



Newsletter

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Number 3 – 19th October 2020

NEXT INSET
Monday 4th January 2021



Thank-you all for your support since our return to school in September. Despite the unprecedented circumstances, the children have coped brilliantly and their resilience has shone through. School finishes at the usual time this Friday, 23rd October and returns on Monday 2nd November. Wishing you all a good half term break.

STAFFING UPDATES –

- Mrs Linda Rickson is leaving her role as midday meal supervisor at Elm Grove after 20 years working at the school. We thank her for her kindness and long service to the children, and the school.
- Following current government guidance, Ms Anna Burfield will work from home during the third trimester of her pregnancy, which starts after half term. Ms Burfield will still be part of the Y1 team, but will also be using her reading specialist experience to develop the teaching of reading across the school. Mrs Rachael Beaumont will cover Ms Burfield's role, commencing after half term. Mrs Beaumont will now work fulltime across both Y1 and Y4 classes.
- Miss Millie Watts is due to return from maternity leave after half term. Miss Watts will initially return to her Lead Inclusion Mentor role on a part time basis, working in school every Thursday and Friday.



SCHOOL DROP OFF – Please can I respectfully remind all adults and children to keep the pavements outside the school as clear and safe as possible for members of the public, as well as other pupils. There have been two incidents recently where pupils from neighbouring schools have been injured or upset as a result of Elm Grove pupils playing on the pavement, or scootering up and down the road. Neither incident was intentional but they did cause a nasty nosebleed and some shock. Unfortunately, the entrance to the top playground is far too narrow for children to be dropped off and collected there safely for the time being. Classes waiting for their turn to go in can line up in single file along the side of the school fence. We are very grateful to families for making sure they arrive at the right time to avoid having to wait outside the school for longer than necessary.

PTA NEWS



The PTA is very happy to announce its first whole school event! They are going ahead with the annual Pumpkin carving competition! Upload a photo of your child's carved pumpkin to their

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class Dojo page – ‘class story’ by the 31st October. A prize for each year group winner and an overall winner to be announce after half term! £1 recommended donation to the school PTA for entry

<https://localgiving.org/appeal/elmgrove-pumpkins/>

The PTA would also like to say a huge thank you to Jed Harris who accumulated a ‘hair raising’ amount of over £1200 for the PTA! He did this by shaving his hair and beard off - luckily he just managed to keep his eyebrows! Thank you to all the parents and carers who made donations!

The PTA is really excited about the coming year and is looking forward to sharing all its event ideas and lots more news with you very soon!

READING BOOK AMNESTY



Please can all families look at their shelves to see if they have any books that belong to the school? We are missing lots, possibly due to the sudden school closure in March. Please return any found books to your child’s current class teacher. Thank-you.

PARENTS EVENINGS – Thank-you to all parents and carers who attended our virtual parents’ evenings last week. The system proved an effective alternative to the usual face-to-face meetings in the current circumstances, with just a few technical issues. The third evening is taking place this Wednesday, October 21st. The appointments will be held via Microsoft Teams, or by phone if preferred.

THANK-YOU – Elm Grove raised an impressive £275.17 for Young Minds mental health charity on 9th October and £297.67 for Just One Tree charity on 16th October.

VIRTUAL PROSPECTIVE PARENT TOURS – Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to welcome prospective parents and carers into the school this year. Instead, we have made a short film to give a flavour of life at Elm Grove. Please share this link if you know any families who have a child due to start primary school in September 2020: <https://www.elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk/news/prospective-parent-information/>

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POLLING STATION MAY 6TH 2021 – In his role as Returning Officer, Geoff Raw, Chief Executive of Brighton & Hove City Council has confirmed to the school that it has been designated as a polling place and will be required for the 2021 Police and Crime Commissioner election.

A full review of polling places was undertaken in 2019 and measures put in place that will allow schools to remain open at elections during normal times. However, with the uncertainty linked to Covid-19 it has been decided to recommend the closure of the school on polling day.

ONLINE SAFETY COURSES FOR PARENTS/ CARERS - On Tuesday 3 November 2020, **Get Safe Online** are

offering three **FREE** webinar sessions aimed at **parents/carers**, titled **Staying Safe Online Children’s Digital World - the good, the bad and the in between**. These can be booked via Eventbrite. The webinars will cover the following:

- Children’s online habits
- The risks and dangers children face online
- How you can support your child and report any concerns.

3 November 10:00-11:00 book via [Eventbrite](#)

3 November 13:00-14:00 book via [Eventbrite](#)

3 November 18.00-19:00 book via [Eventbrite](#)

MESSAGES FROM B&H ALBION - Brighton & Hove Albion FC players are backing moves to try and stop the spread of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) in our city. They have asked schools to share these short, simple video messages from some of their star players:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyVw5r6KFdA>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4ZzAqT1eko>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7WSi6b6XBY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDsO8Los9-k>

HALF TERM CYCLING PROFICIENCY COURSES – see attached flyers.

YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL INFORMATION – Y6 parents and carers have received 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>

AUTUMN TERM 2 TOPICS –

Reception – Knock, Knock, Here I am
Year 1 – Out of this World
Year 2 – Light & Dark
Year 3 – Victorians
Year 4 – Invaders and Settlers
Year 5 – Ice Worlds
Year 6 – Civilisations

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE SCHOOLS 2022-23

Schools have been asked to draw parents' attention to a consultation which will run between 5 October and 27 November 2020.

The consultation proposals can be found on the council's website at <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooladmissionsconsultation>

Published Admission Numbers

Comments are sought on the proposal to reduce the admission number for the following schools by one form of entry:

- Balfour Primary School from 120 to 90 pupils
- Benfield Primary School from 60 to 30 pupils
- Brunswick Primary School from 120 to 90 pupils
- Downs Infant School from 120 to 90 pupils
- Goldstone Primary School from 90 to 60 pupils
- Moulsecoomb Primary School from 60 to 30 pupils
- Stanford Infant School from 90 to 60 pupils
- West Blatchington Primary School from 60 to 30 pupils

In addition, it is proposed to reduce the capacity of **Hove Park School** from 300 to 180 pupils.

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.

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
Wednesday 21.10.20	Parents Evening (MS Teams virtual meetings)
Friday 23.10.20	Last day of half term Non-Uniform Day (for school fund)
Saturday 31.10.20	Final date for secondary applications (Y6 pupils)
Monday 2.11.20	Children return to school
Friday 6.11.20	Harvest Festival – food donations for local food bank/collection points tbc
Thursday 12.11.20	Flu Immunisations (Rec – Y6)
Wednesday 18.11.20	Individual pupil photos
Friday 18.12.20	Last day of term
Thursday 6.5.2021	School closed - Polling Station

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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