# **OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL**



# "Inspiring a love of learning"





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#### Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing this as we end our spring term in what has been, and still is, one of the most challenging periods in our history. On Friday 20th March we closed the school to all but a small number of children and since then we have been providing care for children of keyworkers on a daily basis. This will continue over the Easter holidays including Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday.



We have provided support for children on Free School Meals and are working closely with the new DFE voucher scheme to make sure support continues to reach those families who are entitled to them. We received information just yesterday and will be working to get it organised as quickly as possible.

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the staff who have come into school so willingly to care for our children and begin the process of moving to home learning. As a smaller school, we have fewer staff than other schools so our resources are stretched between supporting children on the school site as well as preparing home resources. Thank you for your patience as we put procedures in place to get us through the coming weeks ahead.

As a school we want to thank parents who are key workers and are continuing with their jobs to keep us all safe, fed, warm, online and healthy and more. We have lots of parents who work within the NHS and we say a special thank you to you for all you are doing for our local and wider community. The new world we are living in has shown who our true heroes and heroines are; thank you NHS!

The next two weeks (Mon 6th April – Fri 17th April) are what would have been the school holidays. It is important that children and parents take some time to reflect, rest and recharge as best you can. We do not expect home learning to continue over the Easter break but we have sent some ideas for you to use if you want them!

On the next page you can find out more information about what home learning will look like from after Easter starting from Monday 20th April.

Finally, thank you for all your support. In these unprecedented and uncertain times it has been lovely to see how everyone has come together to support and help one another. Thank you to those who have emailed positive messages to us, they have been much appreciated. The weeks and months ahead will be challenging for all of us as we get used to our new reality of social distancing, lockdown and home learning. I will continue to write to parents each week.

Stay safe and take care.
My very best wishes to you all,
Mr. James Simmons,
Headteacher

### HOME LEARNING FROM AFTER EASTER - MONDAY 20th APRIL

The initial two packs of home learning sent out on 19<sup>th</sup> March and 27<sup>th</sup> March were our initial response to provide families with a choice of materials that they could at least get started on. We deliberately emailed out all the packs for all year groups so parents had a wide choice, and so children who might have finished some tasks/projects/sheets could move onto the next year group to challenge themselves.

The last two weeks have been very challenging as we have been organising provision for children of key workers as well as preparing online learning; both of these in the midst of staffing shortages due to illnesses of staff and their families which, at OGPS, we feel even more as a smaller school with a smaller staff team.

From Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April, we will have weekly activities in place to give even greater support for families, more structure and help children to move on from practising skills to work they would have been covering in the summer term at OGPS. The weekly plan will be emailed to families on a Friday night for the week ahead. They will also be put on to the website; our emails will tell you where to look on our website.

We encourage you to complete as much as you are able but please do not worry if you do not complete all of it. There is no expectation to submit work back to the school but it is a good idea to collect some of the work together in a folder which you can bring to school to share when we reopen.

I know you will all be settling into your routines and you <u>MUST</u> do what suits you as a family. Here is an example of a routine, there are many others and you <u>MUST</u> do what you feel is right for you as a family!

- 9.00am Join in with the Body Coach on YouTube for 30mins to get active for the day
- → 9.30am maths tasks
- → 10.15am reading and record spend some time reading a book and then some time recording in the Reading record book what was read and what they thought of what they had just read. There are plenty of free books that can now also be found on line
- ↑ 10.30am take a break do something else have a healthy snack!
- → 11.00am English tasks
- → 11.45pm lunch time take a break, get children involved with making their own food!
- → 1.00pm Project work for other subject areas
- → 2.00pm take a break have some fruit!
- → 3.00pm finish the day by listening to an adult read this might be someone at home or could be an author online. We have signposted links to David Walliams but there are others such as Cressida Cowell How to Train Your Dragon.

https://www.audible.co.uk/search?

searchNarrtor=David+Walliams&source\_code=M2M30DFT1BkSH101514005Q&&ipRedirectOverride=true

https://www.facebook.com/cressidacowellbooks/

Plan fun and creative ways to spend time until dinner/bedtime, screen time, TV, puzzles, art time – make a rainbow to put up in the window etc. Follow your child's interests!

#### Next steps...

Over the Easter holiday, get creative and have some fun, we have attached some ideas in the email with this newsletter.

Check emails on Friday 17th April for the home learning set for the week beginning Monday 20th April.



#### **OGPS EASTER BREAK STORY WRITING COMPETITION**

To encourage you to get creative over the Easter holidays we are launching a STORY WRITING COMPETITION. There will be certificates and prizes!



We want to encourage all children to have a go at writing a story with the title...

# "THE MOST AMAZING DAY!"

There are some good videos for tips on how to write a creative story on the BBC Bitesize website: at this address <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpccwmn">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpccwmn</a>

The deadline for entries will be <u>Friday 24th April.</u> You can either email or post your entries to the school. If you email, please use the school admin address with STORY COMPETITION in the subject line. Children can either type stories or handwrite them, you can always take a photo of the writing and send that to us!

Good luck with your writing - we will select a panel of judges and read all the entries! Watch out in future newsletters for the results!







#### Support for Wellbeing, for children and parents...

You may find yourselves having some challenging conversations with your child about what is happening at the moment. Here is some information and links below to help you have these conversations.

- https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/
- https://www.annafreud.org/what-we-do/anna-freud-learning-network/coronavirus/
- https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety
   -mental-health/?utm\_source=Adestra&utm\_medium=email&utm\_content=Copy%20Link%
   201&utm\_campaign=COVID-19%20EM%201%20%2AE0619

Here is some advice below to help support *parents* own wellbeing should you need support...

- https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/
- <a href="https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak">https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak</a>
- <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/">https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/</a>



#### Dear year 6.

It has been a very unusual week with everybody being at home all day. We decided to use this as an opportunity to do things we usually never have much time for such as playing games. We have now dedicated two evenings (for us it is Tuesday and Thursday) to learning to play new games or to playing some we have not played in a long time. Last week, we started with Mancala. One had the job to look up the rules and explain them. Then we just played and playing a few times really helps to understand the game better. It's easy to create the game by using egg boxes and some pebbles which is now my daughter's job. We will have our first family competition this week. Wish me luck. I am looking forward to playing against one of you at some point. Best wishes,

Mrs Schlichter

A very cheerful shout out to 3P and everyone else at OGPS!

I hope you are settling into your new routine and finding some new and exciting ways to learn. I am using my garden as my new classroom - typing away in the sunshine, wondering what are you up to today? Reading? Cooking? Junk modelling? Can't wait to hear all about it!

Stay safe and happy 3P, lots of love. Mrs Palinda.

#### Dear 10

I hope you and your families are staying at home and keeping safe! I know these are strange times for everyone and it can be hard to keep busy all the time! My sisters and I have kept busy by learning and recording dance routines and sending them to our family members and friends. We have had an absolute blast making them and everyone has loved watching our attempts! I even had a friend create their own with their family members to send to me (I loved the video Miss Brown!) so why don't you learn a fun dance and get your parents to send it to some of your relatives. I'm sure it will make their day and put a smile on their face! I miss you all lots and cannot wait to see you're smiling faces soon!

Lots of love, Miss Omar

#### Dear 5C.

Given last such minimal traffic and such lovely weather, it has been a perfect opportunity to cycle into work. There is also been a great number of things to do outside, me and my housemate have collected a couple pallet boxes from the local industrial

estate and have sold them up; we are in the

process of making a bug hotel.

Make the most out of this time, keep healthy and fit #mileaday and remember to wash your hands.

Mr Crawford







#### Dear Class 2AJ.

We are missing you all and hope that you are not forgetting to read and listen to stories as much as you can. There are some great audio books that you can download for free. David Walliam's stories are so funny. Every week day at 11 0'clock a new David Walliams story is released. You'll enjoy them, the one I listened to was about a messy little girl called Grubby Gertrude. One more thing, why not write a short diary about your time at home? just a few sentences a day, don't forget to use a conjunction and a variety of punctuation! Draw some pictures to illustrate it.

Try and practise your number knowledge too. You don't need to sit down and write it you can say it, for example and chant the rolling numbers songs for the 2, 5 and 10 time tables. You can skip count in 2's, 5's and 10's when playing in the garden whilst kicking a ball or jumping on the trampoline. I know a lot of you in 2AJ Love maths so if you would like to continue math mastery online look out for lessons from after the Easter break.

Mrs Driscoll and Mrs Varsani

My proud activity over the past week is almost completing a 1000 piece jigsaw which is a big one for me, I normally do 500 pieces.

Mrs. Driscoll.

My proud activity is trying to do a Joe Wicks HITT workout every other day! I have also been spending a lot of time with my twins Aashi and Eesha. We have spent our days doing jigsaw puzzles, craft activities and playing outside in the garden.

Mrs Varsani

#### Dear Children in RP.

I hope you are all safe and well, enjoying lots of family time. Keep practising and learning new things with your family. I have been spending lots of time with my family and reading books and doing lots of yoga!

I miss you all lots and look forward to seeing you all soon. Mrs Bhimji. Xx

#### Dear children,

I hope you're all well and staying safe at home. I was in school last week, and enjoyed some different activities with the children. I particularly enjoyed going into the nature reserve and using water paints to paint the wonderful trees with pink blossom. Mrs Nanjee and I also did a very energetic workout watching a session called PE with Joe, which many of you might have been doing too!

This week, I have been at home and have started the mornings with a yoga session which has helped me to start the day in a positive way. I do hope that you have found something in your day that you enjoy doing, and that it's helping you to stay positive too.

Mrs Dhall

#### My Dear RP children,

I hope you are staying brave and healthy. I have been missing you a lot and I have been thinking about all of you every day! When we see each other we will laugh at the funny things you have been doing! I am reading a lot and guess what? I have learnt how to play chess! I can't wait to see all of you, stay happy and brave!

Mrs Polewczyk



Hello to the OGPS Family and especially 6D.

I hope you are all keeping well. I thought I would share a bit of news about what I have been up to. As you know I am not the tidiest person in the world so I have been organising things at home - amazing what you can find tucked away at the back of cupboards. Along with 4 bottles of soy sauce I found a tiny box of water colours so I have been trying out some new recipes,

https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/kids-cooking

and sitting out on my balcony painting the view!

https://www.projectswithkids.com/painting-ideas-for-kids/

My daughter loves organising so she has put all our books in rainbow colour order starting with red and ending in violet. It meant we looked through all our books so I have found some old friends that I am going to read again, and I am reading a different poem every day and trying to learn it by heart.

https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poems/famous/children/

And if you've run out of things to read you can listen to lots of stories online. David Walliams is doing a new one every day at 11am.

https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/

I've also been writing but I find a deadline really helps so I found a competition to enter online and that gave me an idea.....the OGPS writing competition - see page 3 of the newsletter for more details!

Enjoy being creative and if you make a bit of a mess remember to clean up afterwards! You can always email us some pictures of what you have made for the next newsletter!

Love from Mrs Shewell

Dear 5L,

I wanted to write you all a little note because I miss you all!

Hopefully you're all staying busy and learning that new skill that we talked about! I've decided to use this time to learn the acoustic guitar, so will be starting virtual lessons in a couple of weeks.

I've been keeping myself busy by doing the active mile every day in the internal gardens of my building, but had to tell myself off yesterday as I was on the phone which meant I was walking and talking! Naughty Mr Lev!

I hope that you are all learning and perfecting your times tables; when we are back we will have a 5L Championship tournament of Around the World!

Keep working hard, keep learning new things, keep looking after your families, and most importantly...keep being you!

See you all very soon,

Mr Lev

#### Dear everyone,

I hope you are all keeping busy, working hard at home and helping your parents. I have been playing lots of chess with my family, practicing my skills ready for chess club. I have also been enjoying my garden, I have been drawing some of the birds that have been visiting. If you listen carefully when you are outside you can hear a lot more birds at the moment! Take care,

Mrs McGrath.

Hi 1B,



Hope you are all well, full of energy as always and looking after your mums and dads and the adults around you!

I know you are doing lots of home learning; reading, writing and practicing your addition and subtraction but just as important, doing lots of fun creative stuff as well.

While I've been at home I've enjoyed reading more. I have lots and lots of books. I've been playing games, baking, looking after my plants and doing some boring bits like clearing out cupboards. You can see a bit of what I've been up to in my photos.

I hope it won't be too long till I see all of you again, I bet you'll all have lots to show and tell. Be good, be helpful and be kind!



From Miss Brown

Dear 4M.

I am writing to you because I really miss all of you and I hope you're all keeping well!

I've done some gardening and planted seeds for some flowers which, I hope will bloom and add some colour to my balcony over the summer. I've also completed a 1000 piece puzzle which I had been meaning to do for a while.

I have also been active by going for a walk once everyday, when the weather has been nice. How have you all been doing? I hope you've been keeping your brains and bodies working like we talked about.

Make sure you are staying safe, keeping active and spending quality time with your families. Be happy and healthy.

See you all very soon, Mrs Modha

Dear Children in RM,

I am missing each and everyone of you. I have been into school but it is so different without the giggles, laughter and chatter of the OGPS children. At home I have been doing lots of number and word puzzles as well as spending a lot of time with my cat.

Like you all, I am missing my friends but I'm sure I will be able to see and be with them very soon. I hope you are all keeping yourselves busy and active.

Make sure you are looking after your mums, dads and family.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon. Lots of love, Mrs Miller-Henry

Hi to everyone,

A big hello to all in RM & RP and to your families. I hope you are all safe and well and enjoying this precious time with your families. My 2 girls have been keeping me busy and entertained...doing school work and learning new things...they have been trying to teach me some dance moves....a few more weeks practice should do! Hoping to see all my lovelies pretty soon. Keep learning, keep active and keep challenging yourselves..

Mrs Chaudhry



Dear children!

I hope you're all well, I'm missing seeing all your smiling faces around school! Over the last week, I've made it my mission to try and reach 10,000 steps every day, put aside an hour of reading, complete a fun math challenge with my nieces over webcam and learn how to cook some of my mum's delicious recipes! So far, my 10,000 steps have led me to discover an amazing lake that I didn't know existed I have finished 2 great books and I'm about to start the third one! I've completed Gareth Metcalfe's "I see maths" challenge with my niece on his website every day- each challenge has been great fun!

Lastly, and most exciting of all, I FINALLY learned the secret to my mum's famous chocolate cake (I'll let you all know when I see you next because it's a secret after all!). I can't wait to see what else I discover and learn, and I can't wait to hear about what you have discovered and learned too! Take very good care of yourselves and your family and see you all soon!:)

Miss Patel.

Dear all,

sending you all positive vibes during this difficult time. Stay safe and stay happy. Use this time to explore your talents further and to maybe develop a new skill. Remember to show appreciation towards your loved ones around you. I have enjoyed listening to the relaxing sounds of birds singing and looking up at the beautiful blue sky everyday, you should try it too!

Mrs Amui, SENDCo

Dear 3L.

I hope you are all well, having fun and making the best of this special time with your family.

Like you, I have been spending time with my family. There has been a lot of talking and laughing whilst playing games, doing puzzles and group exercises! We have taken this opportunity to have movie nights and to catch up on things we have not had time to do in the past, because we have all been so busy. I hope you are able to do the same.

Remember to use the skills you have learnt at school. Maybe become the household chef and teach your family how to make our delicious potato salad!

You are all such amazing young people, so learn something new when you get bored. I look forward to us coming together again and sharing all the great experiences and activities you have been doing.

Missing you!

Mrs Luke

Dear Children.

I miss all of your happy faces and our chats. I do hope you and your families are all keeping well at home and keeping yourselves occupied. I have been busy working from home and looking after my two girls. They asked if they could go to the zoo the other day and I explained we couldn't ... but instead I brought the zoo to them! A little trick (for those who don't know already) for you to use with your parents on their iPhone or Android phones:

- 1. Type in any of the following animals into Google: lion, tiger, cheetah, shark, hedgehog, duck, emperor penguin, wolf, angler fish, goat, snake, eagle, brown bear, alligator, horse, Shetland pony, macaw, pug, turtle, cat, octopus, dog.
- 2. Scroll down until you see 'view in 3D'-select.

Follow the instructions and before you know it... magic- you can have a tiger in your living room, an alligator in your kitchen or a turtle in your bathroom!

My girls thoroughly enjoyed taking their photos with all the various animals!

Looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces soon and hearing all the fun and creative things you got to do at home!

Love from Mrs McAndrew

Dear Children.



The school has certainly been quiet without all of you, I miss children happily talking down the corridor, the laughter I hear in the playgrounds and the lovely chats I used to have with you all.

I've been spending a lot of time with my daughter Amelia as her nursery is also closed. Although she gets very shy when you are all at school, she spent two days at school last week and thoroughly enjoyed running around the big playground and your classrooms.

I hope you're all taking some time to look after each other in your family as well as some time to do some work.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Mrs Dean

And finally from me...

Dear Children.

I am really missing the happiest part of my day which is being in the playground or at the gate each morning to welcome you, say hello and see you bound into school with such large smiles on your faces. When you think of school you often think of the OGPS building, but really <u>YOU</u> are all the school, so wherever you are, know that a little piece OGPS is there with you!

I have been spending lots of time with my three children, helping them with their home learning but also finding time to play and have some fun - we find time to have a little dance party every day! We love the Lego challenge to create something new! We also enjoy facetiming our families and reading stories to grandparents, uncles and aunties! Try if it you can!

Keep laughing and make sure your families find time to laugh with you! I cant wait until we are all back in the hall together for a whole school assembly so I can look out on all your smiling faces again.

Stay strong, keep smiling and look after one another.

Stay safe and stay well until we see each other again.

Mr James Simmons

# How school events are being affected and our planning for the future...

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

Thank you for those of you who contributed to the consultation. We will be looking at the feedback and options we have received so far. In light of the current situation and school closures, no future decisions will be taken at this time. We will write to parents with our next steps in future newsletters.

**Y5 Gordon Brown Residential Week**: Unfortunately this residential has been <u>cancelled</u> and we will be contacting parents with children in year five separately with more details.

Half term week: Mon 25th May 2020 to Fri 29th May 2020

**Y6 JCA Residential Trip**: Unfortunately this residential has been <u>cancelled</u> and we will be contacting parents with children in year six separately with more details.

Will we write in future newsletters about what will happen with events that we had planned to take place. We do not know when we will re-open so we will make decisions as time progresses.

**Y6 Leavers Assembly**: Like you, we will be very sad if we do not get to say farewell to our year six leavers. As I said to them in our final assembly on Fri 20th March, if we are not back in school by the end of the school year, we will put on a special event in the autumn term and invite our current year six pupils back so we are able to say a proper goodbye!

Thank you for your patience and understanding at this challenging time.

#### Brent Music Service Offer ...

#### Information from Mrs. McNeil...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find below some new opportunities for learning music at home from the Brent Music Service.

### 1. Music's Cool Online

The Music's Cool teaching team have been working hard to create an online resource site that can be used by parents and children at home. The resource includes new weekly songs, music projects, ukulele and recorder instructional videos and more.

Parents will need to complete a very simple sign up process to get access to the free learning resources which includes: pupil name, school attended and parent's email address

Brent Music Service IS YOUR CHILD LEARNING TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT OR LEARNING TO SING? 'MUSIC LESSONS AT HOME' Available ONLINE from SUMMER TERM 2020! Face-to-face individual online lessons WITH A BMS TUTOR (probably £11.00 - £13.00 per 20-minute lesson\*) \*£2.50 for students who currently qualify for Free School Meals Online resources to support home learning available soon including: · FREE sheet music A range of FREE online learning tools · FREE aural training and sight-reading practice materials FREE video tutorials WHAT TO DO NEXT? Click on the link below for more information and register your interest in one or more of the

resources above and we will contact you soon!

#### Click this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSeuVtTkx7eB1-

Parent link: https://forms.gle/8Er3aRGurbrrURfA7

#### 2. NEW - 'BMS Music Lessons At Home'

BMS tutors are working to create a range of online resources to support instrumental/vocal pupils continue their learning at home. This will include:

- Face-to-face individual 20-minute instrument/singing lessons with a BMS tutor. The cost is likely to be between £11.00-£13.00 per lesson.
- An exciting range of online learning tools and practical activities to support learning at home for every instrument and voice, from beginner to advanced levels – FREE
- Possible virtual events to ignite musical learning and fun across Brent during this period of school closures - FREE

The lessons and resources should be available in the SUMMER TERM

If you are interested in this offer please follow the link below to complete an expression of interest form. You can also see the attached flyer for more information.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSeuVtTkx7eB1-Xs0BLYZURYweYyeDiKSbxFvAu yiH4SiYUPw/viewform?usp=sf link





#### Term Dates for 2019-20



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 15th Feb - Friday 19th 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 31st 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.





