

Number 10 – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**SCHOOL CLOSED FOR  
POLLING Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> May  
NEXT INSET  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**



**WELCOME BACK** to the Summer Term at Elm Grove Primary. We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. It feels very hopeful that society is gradually opening up again and data continues to suggest everything is moving in the right direction. However, we need to remain cautious and our existing systems and timings will stay in place until the government roadmap easing restrictions advises otherwise. We will keep you informed of any school changes.

Teachers assessed the children's learning on their return to school after the first lockdown in September and then again on their return to school in March. Outcomes showed that the children would benefit from whole school focused work on both handwriting and spelling. As a result the school has researched two new initiatives: Kinetic letters handwriting and Sounds Write Phonics. Staff training was disrupted due to the second lockdown but will resume again this term, ready for the programmes to be introduced later this term or in September.

Teachers have also used outcomes from their assessments to help plan the curriculum content for the rest of the academic year. Brighton & Hove Local Authority supplied newly designed planning tools which have proved very useful, whilst offering a consistent approach to essential curriculum coverage to prepare children for the next school year. Teachers will continue to review

and adapt their lessons to meet the children's needs.

You will have an opportunity to meet with class teachers to discuss your child's progress at a virtual Parents Evening in May.



### Virtual Children's Parade (Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May)

The spectacular Children's Parade traditionally marks the opening day of Brighton Festival. This year on Saturday 1st May, 10.30am, there will be an online fanfare and, although there will be no Parade in the city, families or groups are being encouraged to celebrate locally in a way that is safe - whether this is in the garden or at home. Though we cannot gather, we can still have a beautiful and fun celebration of creativity in a safe and inclusive way and everyone can get involved!

Community arts charity Same Sky (who has produced the much-loved event for over 30 years) are offering alternative activities so that young people and community groups can make their own flags and artwork, and even learn a dance routine to the specially commissioned Children's Parade music, to honour the spirit of the event.

They would love for as many people as possible to get involved from home. You can send them photos and videos of your Children's Parade celebration tagging @sameskybtn @brightfest #childrensparade2021

Please see Same Sky's website for more details <https://samesky.co.uk/events/childrens-parade/>

**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 Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and this commitment is reflected in all relevant policies and practice.**

**PARENTS EVENINGS** – a separate Ping message is being sent out soon inviting parents and carers to book a parents evening appointment on either 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> May. The appointments will be to discuss children's progress and learning and will be held virtually again via Microsoft Teams, or by phone if preferred.

**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.

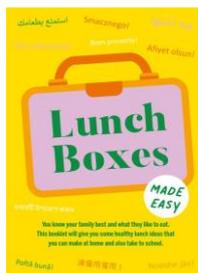
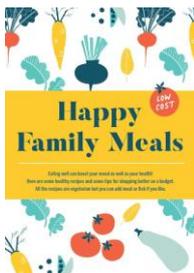
However, whilst the school will be closed to the majority of pupils, the DfE has recently stated that schools used as polling stations need to remain open for pupils of critical workers. The school will use its recent records of keyworker pupils who required school provision on Thursdays during the most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

### 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.

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



**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.

**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.

### Coronavirus Roadmap to Recovery

#### Step 3- May 17<sup>th</sup>

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

#### Step 4- June 21<sup>st</sup>

All legal limits on social contact removed.

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

### 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/>

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## DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Saturday 1.5.21	Virtual Children's Parade
Thursday 6.5.21	School closed - Polling Station
Tuesday 11.5.21	Class photos
Wednesday 19.5.21	Parents evening (virtual)
Wednesday 26.5.21	Parents evening (virtual)
Thursday 27.5.21	Parents evening (virtual)
Friday 28.5.2021	Inset Day Last day of half term
Monday 7.6.21	Children return to school

## NEWSLETTER - Large print copies are available at the office

Best wishes,



Head teacher