

Number 8 – 15th March 2021

NEXT INSET
Friday 28th May 2021



Dear families,

Welcome back! I was so happy to see all children back at school last week. These have been such a hard few months. I am certain many parents, like me, have felt a huge weight off their shoulders knowing their children are being educated and cared for in school once again. And spirits are lifted by the stuttering arrival of spring.

I also know how much the children want to get back to normal outside of the school gates, as do we parents. All going well, it won't be long now! But in the meantime, I want to stress how important it is that we adhere to the public health guidance in the attached letter, to play our part in keeping covid cases to a minimum and reducing the risk to our school staff.

Thank you for all you are doing to support the school,
Diana
Chair of Governors

We are so delighted to be fully open to all pupils again and it has been a joy to have the buzz of all of our children playing and learning in the building once more. School staff are working sensitively and thoroughly to support the children's learning and progress after such prolonged disruption.

I want to thank you for adhering to the government stay at home guidance, which remains a key factor in allowing schools/colleges/nurseries to remain open and keep everyone in our school community as safe as possible.

You all play an important role in helping schools to remain open. It is vitally important that you and your family continue to follow Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK as this enables the measures that the school have put in place to be as effective as possible in addressing the challenges presented by coronavirus.

We can all help to control coronavirus if we all stay alert, this means:

- stay at home as much as possible
- limit contact with other people
- keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- wash your hands regularly

Unfortunately, despite recent relaxation of social distancing measures, this still means that some traditional child activities, such as sleepovers should be avoided. I acknowledge that this is really hard for children but is an important part of your role in reducing transmission.

It is also important that people should avoid sharing a private vehicle with members of another household as you will not be able to keep strict social distancing guidelines. Please consider walking, cycling or using your own vehicle if you can and follow Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers if using public transport or a private vehicle.

You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble. If you need to do this, try to:

- share the transport with the same people each time
- keep to small groups of people at any one time
- open windows for ventilation

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.

- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering

If you do need to drive to school, please also ensure you park safely for yourselves and others. A parent reported a near miss last week as she tried to maneuver around a car blocking the curb

Regular symptom-free testing is now available for households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age pupils. Everyone in these groups is recommended to get tested twice a week using rapid LFD tests.

Please go to this council web page for details on how to access the symptom-free testing.
<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-testing> .

This site will be updated regularly.

POLLING STATION – Elm Grove school has been directed to be used as a polling station for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections scheduled for Thursday 6 May 2021. It was initially assumed that due to the uncertainties relating to Covid 19 the whole school site would need to close on that day to allow voting to take place.

However, whilst the school will be closed to the majority of pupils, the DfE has recently stated that schools used as polling stations need to remain open for pupils of critical workers. The school will use its recent records of keyworker pupils who required school provision on Thursdays during the most recent lockdown and will be in touch to see if places are required for May 6th. Numbers will be strictly limited. Places will be prioritised should requests take us over capacity.

LIVABLE STREET PROJECT

Would you like cleaner air where you live? Less traffic? More outdoor seating and green spaces?

Brighton and Hove Council is piloting the city's first low-traffic neighbourhood scheme in Hanover – between Richmond Terrace, Albion Hill, Queen's Park Terrace and Elm Grove – transforming the area into 'Hanover Liveable Neighbourhood'.

Get involved!

<https://hanoverandelmgrove.net/home/liveable-neighbourhoods/>



Desert Oasis Playground Plans

We are currently planning for renovations of the top playground at Elm Grove. The concept for the 1st phase is 'Desert Oasis'- to be complemented at a later date with phase 2- 'Forest Jungle'.

The aim is to create a stage set where children can act out a number of varied themes- or equally just jump and leap around!

The Desert Oasis design is an interpretation of a desert landscape with concentration upon the dominant elements rock, and water, with a nod to the 'allied narratives' of treasure island, riverbed oasis, obstacle course etc.

This project is being largely funded through previous PTA donations.

The worry bears distributed to all the children last week proved very popular. Hopefully they will help any child who is finding the return to school or the current situation challenging. Thank you to the Inclusion Team for facilitating this initiative. Please find their email address below if you need to contact them at all (please note the capital I & T in the address):

InclusionTeam@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk

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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.

Also, every child needs to bring an individual labelled water bottle (no squash!) to school. They are still unable to bring other personal belongings, toys etc,.due to the ongoing COVID restrictions. This includes the worry bears distributed by the Inclusion team.

Coronavirus Roadmap to Recovery

Step 1- March 8th

Schools open, after school sports, two people allowed to sit together outdoors, care home residents allowed 1 visitor.

Step 1- March 29th

6 people or 2 households allowed to meet outdoors, outdoor sports facilities open, travel outside local area.

Step 2- April 12th

Non-essential retail and personal care open, outdoor hospitality open, Indoor gyms and swimming open, self-contained holiday accommodation allowed.

Step 3- May 17th

Outdoors most social contact rules lifted, 6 people or 2 households meeting indoors, indoor hospitality open, hotels open.

Step 4- June 21st

All legal limits on social contact removed.

(All dates are dependent on R rates, hospital admissions and vaccination roll out).



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

DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Thursday 1.4.2021	Last day of term
Friday 2.4.2021	Good Friday (bank holiday)
Monday 19.4.2021	Back to school
Thursday 6.5.2021	School closed - Polling Station

NEWSLETTER - Large print copies are available at the office

Best wishes,

Head teacher

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