

OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Inspiring a love of learning"



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Thursday, 20 July 2023

Oliver Goldsmith Primary School Board of Governors Letter to Parents - Summer 2023

Dear Families,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Governors in our annual letter to families to keep you informed on the important issues the Board have been addressing over this school year.

As ever, ensuring the safeguarding of your children remains of utmost importance for the school and the Board have closely monitored the implementation of Oliver Goldsmith's safeguarding policies including through ensuring central records are well maintained and any safeguarding issues are escalated appropriately. A Safeguarding Audit was carried out in June 2023 by our SELP (School Effectiveness Lead Professional from Brent), Helen Tyler, in order to assess the effectiveness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures. The audit was very successful; all safeguarding areas assessed were found to be compliant and particular strengths noted were staff and governor knowledge and pupils speaking confidently about how they feel safe and how to report concerns. An action plan is in place to improve Safeguarding provision further following recommendations in the report.

Whilst the Board continues to monitor activities that help keep your child safe in school, we are also concerned about keeping your children safe in the vicinity of the school. Governors have noted, with disappointment, that the Headteacher has found it necessary to issue communications to families about road safety; we remain concerned that some adults continue to put children in danger. We continue to liaise with Brent Council to consider road safety measures around the school. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of all parents to consider the safety of all children, not just those they are bringing to school.

In terms of ensuring the financial stability of the school through our oversight of the school's budget, Governors remain conscious of the financial situation common to all schools. The school's budget for next year is increasing, however, our costs continue to rise too. The Board's Finance, Premises and Staffing Committee works closely with the Headteacher and School Business Manager to ensure savings are made wherever possible. The Board will continue to work through its scrutiny of the school's budgets and plans to enable the school to continue to make good progress.

This is helpful context relating to the strike action taken by teaching staff. Whilst, regrettably, the strikes have caused disruption, they highlight the challenges with Government strategy for funding schools, teachers' pay as well as recruiting and retaining staff. This is leading to ever increasing pressure on school budgets which is ultimately impacting our children's education. Therefore, whilst the strikes are unfortunate, they hopefully will lead to improved school funding.



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Finally, all parents and carers can be part of ***Friends & Family of Goldsmith (FFG)*** that seeks to put on special events each year. We want to relaunch the group in the autumn term and hopefully find even more active members who can work hard to raise much needed funds for the school. We always need more help to run more events as the work often falls to a small number of people. The funds and sense of community spirit these events generate are vital for the school and our children. Please let the school office know if you want more information or want to be more involved with the Friends & Family of Goldsmith.

We would also like to say a big welcome back to Mrs Dean who returned last week from her maternity leave. A huge thank you to Mrs McAndrew and Mrs Amui for supporting Mr Simmons.

If you would like to discuss anything covered in this letter or any other issue with a school Governor, please contact the school. More information on the Board and its work is available on the Governors page of the school's website.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Himesh Patel
Chair, Board of Governors, Oliver Goldsmith Primary School



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