



Newsletter

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NEXT INSET
Monday 4th January 2021

LOCKDOWN UPDATE – the new National lockdown measures come into force this Thursday, November 5th. This understandably a concerning development and will further test everyone's resilience and community spirit. Schools are remaining open to all pupils. Elm Grove Primary School will continue to follow government guidance and will communicate any updates via the school website (<https://www.elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk/>) and School Ping. Please contact the school office if you need to sign up to School Ping, or have any issues receiving messages. Safety measures introduced in September will remain in place. These include:

- Staggered class times
- Class pods
- Year group pods – in the playgrounds
- Regular hand washing/hand sanitising
- One-way system for walking around the school
- Y3 – Y6 eat in their classrooms
- Reception – Y2 eat in the school restaurant (but only with their pod)
- Additional cleaning and rubbish clearance during the school day
- Regular cleaning of any shared resources
- Individual pencil cases/resources for each pupil
- Arranging classrooms with forward-facing desks
- Limiting the number of visitors to the school (including parents & carers)
- Limiting movement of school staff around the school/maintaining pod staff teams
- Well ventilated classrooms (***please ensure children wear warm clothes***)

- Timetabled access to playgrounds (***please ensure children have a waterproof coat every day as they will access fresh air/their playground in all weathers unless it is dangerous to do so***)
- Safe spaces to await collection for any pupil presenting with Covid-19 symptoms
- Remote learning for any child self-isolating (***please make sure you have signed your child up to Class DoJo – contact the school office if you are unsure what to do***)

Please keep your child at home if they have any Covid-19 symptoms and follow guidance regarding accessing a test/ self isolation. See the attached flow chart.

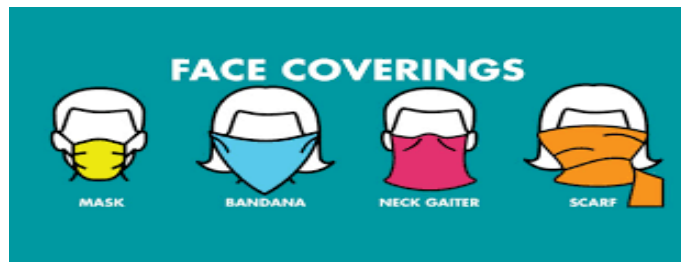


There will now be daily food collections to create food hampers for vulnerable families. This is instead of the planned Harvest Festival. Drop off areas will be created on the main Terrace and in the car park. Please contact Sam Barfoot (sambarfoot@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk) or Louise Willard (louisewillard@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk) if your family would benefit from receiving a hamper. The school is acutely aware that situations are changing all the time for many of you. You do not need to be eligible for free school meals to request support and all communication will be responded to confidentially and sensitively. The school can also help you apply for free school meals if you think you may now be eligible.

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.

The school has already received a number of donations, which it is able to use to support those in need.

Any surplus produce will be donated to local food banks.



With the increase in Covid-19 cases locally and the planned National lockdown, as well as the challenges of social distancing outside the school grounds, we are now asking all parents and carers to wear a face covering when dropping off or collecting their children (unless they are exempt). Thank-you for your support with this new request to help reduce the risk of spreading infection.

THANK-YOU - to the PTA for their generous donation, which has meant the school can purchase much needed reading books, as well as complete the Elm Grove reading spine collection.



PTA HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION – well done to everyone who took part in the PTA's virtual pumpkin carving competition. Winning pumpkins will be announced later this week via Class DoJo ('school shared story') and the school website.

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



DARKER EVENINGS –The clocks have now gone back and common daily activities can be very different experiences in the dark. Visibility is key. Children need to be seen, not just by other motorists and cyclists, but by other pedestrians too. Children are safer if they are visible and high-visibility reflective strips can easily be added on their clothing, school bags or bike helmets.

Older children should be discouraged from having headphones in their ears and should not be concentrating on their phones. Being pre-occupied and distracted will make them more vulnerable. If your child travels on their own, encourage them to take the safest and best-lit routes and to avoid dark shortcuts.

Thank-you to the Co-Op who have donated a 'Stay Safe – Be Seen' reflective badge for every pupil.



WAY AND THE WITCH – Jack Noddings, a local writer has written a children's book called Way And The Witch. It's for 8 - 11 year-olds and is set in Brighton. The main character lives on Elm Grove and goes to Elm Grove Primary School. Much of the action takes place in the school. 30% of the profits from the book are going to the Rockinghorse Charity, which raises money for The Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital in Brighton. The author was a patient of the hospital when he was young and they have been very supportive of the book.

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.

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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.

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 2021: <https://www.elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk/news/prospective-parent-information/>

We will also be holding two virtual Q&A sessions to answer any questions prospective parents and carers might have. These will be held on MS Teams and will each be 1 hour long. The first will be on Wednesday 18th November at 11-12pm. The second will be on Thursday 19th November at 4-5pm.

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](#)

DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Friday 6.11.20	Harvest Festival – cancelled.
Thursday 12.11.20	Flu Immunisations (Rec – Y6)
Wednesday 18.11.20	Individual pupil photos TBC
Wednesday 16.12.20	Christmas Dinner
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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