

OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Inspiring a love of learning"

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Wednesday, 03 June 2020

Letter from the Board of Governors

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope this letter finds you well. Last night, the Board of Governors had their latest virtual meeting to review our planning regarding the phased, wider opening of Oliver Goldsmith Primary School. We wanted to write to you now to set out the planning we have undertaken so far and communicate some of the details that have been agreed.

As governors, we want to reassure you that the safety of our school community comes first and that has been the basis upon which we have approached the planning with the school. In doing so, we have taken time to develop plans in light of the latest guidance from the Government, our local authority and the unions who support staff at the school.

With a high proportion of staff and families in our school community coming from black and other minority ethnic backgrounds, there is even more to think about given the recent publications on the disproportionate effect Covid-19 has on members of the Black And Minority Ethnic (BAME) community.

After careful consideration of a number of factors, including the physical layout of the school, the size of the classrooms and the number of staff needed to safely look after the children, we have decided to **welcome children back to school in Year 6 ONLY from Monday 15th June. This includes continuing our provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers.** Year 6 children will only be in school for a four-day week, Monday to Thursday. On Friday, we will be closed so that further cleaning can take place and to provide staff the time they need to plan and prepare for the week ahead in school as well as plan for home learning for children not attending the school.

Unless significantly more staff are unable to physically come into school (for example, if they are forced to self-isolate or develop symptoms) the arrangements for the first week are as follows:

- Monday 15th June Staff CPD and preparation day
- Tuesday 16th June Staff CPD and preparation day
- Wednesday 17th June Y6 return to school (grouped into smaller numbers)
- Thursday 18th June Y6 return to school (grouped into smaller numbers)
- Friday 19th June Closed to children in year 6



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The Government has been very clear that parents will not be penalised for not sending their child/children back to school. We fully understand that different families are in different situations and there will be reasons why you do not send your child back to school, for example if your household is shielding a vulnerable person, according to Government guidelines. As such, we have asked Mr Simmons to write to parents tomorrow with further details on the day to day arrangements that will start from Monday 15th June and to confirm with Year 6 parents whether you will be sending your child into school. We have also asked that details around breakfast club provision, school timings for different groups of children and for drop off and collection arrangements are communicated. The Board has been clear that the school's key worker provision should continue in the same way it has been operating to date.

The Board has also asked Mr Simmons to ensure online home learning provision continues to be made available to those children who are not yet returning. We are acutely aware of the impact that missing a significant proportion of their schooling is having and so the Board has already turned its attention to planning to ensure the school has the resources it needs from September to help children catch up.

We want to thank you for the way you have supported your children and the school at this time. Continuing to adhere to the Government's guidelines only supports the school further in ensuring Oliver Goldsmith is a safe environment for the children.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Panayiotou (Chair) & the Board of Governors at OGPS



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