



# OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL



**"Inspiring a love of learning"**



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@OGPSInspired



**School Newsletter: The Goldsmith Gazette**  
**Edition Number: 93 Date: Fri 14th Feb 2020**

Dear Parents & Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are now half way through this academic year! There is much to look forward to in the rest of the spring and summer terms.

We save a great deal of money by sending home letters and newsletters by email but I wanted all parents to receive a paper copy of key pages from our latest newsletter so you all have update to date information and an updated school diary with dates to remember on the last two pages.

## London Mayor & London Assembly Election on Thurs 7th May 2020

Due to the election school will be due **CLOSED** to all pupils on **THURSDAY 7th MAY** as we are used as a Polling Station. We are then closed on Friday 8th May as it is a national bank holiday.

## Bank Holiday Friday 8th May 2020

A reminder that the May Day Bank holiday has been changed this year to coincide with the 75th anniversary celebrations of Victory in Europe (VE Day).

## Coronavirus Update

I have had some parents asking about this issue. The school is following guidance sent to all schools by public health England. I have copied the advice onto a page later in the newsletter.

In the rest of the newsletter you can read important information about the following items;

- Playground development
- Radio 2 Writing Competition 2020
- Rights Respecting Schools Assemblies for Spring
- Safeguarding update - Tik-Tok, mobile phones and smart watches
- Parent Evenings
- Relationships and Health Education information to parents
- Dining Hall update to parents
- French Learning Adventure Day
- School Council Fundraising Day - Sports Relief 2020

Have a lovely half term break, stay safe and have fun! The school opens after the break on Monday 24th February at 8.40am with our usual soft start.

Best wishes,  
**Mr. James Simmons,**  
**Headteacher**

### **Advice for all early years providers schools and further education providers**

The government is closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus and is taking action at home and abroad.

The overall risk of Coronavirus to the UK remains moderate. However we understand that people may be concerned where there are children, students or staff returning from or visiting China.

### **Advice to those who have travelled recently**

Public Health England has changed the advice for individuals who have travelled recently as follows:

#### **Travellers from Wuhan and Hubei Province**

If you have travelled from Wuhan or Hubei Province to the UK in the last 14 days you should immediately:

stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu

call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the area

Please follow this advice even if you do not have symptoms of the virus.

Travellers from other parts of China and other specified areas

This advice applies to travellers who have returned to the UK from the following areas:

Elsewhere in China, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Macau

If you have returned to the UK from any of these areas in the last 14 days and develop symptoms of cough or fever or shortness of breath, you should immediately:

- stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu
- call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the country
- Encouraging good hygiene

As always, if you have symptoms of a cold or flu, then there are measures you can take to stop germs:

- always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.
- wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell.



Latest information

Updates on Coronavirus:



<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

## **OGPS is a “Rights Respecting School”**

In the next half term we are focussing on the following themes and articles...

- Mutual Respect & Tolerance (Article 30): St David's Day & Shrove Tuesday
- Aspirations & Perseverance (Articles 13&29): British Science Week & Women's History Month
- Mutual Respect & Tolerance (Article 30): Holi Purim
- Learning & Knowledge (Articles 12, 13 & 29): St Patricks Day & Spring Learning Adventure
- Compassion (Article 9): Caring for Others Mutual Respect & Tolerance (Article 30): The Easter Story



**Article 30**

Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, regardless of whether these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

## Playground Development for Key Stage 1

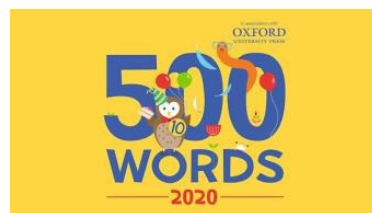


Mrs. Polewczyk, our PE & Sports Leaders, has been busy again making sure our children in EYFS and KS1 have resources in the playground to get them active! We have a sports Coach who works in our playgrounds each lunchtime, running small games and activities to engage the pupils. We have also just had even more playground markings painted to support outdoor maths and phonics learning. Thank you Mrs. Polewczyk!



## BBC 500 Words Competition

Mrs. Dhall, our English & Languages Leader, is encouraging children to take part in the "BBC 500 Words" competition. Entries must be in school by Tuesday 25th February and must be word processed. All entries must also have a completed permission slip by from a parent. We have emailed a separate letter home.



## Safeguarding - Keep Children Safe

This week is E-Safety Week! Do you know what websites or apps your child is using?

**TIKTOK:** We have emailed an information leaflet about TikTok to all parents along with an e-copy of this newsletter. TikTok users can make and share videos with other site users so parents need to be aware of how their child might be using the site and who they might be communicating with. TikTok requires that users be at least 13 years old to use the app and that anyone under the age of 18 must have approval of a parent or guardian.



**Mobile phones at OGPS:** With parents permission by letter, children are allowed to bring mobile phones to school. This is usually where older children walk independently to school. Mobile phones **must** be handed in to the school office at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day. Children **should not be** taking photos or videos whilst they are at school.

**Smart Watches at OGPS:** A reminder that smart watches which can take photos or videos should not be worn to school as per our uniform policy. Children should be not taking photos or videos whilst they are at school.



## **Parents' Evenings Spring 2020**



We will be holding our annual spring term parents evenings on Wednesday 11th March (3.50-7.20pm) and Thursday 12th March (3.50pm-5.20pm). A letter will be sent home immediately after the half term break with the details. Online booking will open from Weds 26th February as this will provide two weeks for parents to make appointments.

As well as having the opportunity to see your child's books and meet their class teacher, you will also have a chance to;

- Meet Ms Dardenne and hear about how well your child is doing in French.
- Meet Mrs McNeil and hear about your child's musical talents.
- Visit the book fair - the school does receive back a percentage of the sales!
- Hear more about the dining hall redevelopment project (see below).
- Take part in our consultation on school day timings for the future (see below).
- Hear about and take part in our consultation for our response to *Relationships & Health Education* becoming statutory in primary schools (Sept 2020) (see next page).

## **Dining Hall Redevelopment Project at OGPS**

Exciting times are ahead with the Local Authority pledging to knock down and rebuild our kitchen and dining hall. They will be investing approx. £1million in the project. We are at the planning stage at the moment but we hope that work will begin from this summer. It will be a long project, taking quite some time for the demolition and rebuilding phases. Whilst there will be some disruption for the school during this time, we know that in the long run, our children will benefit from a lovely new space to enjoy eating their lunch.

By the time we reach parents' evenings, I hope to be in much better position to share more details with parents about possible plans and timescales.

## **Consultation on Future School Day Timings**

Historically, our lunch time has been 11.45am-12.55pm (70mins) due to the size of our dining hall. The vast majority of schools have lunch breaks lasting 50-60mins each day as they have larger spaces for more children to eat at once or have timetables which allow for two sittings. With the redevelopment of our dining hall, we want to review the timings of the school day to ensure we have the right organisation to allow our children to thrive.

There will be an opportunity to reflect on;

- The start time of the school day to support parents who need to get to work.
- The lunch timings so children have a balance of eating time and playtime without being rushed.
- The end time of the school day which if changed could help with safety, particularly at the darker times of the year.

Please note that we are **not** looking to reduce the learning time that children have in school!

There will be an opportunity for families to engage with the consultation in March, this will include time at the parents' evening. Governors will then be able to review comments from parents before deciding on next steps. Any changes would come into effect from either Sept 2020 or Jan 2022.





## **Parent Consultation - Statutory Teaching of Relationships & Health Education**



As many of you will be aware, from September 2020, the Government has made it statutory for all children in primary schools to be taught Relationships & Health Education in primary schools. We have emailed all parents two leaflets from the Department of Education, the first entitled “***Understanding Relationships & Health Education in your child’s primary school: a guide for parents***” and the second, “***RH & RSE Frequently Asked Questions Information from the DfE***”. It is important that you read these documents.

We are in the process of drafting our “***Relationships & Health Education Policy***” which will go out to parents for consultation from March. There will be an opportunity for all parents to read and hear about how the school will be responding to the government’s curriculum changes and an opportunity for you to provide the school with your feedback and your opinions. The board of governors along with the leadership of the school will review the policy in light of the feedback from parents before deciding on next steps.

To support parents to engage in this process we will be carrying out the consultation in the following way. We will...

- *Send written information to parents from Early March 2020 so parents can read our draft policy and respond using the form supplied (paper or electronic).*
- *Have leaders and governors available at parents’ evenings on Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th March so that parents can speak to them directly and ask questions or provide feedback and opinions.*
- *Hold Parent Time meetings on Tuesday 17th March, 8.50am-9.30am so that parents can speak to school leaders and governors.*
- *Close the consultation will on Friday 20th March, so we ask that parents have submitted their feedback by this time.*

We hope that all parents will feel that the consultation process is one that they can engage in. If you have any comments or feedback on the consultation process, please contact Mr. Simmons, Headteacher, via the school office (0208 205 6038 or [admin@olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk))

## **World Book Day 2020**

On Thursday 5th March, we will be celebrating “World Book Day”. We know that children (and staff!) enjoy dressing up as book characters but this is a small part of the day! You will receive a separate letter with the details for the day where we will be linking World Book Day to the Brent Borough of Culture, thinking about story telling from the communities within Brent! We need your help to make it a success!

- ***Can you spare us some time on Thurs 5th March?***
- ***Can you read/tell/share a story in a different language?***

If yes, please contact Mrs. Dhall through the school office. Thank you in advance for your help.

## **French Learning Adventure Day 2020**

Our annual French Day will be taking place on Friday 20th March! Start looking for your clothes in the colours of the Tricolore! A letter with more details will go home closer to the event.

## **School Council Fundraising Day - Sports Relief 2020**

Each year, our School Council selects two charities to support, one is a national/international charity and one is a local charity in the Brent area. This year, our School Councillors chose to support Sports Relief and will be organising events for Friday 13th March. Watch out for more details!



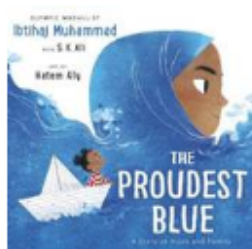
## Buzzy Books to Read...

The **Book Trust** have a brilliant website which reviews dozens of books every month. They show a picture of the cover and a brief description of the book as well as the details of the author.



<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/best-new-books/>

Why not explore their website and discover a buzzy book that you might want to find and read... Here are some examples of what the site looks like ...



### The Proudest Blue

**Author:** Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali  
**Illustrator:** Hatem Aly

Faizah sees her sister as a princess wearing her beautiful blue hijab, but not everyone at school sees it this way. Inspired by the experiences of Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad, this is a beautiful and powerful story about the bond shared between siblings and being proud of yourself and your beliefs.



### Too Small Tola

**Author:** Atinuke  
**Illustrator:** Onyinye Iwu

In this lovely collection of short stories, a young Nigerian girl - tired of the nickname 'Too Small Tola' - proves that, despite her small stature, she has a mighty personality and a big heart.



## You've got to Google...

### **London Borough of Culture 2020**

<https://www.brent2020.co.uk/>

Take a look at the video clips of the recent launch of LBoC with the recent performance of RISE.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1kfXjKQki1hwmMUeKuzlCgyddW2k&ll=51.5787455140056%2C-0.2930063500000415&z=12>

Click on each of the pins to find out something new about Brent!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu3921zesfc>

Did You Know? ... The Wembley Tower that never was!!!





## **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.

Our **“Junior Traffic Ambassador Team”** will resume duty after half term before and after school with staff members and governors. If they find cars parked where they should not be parked, a polite note is passed to the car owner to remind them of how to help keep children safe and residents happy in the future!



### **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!





**Key dates for this year coming academic year. Some dates may be subject to change!**



### **Dates for your Diary...**

**Half term break: Mon 17th February to Fri 21st February 2020**

### **Spring Term 2020 Part 2**

Mon 24th Feb: Back to school - soft start from 8.40am/ Swimming continues for pupils in 4M  
Thurs 5th March: World Book Day 2020 (**YOU DON'T NEED TO BUY A COSTUME!**)  
Weds 11th March: Parents Evening 1: 3.45-7.30pm (separate letter to follow)  
Thurs 12th March: Parents Evening 2: 3.45-5.30pm (separate letter to follow)  
Fri 13th March: Outdoor Learning Day & School Council Fundraising Day for Sports Relief  
**Fri 20th March: FRENCH LEARNING ADVENTURE DAY**  
Mon 30th March: School Musical 2020 to be performed this week - details to follow...  
Thurs 2nd April: Y4 Easter Assembly, parents with children in Y4 invited to attend, time TBC  
Fri 3rd April: End of term at 1.30pm  
*(if you need support with child care, please contact the school office)*

### **Summer Term 2020 Part 1**

Mon 20th April: Children to school - soft start from 8.40am  
Mon 20th April: Maths Week 3 - Competition Week!  
Mon 27th April: Clubs start  
Mon 27th April: Y5 Gordon Brown Residential Week (4 nights, 5 days Mon-Fri)  
Fri 1st May: Y1 Vesak Assembly, parents with children in Y1 invited to from 9.00am  
Weds 6th May: Humanities Learning Adventure Day: What is VE Day?  
**Thurs 7th May: London Mayor & London Assembly Elections**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED AS WE ARE A POLLING STATION**  
**Fri 8th May: National Bank Holiday - (75th Anniversary of VE Day Celebrations)**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**  
Mon 11th May: Y6 National Curriculum Assessment Week (SATs)  
Mon 18th May: Walk, Scoot to Bike to School Week!  
Tues 19th May: School Photographer - Class Photos being taken  
Weds 20th May: Y5 Ramadan & Eid Assembly, parents with children in Y5 invited to from 9.00am

**Half term break: Mon 25th May 2020 to Fri 29th May 2020**

### **Summer Term 2020 Part 2**

Mon 1st June: Children to school - soft start from 8.40am  
Weds 3rd June: Y6 JCA Residential Trip (2 nights, 3 days Weds—Fri)  
Mon 8th June: OGPS Proms Week!  
Fri 19th June: Reception Assembly, parents with children in Reception invited from 9.00am  
Mon 22nd June: Whole School Learning Adventure begins  
Fri 26th June: Parents Visit Learning Adventure Zones  
Mon 29th June: EYFS Sports Day  
Fri 3rd July: KS1 & KS2 Sports Day (morning at Hendon FC with picnic lunch at OGPS)  
Weds 8th July: Performing Arts Concert Evening Concert (TBC— this may change)  
Sat 11th July: FFG Summer Fair (date to be confirmed by FFG, this may change)  
Mon 13th July: Optional Parents Evening  
Thurs 16th July: Y6 Leavers Assembly, parents with children in Y6 invited to from 9.00am  
Fri 17th July: End of term at 1.30pm  
*(if you need support with child care, please contact 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.**



## Term Dates for 2019-20



Spring Term: Monday 6th Jan 2020 to Friday 3rd April 2020  
(with 6th Jan as CPD Day - children start back Tues 7th Jan 2020)  
*Half term week Monday 17th Feb 2020 -Friday 21st Feb 2020*

Summer Term: Monday 20th April 2020 to Tuesday 21st July 2020  
(with 20th & 21st July as CPD days)

*NOTE: The early May Day Bank Holiday has been moved by the Government to Friday 8th May 2020 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe.*

*Half term week Monday 25th May 2020 to Friday 29th May 2020*

**NOTE: Children finish school year on Friday 17th July**

## Term Dates for 2020-21

Autumn Term: Weds 2nd Sept to Fri 18th Dec 2020 (with 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sept as CPD days)  
**Children (Y1-6) start on Monday 7th Sept**  
*Half term week Monday 26th Oct to Friday 30th Oct 2020*

Spring Term: Monday 4th Jan 2021 to Weds 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 (with 4th Jan as CPD Day)  
**Children return to school on Tuesday 5th Jan 2021**  
*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 Tues 20th 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
- Monday 19th April 2021

*In order to help families plan their holidays, we publish dates well in advance. The dates for the 2021-22 academic year will be published to parents early in the autumn term of 2020 as soon as they have been ratified by the Board of Governors.*

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

**[www.olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk](http://www.olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk)**



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