

OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Inspiring a love of learning"

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Tuesday 1st Sept 2020

RE: WELCOME BACK! SCHOOL OPENING FROM MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

On behalf of the staff and governors at Oliver Goldsmith Primary School, welcome to the start of a new academic year. We hope you had a restful, healthy and enjoyable summer holiday despite it being very different to past summers! If you managed to travel, we hope you navigated the quarantine rules and if you enjoyed a staycation we hope the variable weather treated you well!

We are all very much looking forward to **welcoming you back to school next week** and I am writing to remind you of all the key details. The vast majority of the information remains the same as when I wrote to you in our last newsletter back in July.

It has been a busy summer at OGPS with the demolition of the school dining hall (as seen in photos and video clips on Twitter and Facebook) and the school covered in scaffolding so that repairs to the brickwork and could take place. The dining hall is now gone and the majority of the repairs to the walls have been completed, although we will have some scaffolding remaining in place for a few more weeks. All these areas have been fenced off and made safe. Over the autumn term, I will be able to share with you the plans for the new dining hall...exciting times ahead for OGPS!

As you are aware, the school will **reopen to all our children on Monday 7th September**. New families joining us in Nursery and Reception will have different start dates, these have been shared with them directly. The staff team will complete three days of training on Weds 2nd, Thurs 3rd and Friday 4th September to prepare for the new school year.

Does my child have to attend school?

The government has confirmed that attendance is **COMPULSORY**. If your child is absent from school for any reason, you will need to call the school office to report reasons for non-attendance.

What if my family and child are anxious about returning to school?

This is completely understandable. Whilst all staff and a quarter of our children were back in school over the summer term, for many children they will not have been to the school since March. Please take some time to talk to you child about how they are feeling, discuss new routines and if you are



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concerned in any way, please contact us so that we can offer you further reassurance. Sometimes the best answer is just to listen to you child and let them share their feelings with you. Further advice and support can be found here:

- Government guidance for parents and carers: <https://f.ls/1bwVu>
- <https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/>
- Advice from the Mental Health Foundation: <https://f.ls/CkKvW>

How will the school be different from Monday 7th September?

The school will continue to operate differently from as we implement our risk assessment to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid 19 in our school community. Plans in place from the risk assessment include...

- Children in consistent bubbles – children will remain in class bubbles.
- Staggered start and finish times.
- Staggered playtimes and lunchtimes – staying together as a class bubble.
- Extra cleaning on site on a daily basis.
- Increased hygiene measures including handwashing and use of sanitizer where needed.
- Breakfast club/afterschool club will **NOT** operate in the first half term as this comprises bubbles.
- No other clubs will run in the first half term.
- No large gatherings of children—no assemblies will take place.
- Shared rooms such as our school library and ICT suite will not be used by pupils.
- Y4 swimming and offsite educational visits will **NOT** take place.
- Our risk assessment will be reviewed in the first half term; plans may change over the year.

What if went on holiday to a country on the quarantine list?

Coronavirus regulations mean that you must self-isolate for 14 days if you arrive in the UK from a country outside the common travel area. If you travelled abroad during the school holidays you will need to be aware that you **MIGHT** need to isolate depending on the country you visited. You can find up to date guidance using this link. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>. **If you are isolating due to travel, you MUST call the school office to report this as the reason for your child's absence.**

What if your child or someone in your household has Covid symptoms...

We want to remind families that if children or a member of the household has Covid related symptoms (*high temperature, new continuous cough or a loss/change to taste and smell*) your child **SHOULD NOT** come to school. You should isolate and book a test for the person displaying symptoms urgently; you may be advised that all members of the household be tested. We encourage all families to engage positively with the test and trace government initiative.

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works#people-who-develop-symptoms-of-coronavirus>

If you are isolating for this reason, again, you MUST call the school office to report this as the reason for your child's absence.



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What should I do if my child is unwell before school?

If your child is unwell for **other reasons than Covid-19**, you must report the sickness absence of your child in the usual way and send your child back to school when they are well. Please be clear about your child's symptoms when speaking to our office team.

What if my child develops Covid related symptoms whilst they are at school?

If this happens we will contact you as a matter of urgency. **We need parents will to collect children from the school as quickly as they can.** This is in line with DfE / PHE guidance. Parents should arrange a test for their child and contact the school when they have the result.

What are drop off and pick up times and which gate should we use?

From Monday 7th September, these are the arrangements for the start and end of the day. **On the first morning, one parent can bring their child into the playground to wave them off to their new class but from Tuesday 8th September, parents will need to drop children at the school gate.** Senior leaders and other staff will be there to help you at these times.

- Each year group will have a 10min time slot for drop off and pick up to reduce numbers at our school gates and in our playgrounds at any one time.
- Year groups will be given one gate that they must use when they arrive and leave.
- Only one parent should drop off or collect children to help reduce numbers.
- If you have more than one child, at drop off, use the gate for your youngest child – staff will give you instructions on what to do.
- We ask that parents walk rather than park outside our gates to again reduce congestion.
- Parents must be punctual to avoid overcrowding.
- In the mornings, at drop off, parents will drop children at school gates and not enter the playground.
- In the afternoons at pick up time, parents can come onto the site and wait in the playground to reduce congestion at our gate areas. We will show you where to wait. Please socially distance from others when you are in the playground.
- Parents must only enter the school building if they have made an appointment through the school office.
- Teachers will be in the playground each morning to welcome their class, before taking them to wash their hands and enter the building.
- If you have a message for your child's class teacher or wish to speak them, please call the school office to leave a message and we will get back to you as soon we are able.

Year Group	Which Gate?	Drop Off Time	Pick Up Time
Year 1	Coniston Gnds Gate	8.40-8.50	3.20-3.30
Year 2	Coniston Gnds Gate	8.30-8.40	3.30-3.40
Year 3	Kingsbury Rd Gate	8.40-8.50	3.30-3.40
Year 4	Kingsbury Rd Gate	8.40-8.50	3.30-3.40
Year 5	Kingsbury Rd Gate	8.30-8.40	3.20-3.30
Year 6	Coniston Gnds Gate	8.40-8.50	3.30-3.40



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- Year 1 & Y2 children will use the normal KS1 door after washing their hands.
- Year 3/4/5 children will use the Y5 door after washing their hands.
- Year 6 children will use the door next to our school library, they will sanitise their hands when they arrive and wash their hands when they reach their classroom.

What will playtimes and lunchtimes be like?

- We will have a rota timetable for breaks and lunchtimes to reduce overcrowding.
- Only one year group will be outside on any one of our playgrounds at any one time, the playgrounds will be split so each class has a clear space to play in. Classes will not mix in the playground to protect their class bubbles.
- Children will eat lunch in their classrooms as the dining hall will have been demolished!
- Children will eat packed lunches – you can either send your own one in from home or order one from our catering team (see the attached menu) at a cost of £2.30 per day. Packed lunches will need to be ordered a week in advance as they are being made off-site each day. This is why the cost have increased by 20p.
- You do not need to pay for a packed lunch if your child;
 - Receives a free school meal
 - Receives the infants universal free school meal as they are in Reception, Y1 or Y2
 - BUT you do need to order packed lunches in advance.

What does my child need to bring to School?

- Children **DO** need to bring their packed lunch to school and a named water bottle.
- Children **DO** need to bring a coat to wear as needed for the autumn weather!
- Children **DO NOT** need to bring in pencil cases – we will supply them with equipment.
- Children **DO NOT** need to bring in bags.
- Children **DO NOT** need to bring in PE kits – they should wear their PE kits to school to avoid the need to change on their PE day.
- Children **DO NOT** need to bring in book bags, we have set up electronic books for children to access and homework will be completed online to reduce paper and books going between school and home.

What does my child need to wear to school?

- Children should wear school uniform as per our uniform policy.
- On PE days, children should wear school PE kit to school.
- We will text and email parents with the days that children should wear PE kit to school at the start of next week. Children will not do PE in the first week back, PE will start from Monday 14th Sept.

What happened to personal items and PE kits left in school from last year?

All personal equipment, PE bags, books etc from your child's current class will move up into their next classroom. It will be sent home on Monday 7th September.

What if my child needs medication at school?

Please contact our medical officer, Mrs Halai, through the school office and make an appointment to drop in your child's medication.



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What will my child be learning about?

Children at OGPS will continue to access a broad and balanced curriculum. We will spend time learning about our new routines with a focus on hygiene, safety and mental health and well-being. There will be plenty of opportunities for pupils to discuss any concerns that they may have or share their experiences of lockdown and the summer break.

There will be a focus on key skills or reading, writing and maths but this does not mean that children will not have the chance to learn through the full variety of subjects across the OGPS curriculum.

Our curriculum will have a number of elements...

- “Catch Up” — what are the key skills that children missed during the school closure. It would be impossible to teach the new year and half the previous one so we will need to quickly establish pupils key learning gaps so we can close them.
- “Recovery” — this is where we will focus on supporting children’s pastoral needs, their mental health and wellbeing as they settle back into school routines. Children have been through a great deal since March and will respond in different ways to returning to school. We want our children to feel safe, happy and listened to. We want them to know it is ok not to be ok and that we are here to help and support them.
- “New Curriculum for their new year” — children will be moving onto new skills and subject knowledge at the same time as revisiting past learning. Much of the national curriculum works as spiral, with key ideas revisited and built on over time.
- “A sense of Fun” — our curriculum and wider provision has always and must continue to create a sense of fun, enjoyment and engagement, creating memorable moments and inspire in our pupils a true love of learning. This is at the heart of the school’s ethos and we will work hard to ensure it remains in place.

Has the school completed a risk assessment for full re-opening?

Yes, the Board of Governors have overseen the risk assessment process. You can find our risk assessment by following this link. <https://www.olivergoldsmith.brent.sch.uk/pages/key-information/school-policies>
The Board of Governors will be reviewing the risk assessment on Thursday 24th September.

We are extremely grateful for your support, understanding and patience since March. We will keep in touch with you regarding any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to updated guidance from the government.

I look forward to seeing you all at the school gates from Monday 7th Sept – it will be great to have everyone back!

Yours sincerely,
Mr James Simmons
Headteacher



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A Reminder of our Term Dates for 2020-21

Term dates are always on the last page of each newsletter, they are also available on the school website as well as on the teachers2parents app.

Autumn Term: Weds 2nd Sept to Fri 18th Dec 2020 (with 2nd, 3rd & 4th 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 31st 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 23rd July

To confirm the Staff Training days (CPD days) are as follows for 2020-21

- Wednesday 2nd September 2020
- Thursday 3rd September 2020
- Friday 4th 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.



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