



Newsletter

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Number 1 – 21st September 2020

NEXT INSET
Monday 4th January 2021



Thank-you so much for all your efforts to drop off and collect your children at their designated time. It is really helping to ensure a safe and smooth start and end to the school day. Thank-you also for observing social distancing whilst waiting.

Despite all the new, hopefully temporary, restrictions we wish to maintain our communication channels with parents and carers. Please email the school office (admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk) if you wish to contact a member of staff. If you put 'for the attention of' and the name of the member of staff you wish to contact in the subject bar, the office team will forward the email to them so they can respond to your query/communication.

Due to the current situation, it is unlikely that many of our usual Autumn term events can take place. However, we will adapt plans wherever possible. We are currently looking into options for a virtual Autumn term parents evening. We will let you know how we plan to hold these important parent/teacher meetings later this week.

We remain in uncertain and unsettled times. The children have responded brilliantly to the challenges of returning to school after such a long time away and have managed to adapt to, and understand, the many necessary changes and expectations of them. It is probably inevitable that there will be times over the coming weeks when some children will have to self-

isolate. Please keep the school informed if this is the case.

Teachers will provide home learning materials for them to work from during their time away from school. Again, more detailed information on this will be sent later this week. The government clearly hopes to keep schools open wherever possible. However, the school is planning for every eventuality.



STUDYBUGS APP TO REPORT ABSENCE – PLEASE SIGN UP

Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>

Available on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play | on the Microsoft Store

Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health
See what illnesses are going around
Secure systems, all communications encrypted

Studybugs

Report absence securely and help improve children's health. Elm Grove introduced a new, more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence last year, called Studybugs. If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.

[Get the app or register now](https://studybugs.com/about/parents)

(<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)

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.

Top 3 reasons to use Studybugs

1. It's integrated with our systems so we know right away if your child is unaccounted for.
2. It's quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted.
3. You'll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations [improve children's health](https://studybugs.com/about/schools).
(<https://studybugs.com/about/schools>)

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
- (One child per class being invited to Hot Chocolate Club with the Headteacher as a result of their outstanding behaviour is currently on hold, but will resume as soon as possible again)
- 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.

YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL INFORMATION –

Y6 parents and carers have received information about secondary school virtual tours and links to applying for a secondary school place. The final date for applications is **31.10.20**

Please see school staff if you require any support with completing the online form or need a paper application printed. They will be happy to help.

The B&H admissions team are continuing to work from home and are not in the office so are encouraging all parents and carers who are able, to apply online through the council's

website: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooladmissions

There are paper forms available for parents who don't have access to the internet which can also be downloaded from the council's website here: <https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/children-and-learning/apply-school/application-form-start-secondary-school-year-7>

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.

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.

SCHOOL PING/WEBSITE/COMMUNICATION – it is very important to let us know if your contact details have changed during lockdown, or 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.

Our school website address is:

<https://www.elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk/>

THANK-YOU FROM MR ROOCROFT – the kindness and generosity of the whole community has made an incredible difference to Mr Roocroft during his awful situation. He is quite over-whelmed by the response and asked me to thank you all. He said the comments alone have helped him get through his recent chemotherapy treatments.

ELM GROVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB – due to a bereavement, please can any communication relating to the club be directed to Liza: monty1969@gmail.com

DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Friday 23.10.20	Last day of half term Non-uniform day
Monday 2.11.20	Children return to school
Friday 18.12.20	Last day of term

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

Best wishes,
Louise Willard
Head teacher

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