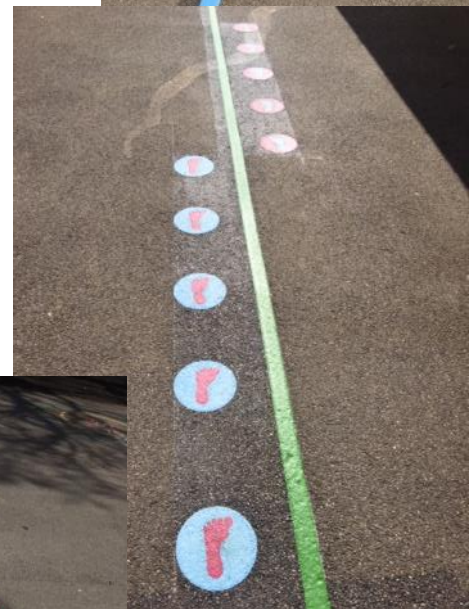
Our PE & Sports Champion, Mrs Polewczyk, is always looking for ways to engage our children in being active at school, whether this is in PE lessons, playtimes, lunchtimes or in after school clubs.

This year, we have used some of our PE & Sports Grant to add some playground markings to our EYFS & KS1 playground to get children moving!

We have a trail that takes them around the outside of the playground which encourages them to jump, hop, weave and step.

In the centre of the playground we have follow the leader markings where one pupil can lead a group of pupils to copy their own movements. It can also be used to create some unique dance moves!

Since they were installed on Monday 25th March, the children have already been exploring and using them creatively!



WONDERFUL NEWS...WONDERFUL NEWS...WONDERFUL NEWS... WONDERFUL NEWS...WONDERFUL NEWS...WONDERFUL NEWS... WONDERFUL NEWS...WONDERFUL NEWS...WONDERFUL NEWS... WONDERFUL NEWS...WONDERFUL NEWS...WONDERFUL NEWS...

As you will have read in a school announcement last week on National Poetry Day, we are delighted to have two pupils selected to have their poetry published!

The Premier League Primary Stars Poetry Writing Competition is aimed at getting children excited and engaged with writing poetry. They select a theme and commission a poet to create one piece of poetry which then inspires children to write and enter their competition! This year the theme was on celebrating differences and diversity.

We had around 100 children from OGPS enter the competition. All the entries we received at school were sent to the panel to be judged!

Out of 25,000 National Entries, we had a child in Year 2 chosen as the Key Stage 1 **REGIONAL WINNER** and a Y4 pupil with a **HIGHLY COMMENDED** poem. Both of the children will become published writers with their work published in a very special book of which one copy is sent to all primary schools in the UK.

Many congratulations to **Adam in Year 2** and **Kamilah in Year 4**; we are so very proud of your amazing poems!

Our thanks to Mrs Dhall, our English Leader, who organised the competition at the school.



OGPS is a "Rights Respecting School"

This half term we have focused on the following themes and articles...

- St David's Day - Mutual Respect & Tolerance
- British Science, Technology and Engineering Week - Aspirations & Perseverance
- St Patrick's Day - Mutual Respect & Tolerance
- Spring Learning Adventure - Let It Grow! - Learning and knowledge
- Mother's Day - Compassion
- New Life & Easter - Mutual Respect & Tolerance



Safeguarding Zone : Bullying

Bullying is a frightening experience. It can isolate and damage a young person's self-confidence. Some ongoing bullying can have negative long term effects on children, leading to depression and, in some cases, self harm and / or suicidal thoughts and actions.

Sadly, we still live in a society where to be different in any way such as ethnicity, sexual orientation or a disability can mean ridicule and bullying. This behaviour is often copied by young people from their parents, which means that prejudice could continue into the next generation.

It is crucial to be alert to the possibility of bullying and to make sure you know the signs.

You may think your child is unlikely to be bullied but the reality is that bullying can happen at any time to any child. Bullies who continuously harm others may need support and help as well.

They may have experienced difficulties of their own at home, which may have led to their actions. Reporting concerns may help bullies get help as well.

- Bullying can happen anywhere, but most commonly it happens in school.
- Bullying can take many forms, from verbal abuse to physical attack.
- Bullying is the repeat abuse of a child by one or several people.
- Bullies are not always older than the child they harm.

Most bullying is done by children who are the same age as the victim.

If your child tells you about a friend or any other child who is being bullied, listen carefully and take it seriously. That child may not be able to say for themselves what is happening.

It is important that parents and schools work together in partnership to secure support and protection for the child, both in the present and the future. It is essential that parents make contact with their child's school as soon as they become aware of any problem, before those problems escalate.

For further information, please refer to our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy on the website.



In the last parent survey, parents requested a calendar of dates for the academic year. Over this and the next page you will find all the key dates. The following dates are in the school website calendar. Some dates may be subject to change!



Dates for your Diary...

Spring Term 2019

Fri 29th March:	French Learning Adventure Day 2019
Mon 1st April:	OGPS Spring Musical 2019 "Aladdin Kids" with three performances... Tuesday 2nd April afternoon performance starts 2.00pm Tuesday 2nd April evening performance starts 6.30pm Wednesday 3rd April evening performance starts 6.30pm (you MUST have a ticket to attend a performance)
Thurs 4th April:	Y4 Easter Assembly, parents with children in Y4 are invited to join us at Holy Innocents which with the assembly starting at 2.40pm
Fri 5th April:	End of term at 1.30pm (if you need support with child care, please speak to the school office)

Summer Term 2019

Tues 23rd April:	Children back from holiday - soft start from 8.40am
Tues 23rd April:	Maths Week 3 - Competition Week!
Mon 29th April:	Clubs start
Mon 29th April:	Y5 Gordon Brown Residential Week (4 nights Mon-Fri)
Mon 6th May:	Bank Holiday - School Closed!
Mon 13th May:	Y6 National Curriculum Assessment Week (SATs)
Fri 17th May:	Y1 Vesak Assembly, parents with children in Y1 invited to from 9.00am
Mon 20th May	Walk, Scoot to Bike to School Week!
Thurs 23rd May:	School Photographer - Class Photos being taken
Fri 24th May	Y5 Ramadan & Eid Assembly, parents with children in Y5 invited to from 9.00am
Fri 24th May	Break up for half term at 3.30pm

Half term break: Mon 27th May to Friday 31st May 2019

Mon 3rd June:	Back to school...
Mon 10th June:	OGPS Proms Week!
Fri 14th June:	Reception Assembly, parents with children in Reception invited from 9.00am
Weds 19th June:	Whole School Learning Adventure begins
Fri 28th June:	Parents Visit Learning Adventure Zones
Mon 1st July:	EYFS Sports Day
Fri 5th July:	KS1 & KS2 Sports Day (to be confirmed! - this date may change!)
Thurs 11th July:	Performing Arts Concert Evening Concert
Sat 13th July:	FFG Summer Fair (date to be confirmed by FFG, this may change)
Mon 15th July:	Optional Parents Evening
Thurs 18th July:	Y6 Leavers Assembly, parents with children in Y6 invited to from 9.00am
Fri 19th July:	End of term at 1.30pm (if you need support with child care, please speak to the school office)

Please Note: Where changes to events need to be made, we will update parents via the newsletter and calendar on the school website. We try our very best to stick to the dates we set but sometimes changes are unavoidable.



DATES TO HELP PARENTS PLAN AHEAD....



Term Dates for 2018-19

Spring Term: Monday 7th Jan 2019 to Friday 5th April 2019
(with 7th Jan as CPD Day - children start back Tues 8th Jan 2019)
Half term week Monday 18th Feb 2019 - Friday 22nd Feb 2019

Summer Term: Tues 23rd April 2019 to Tues 23rd July 2019
(with 22nd & 23rd July as CPD days - **children finish Friday 19th July**)
Half term week Monday 27th May 2019 to Friday 31st May 2019

Term Dates for 2019-20

Autumn Term: Mon 2nd Sept to Thurs 19th Dec 2019 (with 2nd & 3rd Sept as CPD days)
Children (Y1-6) start on Weds 4th Sept
Half term week Monday 21st Oct to Friday 25th Oct 2019

Spring Term: Monday 6th Jan 2020 to Friday 3rd April 2020 (with 6th Jan as CPD Day)
Children return to school on Tuesday 7th Jan 2020
Half term week: Monday 17th Feb - Friday 21st Feb 2020

Summer Term: Monday 20th April 2020 to Tues 21st July 2020*
Children return to school on Monday 20th April 2020
Half term week Monday 25th May 2019 to Friday 29th May 2020

(*Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st July as CPD days)

NOTE: children finish Fri 17th July 2020

To confirm the Staff Training days are as follows for 2019-20

- Monday 2nd September 2019
- Tuesday 3rd September 2019
- Monday 6th January 2020
- Monday 20th July 2020
- Tuesday 21st July 2020

The dates for the 2020-21 academic year will be set and published to parents early in the autumn term of 2019.

Don't forget to visit our school website which has lots of information about school life.

www.olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk



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