



Newsletter

Head Teacher: Ms Louise Willard

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

Number 7 – 13th January 2020

NEXT INSET
Monday 1st June 2020



WELCOME BACK to the Spring Term 2020. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. I would like to offer a special welcome to any new pupils and their families to the school.

STAFFING UPDATE – Miss Watts commenced her maternity leave on Friday 10th January. We will keep you updated on news of the baby. Miss Barfoot and Miss Bowles will be covering Miss Watts' role in her absence until she returns in September. We look forward to welcoming Miss Carr, who will shortly be joining Elm Grove as Year 1 Teaching Assistant in Birch Class, to the team. She is replacing Miss Saward who left the school in December for a promotion post at another local school.

GOOD DIABETES CARE AWARD - We are delighted to inform you that Elm Grove has been nominated for a Good Diabetes care in school award. We will keep you updated on the progress.

INVITE TO PARTICIPATE IN CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS ONLINE TRAINING COURSE – Please see attached information regarding a free online course available to staff and parents/carers. Elm Grove needs at least 12 participants to proceed. Please can anyone interested email Louise Willard by Friday 17th January (louisewillard@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY – Please ensure your child/children arrive promptly at school each day. The school bell rings at 8.50am; the doors then remain open for 10 minutes and all pupils are expected to be ready for learning by 9am at the latest. Children find it unsettling to enter a classroom after lessons have commenced and can miss valuable teacher input.

Two Brighton & Hove leaflets about the importance of school attendance have been attached for your information. Elm Grove School attendance percentages have dropped recently. The school is having a renewed focus on improving attendance as a consequence and ask for your support with this. 96% is the Nationally expected attendance percentage for all schools. Below are Elm Grove's current attendance percentages:

Apple = 93.82%
Cherry = 92.37%
Beech = 97.11%
Birch = 96.56%
Baobab = 96.07%
Bonsai = 95.89%
Holly = 96.06%
Horse Chestnut = 96.4%
Cedar = 96.21%
Cypress = 94.93%
Redwood = 90.48%
Elder = 95.89%
Oak = 95.89%
Total overall = 95.12%

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

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

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.

STAFF CARE POLICY - Elm Grove School is proud of its open door policy and values its partnerships with parents/carers. School staff will always do their best to listen to any problems or concerns that parents/carers may have and offer support and advice where they can.

Elm Grove Primary School respects the work life balance of its staff. With this in mind, please can any emails, apart to those to senior staff members, be sent to the school office (admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk), marked 'for the attention of ...'. The emails will then be forwarded to the appropriate staff member each day. Please note, if emails are sent outside normal working hours, or within teaching sessions, there is no expectation for staff members to provide an immediate response.

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 items the children have suggested they would like:

Planks, Ropes, Pots, Pans & utensils, Logs, Old curtains, Quilt covers, Blankets, Guttering, Pushchairs/Scooters, Pipes, Cushions, Unwanted Toys and Games, Dressing Up Clothes Suitcases, Buckets, Paint Brushes and Rollers, Cable Drums, Car Seats, Fabric, Yoga Balls and Mats, Pop Up Tents.

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

KS2 SWIMMING LESSONS & PAYMENTS – Elm Grove is fortunate to have a full morning per week allocated to our school for use of St Luke's swimming pool. This is more time than many other local schools and enables all of our children to learn to swim by the end of KS2.

May we remind you that the school is charged for the hire of the swimming pool and swimming instructors. Therefore we ask all parents to make a small payment via Parentpay each half term. It is vital for us to receive these donations to enable this opportunity to continue. Thank you for helping us with this.

SCHOOL DINNEY MONEY – We are sorry to note that there are still too many KS2 parents owing money on Parentpay for school meals. **Please check your account and credit this today.** The school does not have any extra funding to pay for meals. It also

wastes valuable staff time to chase parents who pay late. If you are unable to pay for school meals please ensure your child has a packed lunch every day or make an appointment to speak to Ms Willard if you need to discuss a payment plan. Thank you.

JUST ONE TREE (November fundraiser £458 raised through non-uniform day & cake sale)– Message from the organisers: Thank you so much for supporting JUST ONE Tree.

Every £1 really does make a difference, so thank you, we really do appreciate it.

Your tree purchase will be supporting a reforestation project in one of the following countries:

Mozambique

Nepal

Haiti

Indonesia

Madagascar

Kenya

Because of you, 458 seeds will be chosen and planted by our partners in one of their nurseries. Once the next rainy season is upon us, your seedlings will be transported to their carefully selected new homes, where they will be planted and nurtured over the coming years.

Your 458 trees will then start to remove roughly 5.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each and every year.

Finally, you can follow the total number of trees grow that are being planted by the children here:

<https://www.goldengiving.com/wall/a-forest-planted-by-the-children>

FUNDRAISING LINK – Please follow the link below if you wish to support a team of 17 of Mason Warwick's family and friends running the Brighton half marathon. All proceeds will go towards an anniversary memorial for Mason and to Winston's Wish charity.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/half-marathon-for-mason-warwick?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_l ink&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

RECEPTION/ KS1 CHRISTMAS SHOW

COLLECTIONS – Many thanks for all of your donations. We are pleased to have collected £305.54 for the School Bus Project who support refugee education programmes.

KS2 CHRISTMAS SHOW COLLECTIONS –

Message from St Martin's Church: 'we have now counted the collections taken on both nights and it comes to an absolutely wonderful sum of £515.37. On behalf of Father Trevor and St Martin's Church we would like to thank you and your parents for their great generosity'.

NON SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY - The non school uniform day on 20th December 2019 raised £59.80 for school resources.

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FUTURE NON SCHOOL UNIFORM DAYS –
14th February 2020= £1 to raise money for school resources
3rd April 2020= £1 to raise money for school resources

BEEZEE Families courses in January:

- Middle Street primary school - Mondays 6-8pm
- Hertford Junior school - Tuesday 5-7pm
- West Blatchington primary school - Wednesday 5-7pm

BeeZee Bodies help families make healthy habits. They deliver fun and friendly groups for children aged 5 - 15 years and their families to learn about healthy lifestyles.

To be eligible for this free service one child in the family will be above their ideal weight, but the entire family are invited to attend the group!

BeeZee bodies are experts in behaviour change, and have helped people to lose weight and live a healthier lifestyle – for good. The courses are run by qualified nutritionists, who will work with families to make healthier habits for the long term.

BeeZee Families has been awarded the Royal Society for Public Health Children & Young People's Award in 2019, for their commitment to the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire and Brighton & Hove.

Contact BeeZee bodies for further details:
beezeebodies.com
01273 041397

DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Saturday 8.2.20	PTA Board Games
Friday 14.2.20	Last day of term Non-uniform day PTA Y3 Cake stall
Monday 24.2.20	Children return to school
Friday 3.4.20	Last day of term Non-uniform day PTA Y2 Cake stall
Monday 20.4.20	Children return to school

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

Best wishes,
Louise Willard

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