# Oliver Goldsmith PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Newsletter - October 2026

## Dear parents and carers

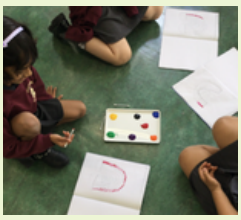
As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the hard work, enthusiasm and achievements of all our children. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and resilience grow both in and out of the classroom. Thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout the term. We wish all our families a happy, restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 2nd November for the start of a new half term.

We are continuing to run the Fuel for Learning Project, if you would like your child to access free breakfast, please book through the Arbor App. Fuel for Learning runs daily at 8:15 but must be booked the week before.

If your child attends the paid breakfast club, they will continue to use the back door until 8:10am if they arrive after this time, they must come through the front entrance of the school.

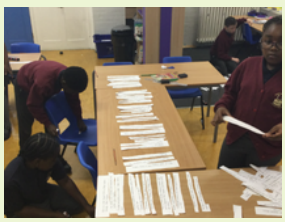
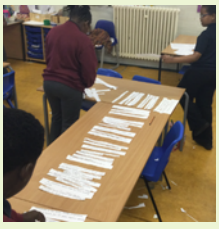
As part of our approach to mental health awareness we will be launching a programme called Talking Together. This will be a pupil self-referral service where children can access support from our Art Therapist, providing a safe space to talk, express feelings and receive emotional wellbeing support. This will open to all year 6 pupils to start with with the aim to extend the offer across KS2. Parents and carers will be informed about the service through Arbor and will have the option to opt their child out if they do not wish them to participate. The aim is to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health by encouraging open, supportive conversations and helping children recognise that seeking support is a positive step. It will support pupils to build strategies that promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

In year 4 we visited Peckham library to engage in reading for pleasure. We used drama to act out scenes from our writing.

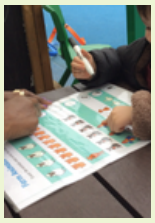
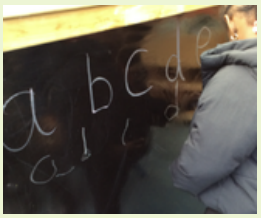


In Art the children in Scheffler class explored the work of the artist Georges Seurat and how he used a technique called Pointillism . We learnt about the primary colours and how we can mix them together to create secondary colours. We then applied all our learning to create our own pointillist artwork experimenting with different sized dots, shading and colours.

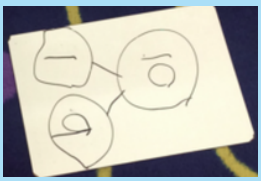
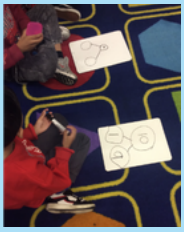
Reception class enjoyed their carnival in celebration of their learning for Black History

Year 5 have been busy preparing to write their upcoming biographies about the pioneering NASA mathematician, Katherine Johnson. Working in teams, children pieced together and sequence the key events of her incredible life. They then explored powerful cohesive language and conjunctions to link their ideas together.

In nursery the children have been busy exploring the environment and engaging in a range of activities both indoors and outside.

In year 1 we have been learning about part whole models. This will help us to see the relationships in number facts. For example: 1 + 9 = 10, 9 + 1 =10, 10 - 1 = 9 and 10 - 9 = 1

We have had a wonderful term in Year 2! We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to London, where we explored some of the capital's famous landmarks. The children were incredibly excited and loved sharing their thoughts and experiences.

We have also loved welcoming Hugh and Amy from our local library, who have joined us for some lovely reading sessions. It has been a real pleasure to share our love of books with them.

Year 6 recently took part in an engaging Southwark TfL Citizens Workshop, where they learned valuable life skills to help them stay safe and make responsible choices. Throughout the morning, pupils explored a range of important topics, including safe travel on public transport, road safety, first aid emergencies, fire hazards, and the dangers of knife crime. Through interactive activities and discussions, the children developed their awareness of risks they may encounter in everyday life and gained practical knowledge to help keep themselves and others safe. The workshop was both informative and empowering, encouraging pupils to become confident, responsible citizens within their community.

## Children in Need

For this year's Children in Need, we are inviting all children to donate a small amount of money, preferably £1, for a non-uniform day on Friday 13th November. Leading up to the day, children can enter a reading challenge, for as little as 10p, with a prize up for grabs! All donations will be given to Children In Need charity.

## Digital Safety: Half-Term Check-In

Children often spend more time online over half term, so it's a good moment for a quick family check. Three things are worth five minutes:

**Games:** Look at the age rating, and find out whether chat is switched on. Some games with lower ratings still let players talk to strangers, and chat can usually be turned off in the settings.

**Privacy:** If your child uses any social media or messaging app, make sure the account is private and location sharing is off.

**Talk:** Ask your child what they enjoy online, and remind them they can always tell you if something feels wrong, without getting into trouble.

For advice and conversation starters: ceopeducation, internetmatters.org and nspcc.org.uk

**Parent Online Safety workshop: Thursday 26 November 9:00 am – 10:00am - Lower Hall**

## OGPS Black History Month 2026

This week, every class in school has been exploring a different story from Black history — some ancient, some recent, all genuine and carefully researched.

Year 4 investigated how we know Africans lived in Roman Britain nearly 1,800 years ago; Year 3 met John Blanke, a Tudor court trumpeter; Year 6 studied Olaudah Equiano's own written testimony against the slave trade; Year 1 learned how Mary Seacole cared for soldiers in the Crimea after being turned away; Year 2 traced the Windrush generation's arrival in 1948; our youngest children celebrated the joy and colour of Notting Hill Carnival; and Year 5 looked at how the Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963 changed the law.

On Thursday 12 November from 2:30 - 3pm, we invite you to come and take a look at our Black History displays in the lower hall, where all these stories are threaded together in the order they happened — including a local connection: Sam King, who sailed on the Windrush and later became Southwark's first Black mayor, also helped organise that very first Caribbean carnival in London.

We look forward to seeing you!

## Dates for your diary

As part of our Number Confidence Week, all children are invited to dress up as a rock star on Tuesday 3rd November.

Our class assemblies have started today with Basquiat class in year 6. Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended

Please check the dates to see when your child's class will be taking the stage! Please check the timetable below so you do not miss out.

| Class | Class assembly date at 9am |
|---|---|
| Y6 Basquiat | Friday 23rd October 2026 |
| Y6 Warhol | Friday 6th November 2026 |
| Y5 Thomas | Friday 5th March 2027 |
| Y5 Kusama | Friday 22nd January 2027 |
| Y4 Boyce | Friday 23rd April 2027 |
| Y4 Khalo | Friday 30th April 2027 |
| Y3 Hokusai | Friday 7th May 2027 |
| Y3 Scheffler | Friday 14th May 2027 |
| Y2 Banksy | Friday 12th March 2027 |
| Y2 Shonibare | Friday 29th January 2027 |
| Y1 Matisse | Friday 21st May 2027 |
| Y1 Himid | Friday 28th May 2027 |
| Reception Hepworth | Friday 5th February 2027 |
| Nursery Adeola | Friday 9th July 2027 |

### Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week begins on 16th November and this year's theme is "**Choose Respect.**" Throughout the week, children will take part in a range of activities and discussions to help them understand the importance of kindness, inclusion and standing up against bullying. The week encourages everyone to think about how we treat others and how small acts of respect can make a big difference in creating a safe and happy school community.

To launch Anti-Bullying Week, we are inviting all children and staff to take part in Odd Socks Day by wearing odd socks to school. Odd Socks Day is a fun way to celebrate what makes us all unique and reminds us that our differences should be valued and respected. We look forward to seeing lots of colourful, mismatched socks!

**Reminder: Wear your odd socks to school on 18th November!** 🧦💙💛