



# OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL



"Inspiring a love of learning"



Tel: 0208 205 6038

020 8205 6800 (Nursery)

admin@olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk

www.olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk



@OGPSInspired



**School Newsletter: The Goldsmith Gazette**  
**Edition Number: 96**    **Date: Weds 8th April 2020**

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well. Thursday nights have become a time of real inspiration as communities open their doors, applaud the very brave workers in the NHS and smile and wave at each other from a distance. This reminds us all that although we are separate, we are very much together.

We are always looking for resources to support families at home and on Monday a wonderful book was released FREE for families. It has lovely pictures by Axel Scheffler, the illustrator of the Gruffalo, and helps families to explain coronavirus to children of all ages. The link to the online book is below but I have also emailed it to you. Children will have lots of questions about the challenges we are facing and this story is a great way to talk about them together.

<https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler/>

The Queen gave a special address last Sunday night. You can watch the speech using the link or read it on a later page. We really are part of living history and future generations will look back on this challenging time and our collective response.

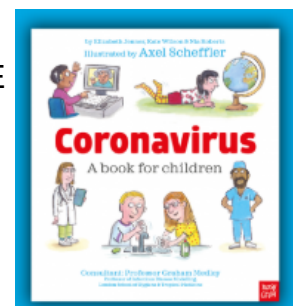
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hhbp>

When the challenges have passed, we will be able to say that we got through it together.

Stay safe and take care.

My very best wishes to you all.

**Mr. James Simmons**  
**Headteacher**



**The school site is very quiet indeed...**

The blossom is out on the cherry trees.

The birds are having a lovely time playing and flying around our forest school and playground areas.

Can you hear the birds in your garden?

Whilst the RSPB bird watch took place back in January, there are some good ideas on their website that can be used at any time!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/go-birdwatching/>



***DON'T FORGET..... DON'T FORGET.....***



### **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 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpccwmn>

The deadline for entries will be **Friday 24th April.** 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!



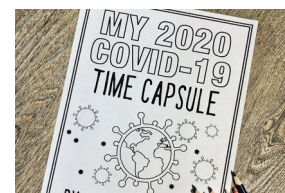


## Living through Historic Times... Recording our present for the children of the future

The Queen gave a historic speech at the weekend, one which future generations will look back on. As a school, we will be putting together our own special "TIME CAPSULE" so that future OGPS children in 2120 can find out what happened in 2020 and what it was like for us. We need your help to fill the capsule with your thoughts, your work and your memories.



Can you write a diary, draw a picture, write a letter, write an account to add to our OGPS time capsule? We have emailed you a Time Capsule booklet which might give you some ideas or you might like to use it for your own family time capsule to keep.



We will collect in contributions for the time capsule when, in time, the school reopens and use it in a whole school assembly as a way of reflecting on experience we have all been through.

### A Message from the Queen...

*"I am speaking to you at what I know is an increasingly challenging time. A time of disruption in the life of our country: a disruption that has brought grief to some, financial difficulties to many, and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all.*

*I want to thank everyone on the NHS front line, as well as care workers and those carrying out essential roles, who selflessly continue their day-to-day duties outside the home in support of us all. I am sure the nation will join me in assuring you that what you do is appreciated and every hour of your hard work brings us closer to a return to more normal times.*



*I also want to thank those of you who are staying at home, thereby helping to protect the vulnerable and sparing many families the pain already felt by those who have lost loved ones. Together we are tackling this disease, and I want to reassure you that if we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it.*

*I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge. And those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any. That the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet good-humoured resolve and of fellow-feeling still characterise this country. The pride in who we are is not a part of our past, it defines our present and our future.*

*The moments when the United Kingdom has come together to applaud its care and essential workers will be remembered as an expression of our national spirit; and its symbol will be the rainbows drawn by children.*

*Across the Commonwealth and around the world, we have seen heart-warming stories of people coming together to help others, be it through delivering food parcels and medicines, checking on neighbours, or converting businesses to help the relief effort.*

*And though self-isolating may at times be hard, many people of all faiths, and of none, are discovering that it presents an opportunity to slow down, pause and reflect, in prayer or meditation.*

*It reminds me of the very first broadcast I made, in 1940, helped by my sister. We, as children, spoke from here at Windsor to children who had been evacuated from their homes and sent away for their own safety. Today, once again, many will feel a painful sense of separation from their loved ones. But now, as then, we know, deep down, that it is the right thing to do.*

*While we have faced challenges before, this one is different. This time we join with all nations across the globe in a common endeavour, using the great advances of science and our instinctive compassion to heal. We will succeed - and that success will belong to every one of us.*

*We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again. But for now, I send my thanks and warmest good wishes to you all."*





## **We received this information to share from NHS Brent...**

### **Brent GP and local pharmacy opening times during Easter Bank Holiday Weekend...**

We are all working together to manage the increasing demand for NHS services during these challenging times. Please note the information on GP practice and pharmacy opening times during the Easter Bank Holiday below. We would be grateful for your help in sharing this with your contacts, friends and family in Brent.

#### **GP Practices...**

Brent GP Practices will be **open during normal working hours on Good Friday and Easter Monday Bank Holidays (10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2020)**. This is so the NHS can continue to support our patients and work alongside our colleagues in the Hospitals and in the Community.

#### **Pharmacies...**

All pharmacies are required to **open from 2pm to 5pm on Good Friday 10 April 2020 and Easter Monday 13 April 2020**. Some will open for longer hours to support access for patients through the day. For opening times for pharmacies near you please go to

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-pharmacy/>

Please check your Health Help Now App for information on these and other health care services nearest to you. The app can be downloaded from the Apple store on your mobile phone or visit the NHS Health Help Now website at <http://www.healthhelpnow.nhs.uk/>

### **What to do if you have symptoms of coronavirus**

If you are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus:

- Visit the **NHS 111 WEBSITE** [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk) as **the first port of call**, rather than contacting your GP practice
- If unable to access the NHS 111 website, call the 111 service
- For more information about coronavirus on what to do if you have symptoms, please visit our webpage <https://www.nwlondonccgs.nhs.uk/coronavirus>



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



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

**Y6 JCA Residential Trip:** Unfortunately this residential has been cancelled 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.***

### 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 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.*