

Number 9 – 29th March 2021

**SCHOOL CLOSED FOR
POLLING Thurs 6th May
NEXT INSET
Friday 28th May 2021**



Wishing you all a peaceful and relaxing Easter break. Elm Grove breaks up at the usual time on Thursday 1st April and returns on Monday 19th April. Current systems and timings will remain in place until the government roadmap easing restrictions advises otherwise. Hopefully all will continue to move in the right direction; we will keep you informed of any school changes.

Please note there will be a non uniform day on the last day of term (Thursday 31st March)

Track and trace over the Easter break at Elm Grove.

The following advice has been sent to schools by the Department of Education to share with parents and staff about reporting positive test results over the Easter break. Please read it all carefully.

- 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.** Please follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. So, if your child is symptomatic from Sunday 4th April and then tests positive, you DO NOT need to notify the school until we return for the Summer term.
- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school must assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation. So, if your child is symptomatic on Friday

2nd April or Saturday 3rd April, and you get them tested, and they have a positive result, you MUST notify the school by emailing louisewillard@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk

- **The phone lines will not be manned during the holidays**, so any contact you need to make with me regarding the above, must be done via email. I will check my emails twice daily and be in touch with families as needed.
- If your child tests positive after 7th April, you can update us when we return to school

Staffing update;

Millie Watts is leaving Elm Grove at the end of term to start a new life in Dorset with her family. We will really miss her but thank her for her contribution to the school, pupils and families during her time at Elm Grove and wish her every success in her new adventure.

Plans for continuing the great work with the Nest and Inclusion Team will be shared in the newsletter after the holidays. Please see a personal message from Millie below – *Dear families,*

It has been an absolute privilege and honour to work with you all and your wonderful children over the last 5 years. When I arrived at Elm Grove in 2016 I instantly felt at home and could feel that inclusion, integrity, collaboration and nurturing relationships were at the heart of the school ethos. I hope that over the years, and through setting up The Nest, that I have helped to further this vision of supporting families and empowering children. I haven't been able to see many of you in recent months, due to covid restrictions, but please know that all the staff at the school are doing all they can for the children, and care so much about each and every one of them.

*Wishing you all the best,
Millie Watts*

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.

Virtual Play- Brighton-based children's theatre company Freckle Productions are delighted to announce that their popular stage adaptation of Stick Man, based on the book by Julia Donaldson with illustrations by Axel Scheffler, will be available for Brighton & Hove school pupils to stream for free from Tuesday 30 March – Wednesday 7 April 2021.

Filmed at the production's final live performance at the Rose Theatre Kingston in December 2020, this made-for-TV version of the show was initially created for families to view at home over Christmas. However, with the extraordinarily tough start to the year, Freckle are keen to give something back to their hugely supportive audiences in Brighton, and hope that Stick Man will be an hour of fun for families this Easter.

To access the stream, please click the following link and enter the password when prompted:
<https://vimeo.com/freckleproductions/stickman-brighton>

Password: Fam1lyTr33

Available to watch all day, and as many times as you like, from 30 March – 7 April 2021.

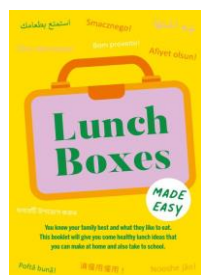
Please note: *this video has been approved for distribution for the families of pupils in Brighton and Hove only. Please do not share this link to any*

NEW Uniform Swap

In a bid to become more environmentally friendly The Nest have recently met with the PTA and, as a result, would like to set up a uniform/coat library, whereby good quality used uniform can be exchanged and passed on.

If you have any uniform/coats you wish to donate, please could you put into the boxes out front of the school/car park at drop off/pick up.

Click on either book below for easy, healthy and budget friendly meal guides!



STUDYBUGS

We would like to encourage all families, who have not already, to sign up and engage with the StudyBugs application.

Studybugs is an app that tracks what bugs are going around and allows parents to quickly and easily report student absence. You can report an absence via your phone or computer in just seconds. You will NOT need to call in to report pupil absence.

Hanover Livable Street Project

Brighton and Hove City 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. This is a wonderful opportunity to optimise our outdoor space, increase opportunities for active travel and create safer, calmer streets for everyone.

Everyone in the area is invited to share their own ideas of how to improve our streets. Children are also invited to create a 'dream street' poster to show what changes they would like to see!

More information about this liveable street project can be found here:

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

Grove PTA Smarties Challenge!

Did you know that a smarties tube holds exactly £10 in 20p's!

Will you accept the challenge of filling one up and sending it into us at the end of summer term! This will help raise vital funds for the PTA!

Also this week your child should be coming home with a 'CHANGE FOR CHANGE' sticker which your child can colour in and can fix on any change collecting vessel. A jar, a dish, pot, a tub, absolutely anything! You could even make one for your grandparents/neighbours/friends so they can start collecting for Elm Grove too!

Many thanks!
The PTA

Note: We are aware many children suffer from eczema and dry skin and so we have switched to a new more moisturising hand soap. We are currently still looking for a more moisturising sanitiser.

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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'

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.

COVID TESTING- Families and households can access home test kits for adults.

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>

School staff will continue to carry out lateral flow tests throughout the holidays and prior to returning to school.

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.

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 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).

DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Thursday 1.4.2021	Last day of term - Non uniform day
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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