



Elm Grove, Brighton, BN2 3ES
Telephone: 01273 708004 Fax: 01273 708300
admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk
www.elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk

NEXT INSET DAY

Thursday 29th March 2018

Number 8 – 8th January 2018



Happy New Year - welcome back to the Spring Term at Elm Grove.



TOP PLAYGROUND – our planned improvements to the Top Playground continued over the holidays with the installation of 13 birch trees and seating area along the Elm Grove fence line. The trees will act as a pollution blocker, as well as bring some much needed greenery to the area.

Thank-you to anyone who has contributed in any way to our PTA fund-raising events, as well as Elm Grove After School club who helped fund the trees. Thanks also to Lundscape landscapers for all their hard work to complete the project.

We intend to complete further additions to the playground over the next 18 months. The plans have altered from the original design in response to feedback received and the new OPAL playtime approach which we aim to launch in the Summer Term. The school and PTA are working together to improve the playground and ensure the pupils will benefit from the best provision possible.

DO YOU WANT TO HELP WITH A SUMMER TERM SCHOOL PERFORMANCE? Mrs Willard is aware of a number of parents with performing arts backgrounds who might be keen to offer their services, with a view to producing a stage performance with the KS2 children later on in the year. If you are willing and able to help with such a project, please email Mrs Willard and/or come along to a meeting in the school hall on Wednesday 24th January at 9:15am.

STAFFING UPDATE – Welcome to Mr David Holloway who will be teaching Y5 Redwood class from January – July 2018.

Unfortunately Miss Lucy Roberts (Inclusion Leader/SENCO) remains on long term sick leave due to a serious back condition. She hopes to be well enough to return after the February half term. We are very grateful to Miss Anna Burfield, an experienced SENCO, who is now covering the role on a temporary basis on Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's. Parents and carers can contact the Anna via the school office or through the school email system (annaburfield@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

Miss Millie Watts, Inclusion Mentor, will now be working at the school every day.

PARENTPAY – We are pleased to announce that the Parentpay online payment system can now accept payments for trips, some clubs and swimming. If you have not already activated your account, your child will have been given a letter on 3rd January, detailing your unique username and login.

Please activate your account as soon as possible to ensure you can access this system. If you have any problems, please contact the school office. We would like to become a 'cashless' school and your help towards this is much appreciated.

SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDER – the school does not take a strict approach to school uniform but does expect children to attend each day wearing at least the school colours of green, white and grey (& black). Thank-you.

SMART WATCHES – Please can these expensive items be kept for use out of school hours to avoid unnecessary upset if lost or broken, as well as maintaining our policy on no mobile phones or video gadgets to be used during school hours.

NON SCHOOL UNIFORM - We raised £207.67 for our school fund. Thank you for all your donations.

Elm Grove Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and this commitment is reflected in all relevant policies and practice.

UNIFORM PRICE CHANGE – Unfortunately our supplier has raised the price for a school sweatshirt. The new price will be £9.

PTA NEWS - The PTA would like to thank everyone again for their overwhelming support last term. We have some great things already planned for this term, please see dates below. Keep an eye out on Facebook and in the newsletter for further events coming up.

PTA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SPRING TERM 2018

Thursday 8th February - Parents Quiz Night

Sunday 25th February - Makers Market and Tea Room

Friday 23rd March - Butlers Wine Tasting - **We expect this event to sell out, please look out for online booking information coming soon!**

If you are able to volunteer at any of these events, or would like any further information please contact the PTA at elmgrovepta0@gmail.com

We hope to see you there!

The PTA can always be contacted on elmgrovepta0@gmail.com If you have any questions or suggestions please do get in touch. Thanks, PTA.

Volunteering in school – Elm Grove School needs YOU!

If you would like to volunteer in our school, please get in touch with the school office, or Miss Emery (Year 1 teacher and Volunteer Co-ordinator).

GIVE BRIGHTON & HOVE COUNCIL YOUR VIEWS ON THE TWO WEEK AUTUMN HALF-TERM

Brighton & Hove residents can give their views on the recent two-week school half term in October.

Brighton & Hove City Council is running an online survey on the impact of the recent two-week break.

The survey will be open from 11 December to 31 January 2018 and can be found at: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/autumn-half-term-survey

Last year the council agreed to try out a longer autumn break for 2018 and 2019, and also to consider the impact of the change before making any decisions further into the future.

As well as getting residents' views, the council will look at the impact of the two-week break on overall attendance, the progress pupils have made this term, and the experiences of staff.

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A report on the results of the consultation will be considered by the council's children, young people and skills committee on 5 March 2018. Ensuring that the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children receive the council's support in all areas is one of the council's key priorities.

The extra week's holiday in October aims to enable families to have more flexibility about when they can spend time together without missing school, and to take excursions or holidays outside the peak holiday period.

It was also hoped that the measure would help address the issue of parents taking their children out of school during term-time for unauthorised holidays, missing valuable learning.

Term dates have to be set more than a year in advance. The dates for the academic year 2018-19 have been set and can be found at: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/schools/school-term-and-holiday-dates>

CONTACT DETAILS & SCHOOL EMAILS- If you are still not receiving our school emails it may be that we have an old address listed. Please come to the School Office to check we have the correct contact details. Thank you.

REMINDER – We have several children in school with nut allergies that are also airborne. Please do not send any foods /packed lunches or party food which contain nuts into school. Thank you.

LOST ITEMS – Isaak (Oak) has lost a named Purple & Green lunch box also a Black named canvas style lunchbox with a drink bottle holder.

Please bring to the office if you have taken it home by mistake. Thank you

HOMEWORK GRIDS will be sent home on: 12.1.2018, 26.1.2018 and 9.2.2018.

Please look out for them in your child's book bag.

GOLDEN BOOK MERITS

Apple	Joseph, Jacob, Toby
Cherry	Arthur, Evan, Erin
Beech	Erin, Matilda, Billy S
Birch	Dylan, Ebba, Ivy
Baobab	Primrose, Phoebe, JJ
Bonsai	Sam, Callie, Jim
Horse Chestnut	Milo, Harry, Woody
Holly	Vincent, Rosheen Marley
Cedar	Darren, Florrie, Conor
Cypress	Jacob, Corwin, Robyn
Redwood	Joely, Clayton, Bertie
Rowan	Jay, Gabriel, Akash
Elder	Noah H, Maya, Rosalie
Oak	Mate, Summer, Freya

DIARY DATES

Date	Event
24.1.2018 – 9am	Meeting for parents/carers interested in exploring performance options
9.2.2018	Last day of half term
19.2.2018	Children return to school
28.3.2018	Last day of term

2017-18 remaining INSET dates:

Thursday March 29th & Tuesday 24th July

Best wishes,
Louise Willard
Head teacher

NEWSLETTER - If you have a visual impairment, a copy of the newsletter is available in large print from the office.

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