



# Newsletter

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Number 1 – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**NEXT INSET**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**



**WELCOME** to the new academic year at Elm Grove Primary School. The new term has got off to a good start and the children are settling well.

I would like to especially welcome our new pupils and their families, as well as Miss Crofton to the staff team (Year 5 Redwood class teacher). I would also like to say welcome back to Mrs Bowen who will be supporting pupils in Reception.

The school has a vacancy for a Midday Meal Supervisor to work each Friday between 12.00 and 1.30pm. Please contact the office if you are interested.

A full staff list is being sent with this newsletter and school holiday dates for the year can be seen at the end of the newsletter. Information about PTA events and important reminders regarding school attendance are also attached.

An overview of school clubs for the term will be sent later in the week but please look out for individual letters coming home from today regarding different sports clubs.

The new playground murals celebrating local wildlife certainly liven up the top playground. Significant damp repair work and redecoration carried out over the holidays has improved a number of classrooms and office areas. Contractors continue to work on retiling the bell tower roof.

**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.**

**READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE** – staff are enthusiastically delivering our approach to behaviour management. We are continuing with our 3 school rules: Ready, Respectful, Safe.

The focus is on having consistently high expectations of all children's behaviour and recognising pupils for their positive contribution – especially those who go over and above.

You may notice:

- 'Good News/Congratulations' postcards being sent home (each member of staff will write one per week)
- Good news phones calls or text messages
- Recognition boards in classrooms
- Children being met and individually welcomed each morning by staff at their classroom doors, including shaking hands (only if pupils want to)
- One child per class invited to Hot Chocolate Club with the Headteacher on Friday afternoons as a result of their outstanding behaviour

Each class also has a special 'together' time on Friday afternoons.

Children who forget any of the rules will have a reminder and last chance warning before meeting with the staff member involved, at an agreed time, using a restorative justice approach. Parents and carers will be kept informed as appropriate.

**DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTING CHILDREN AT THE START AND END OF THE DAY (Year 2 – Year 6 pupils)** – to encourage independence and avoid congestion, please can adults say goodbye to their children on the terrace, (parents and carers can of course still access the office if required).

Then at the end of the day, wait to collect them on the top playground, not the terrace. If everyone adheres to this it will keep the terrace clear for pupils to leave the building safely. Thank-you.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM** – All children are expected to wear Elm Grove uniform colours of green, white and grey – in any combination. (NB this can include jogging bottoms and hoodies). No items with logos please, apart from the optional Elm Grove logo. We have made the decision to say grey, **not** black tights/leggings. We also ask that the children wear sensible, school appropriate shoes.

The PE uniform is white T-shirt and white shorts. Uniform can be purchased via the school office or in local supermarkets

**OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) -**



We **urgently** need to replenish the selection of 'loose parts' in our playground sheds. Every day the children can

be seen creating camps, inventing a range of imaginative games and having lots of fun with the resources found in the sheds. However, stocks are running very low. Please see the list of suggested items we are looking for:

- Planks**
- Ropes**
- Pots, Pans & utensils**
- Logs**
- Old curtains**
- Quilt covers**
- Blankets**
- Guttering**
- Pipes**
- Poles**
- Cushions**
- Unwanted toys and games**
- Dressing up clothes**
- Suitcases**
- Chalks**

All donations will be gratefully received. Please deposit them in the containers labelled 'loose parts' at the rear of the car park. Many thanks.



**SCHOOL SPORT**

We are delighted to have purchased our own minibus, which we plan to use for transporting children to and from many of the sports competitions that we enter.

As a result of the high-quality PE lessons at Elm Grove, as well as the wide range of extra-curricular sports clubs offered to the children and the high numbers who compete in sports competitions, we have now achieved the GOLD School Games Mark (a national award) for five consecutive years.

At the end of 2018/19, we were able to apply for the PLATINUM award for the first time. Until this year, only 12 schools across the whole of Sussex had achieved this level, and we are very proud to have joined them, as a result of the efforts that we have been making to incorporate physical activity (such as 'daily runs' and active classroom breaks) into our school day.

**YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL INFORMATION –** Y6 parents and carers will shortly receive information

about secondary school open evenings and links to applying for a secondary school place. The final date for applications is **31.10.19**

Please see school staff if you require any support with completing the online form. They will be happy to help.

<https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/children-and-learning/apply-school/important-dates-secondary-school-applications>

**ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO CLAIM FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS? THIS CAN HELP THE SCHOOL AS WELL AS YOU AND YOUR CHILD –** please see the office if you feel your child might be eligible for Pupil Premium funding. The office staff can check an online system. If you are, as well as receiving a free school meal, your child will also be able to benefit from reduced club and residential costs. Even if your child already gets a free lunch (Reception – Y2) or prefers a packed lunch, the school receives additional funding which is used very carefully to support learning opportunities. Thank-you

**LOST PROPERTY –** a large amount of uniform and PE kit was left unclaimed at the end of the Summer Term. This will be displayed on the front terrace at the start and end of the school day (on fine days only). Please have a look and claim anything which belongs to your child. Please always name clothing items, including coats, jackets and lunch boxes. It helps us return them to their correct owner if left around the school.

**2020 CHILDREN'S PARADE (Sat May 2<sup>nd</sup>) –** please contact Louise Willard, ([louisewillard@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:louisewillard@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk)), if you are interested in joining the working group of parents and carers involved in creating and co-ordinating Elm Grove contribution for the parade. There will be further opportunities for everyone participating to take part in making workshops nearer the time.

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

**School Ping/website/communication –** It is very important to let us know if your contact details have changed over the summer holidays as this will affect the communication we send to you. Please let us know of any changes as soon as you can. Thank you.

**DIARY DATES**

Date	Event
Friday 25.10.19	Last day of half term Harvest Festival Non-uniform day
Monday 4.11.19	Children return to school
Friday 20.12.19	Last day of term

**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.**

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

**ELM GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HOLIDAY DATES 2019-20 academic year**

	<u>School opens on</u>	<u>School closes</u>
<b>September</b>	Fri 6.9.2019	
<b>Oct Mid Term</b>		Fri 25.10.2019
	Mon 4.11.2019	
<b>CHRISTMAS</b>		Fri 20.12.2019
	Tues 7.1.2020	
<b>Feb Mid Term</b>		Fri 14.2.2020
	Mon 24.2.2019	
<b>EASTER</b>		Fri 3.4.2020
	Mon 20.4.2020	
<b>May Mid Term</b>		Fri 22.5.2020
	Tues 2.6.2020	
<b>SUMMER</b>		Tues 21.7.2020

**Bank Holiday – May Day – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Teachers' Training Days:**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Best wishes,

*Louise Willard*

Head teacher

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