

Number 7 – 14th December 2020

NEXT INSET
Monday 4th January 2021



Wishing you a peaceful and healthy Christmas break. Thank you all for your ongoing support through such a challenging term. Hopefully 2021 will be a turning point and things will start to get back to some form of normality. We will keep you updated regarding any changes; however, the school will continue with the current timings and plans as it returns on Tuesday January 5th 2021.



For the first 6 days after teaching ends (19th – 24th December), if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, schools have been asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Please contact Louise Willard (louisewillard@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk) if this is the case. She will check her emails daily and notify staff, parents and carers via School Ping should they be required to self-isolate.

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

The Department for Education advised schools on Tuesday of last week that Headteachers could move an INSET day to the last day of the Christmas term so schools could close early for Christmas. However, moving an INSET day at this short notice would cause disruption and difficulties for many parents in terms of childcare. High quality remote staff training cannot just be created in this timeframe; INSET sessions have

already been carefully planned and dates published for some time.

As a result, Elm Grove Primary, like most primary schools locally, will not be moving or changing its INSET plans and school will continue to be open as planned. The last day for children remains Friday 18th December 2020. Thank you as always for your continued support and understanding.

Staffing updates :

We are saying goodbye and thank you to two members of staff at the end of this term.

Ms Rachel Sorenson is leaving her role as Year 4 Teaching Assistant to pursue new adventures. She has been supporting Elm Grove pupils for many years and will be greatly missed.

Ms Alexandra Graham is moving to a post in another local primary school after covering the SENCO role on a maternity leave since March. Ms Graham has made a real impact during her time at the school and we wish her well in her new role.

Welcome to Mr Vitor Brito Costa who commences work as Elm Grove's Site manager on Wednesday 16th December.

Mr Andy Ray will join the Year 4 Cedar team as Teaching Assistant (Mon- Weds)

Mrs Carla Kemp will start her gradual return as SENCO from maternity leave in January.



The children will bring home a 'Now That's What I Call Elm Grove Christmas' DVD this week as a Christmas gift from the school. We hope that you enjoy it as a substitute for our usual festive performances. There will be one copy per family (not per child). We have a number of children who cannot have their image posted online, so we ask that the DVD's are for personal use only and not uploaded onto any form of social media.

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.



Whilst we are currently unable to take children outside of school to participate in conventional, inter-school sports competitions, we have entered a number of 'virtual' competitions this year, and over the past few weeks the children in KS2 have been using some of their PE lessons to complete a number of multi-skills and athletics activities. The results have now been submitted to the event organisers, and we're waiting to hear how we have done compared to the other schools. The way in which the scores were collated also allowed us to include an 'inter-form' element to both competitions, and the winning classes in each year group were as follows:

Athletics: Y3 Chestnut, Y4 Cedar, Y5 Redwood, Y6 Elder.

Multi-skills: Y3 Chestnut, Y4 Cypress, Y5 Rowan, Y6 Elder.

Update: Many congratulations to the children of Horse Chestnut class, who finished in 2nd place in their age group in the multi-skills competition!

Very well done to all involved.



Please can parents and carers of Reception and Year 1 pupils ensure their children do not run between parked cars whilst waiting for the school gates to open in the morning. This is for health & safety reasons, but also to avoid damage to staff cars.

Thank you

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.

MULTICULTURAL SCHOOL BOOK FUND



NON-UNIFORM DAY FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER

– contributions are requested to go towards a multicultural school book fund raiser. This idea started locally in July 2020, and aims to provide 64 primary and secondary schools in Brighton and Hove with a box of books each that feature BAME characters, authors and illustrators.

For further information: <https://gf.me/u/yqfsba>

In October Brighton & Hove Council also contributed to the fund <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/news/2020/council-backs-local-multicultural-book-project-schools>

Elm Grove school will donate all funds raised through the non-uniform day to the fund. The money raised will go towards Elm Grove's own box of books.



ENTER A RAFFLE TO WIN A HANDMADE QUILT

– Jo Carey, Elm Grove parent and member of the staff team, is raffling a handmade quilt. The quilt was made by herself over the course of the last year, with some help at the beginning of the project from some children and parents & carers at the Elm Grove Makers Market, Autumn 2019.

All proceeds from the raffle will be donated to Elm Grove Primary School. The raffle winner will own a truly unique, original item that they may have even helped in making! The quilt would add a cosy hand-crafted feel to a bedroom or make a fantastic one-of-a-kind Christmas present.

The raffle ends on Tuesday, 15th December 2020 at 18:59

Tickets are £2.50 each and can be purchased via the following link:

<https://raffall.com/140795/enter-raffle-to-win-patchwork-quilt-for-pta-hosted-by-jo-carey?fbclid=IwAR2IYyzsuzH6ZvDEX9aRySALgyefRIHEhDAeshT7VCCIKvaIYvBqut6ehiw>

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Christmas Cards & Gifts

A few parents and carers have asked if they are able to bring cards and small gifts into school for staff this week. There is no expectation for you to do so. However, staff can quarantine anything which is brought in to make it covid safe. However, children sharing cards and gifts with each other would cause more quarantine issues that are much more challenging to resolve.



What?

Held in Mind have delivered an adult therapy project, funded by Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Kemp Town, for the past 5 years. There is no charge for the service and it is available to parents and carers of children who attend Elm Grove School, Carlton Hill School and Tarnerland Nursery.

Where and when?

The service runs during school term time from Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Brighton BN2 1RL. We also offer a virtual service during the current Covid19 pandemic.

Who?

We have two highly qualified and experienced adult therapists who offer the service on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Interested?

If you are a parent or carer who wants to find out more about this service or would like to book an initial meeting, please call or text the Project Manager, Ruth Lazarus on 07794889272 .

Parent Consultation Group

Tuesday 15th December 1.30-2.30pm. The Consultation Group meeting will take place on MS Teams (the platform we used for the recent Parents Evenings). Please email Louise Willard if you are interested in attending (louisewillard@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk). The topic of discussion will be home/school communication during COVID and

Remote Learning provision.



Hello Elm Grove Primary!

The 2nd book in the Way And The Witch series, Saving Christmas, will be released in December. It's a wild festive adventure set in Brighton that sees the main characters, Way and Stella (and Gary, the talking seagull), visit the North Pole, the past and the future all in order to save Christmas! I've joined forces with The Flour Pot Bakery for the release of a limited edition bundle of books 1 & 2. Not only is the book 20% off, but you also get one free babycino from any of The Flour Pot Bakery cafes! 30% of profits also go to the Rockinghorse Charity.

It's the perfect Christmas gift for any book loving Brightonian! Go to www.wayandthewitch.com to get your copy!

Happy Christmas!

Jack Noddings (author)

DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Tuesday 15.12.20	Parent Consultation Group
Wednesday 16.12.20	Christmas Dinner
Friday 18.12.20	Non-uniform day – £1 donation request towards multi-cultural books Last day of term
Thursday 6.5.2021	School closed - Polling Station

NEWSLETTER - Large print copies are available at the office

Best wishes,
Louise Willard
Head teacher

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