

Number 12 – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**NEXT INSET**  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

## COVID-19: Roadmap to Reopening



### 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).*

***This next phase of easing restrictions is certainly a positive step in the right direction. However, please note, that the DfE's updated guidance for primary schools advises maintaining all current COVID procedures. As a result, Elm Grove will still operate within these guidelines, including: the year group pods, staggered start and end times, all adults wearing masks apart from in their classrooms or personal work space and regular handwashing. Thank you for your ongoing support with this. You will be informed as soon as there are any changes to the guidance and our practice.***

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS EVENING**

Teachers are looking forward to meeting parents and carers at the planned virtual Parents Evenings over the next fortnight. Please call the school office if you wish to speak with your child's class teacher but haven't yet got an appointment arranged.

Each meeting will last for 10 minutes. It is important that teachers can stick strictly to this so the MS Teams timings can work for everyone. The focus of this terms meeting is on the children's learning and progress, especially since schools fully opened on March 8th. This will include updates on the children's attitude to learning.

There has been a temporary national shift in terms of planning for and assessing children's learning this year due to lockdown. The criteria put forward by the DfE and the LA can't really compare to our usual curriculum and system of assessment. However, following government advice, we will hopefully return to our usual systems next academic year. So in line with the government's amended expectations, and following advice from the LA, we've adjusted our curriculum and assessments accordingly. The government and LA have provided each year group with 'essential' and 'desirable' learning for this year. Children will either be working towards or achieving this criteria. This is how we will be discussing your child's achievements and progress at this meeting. Previously, children's assessments were reported to parents in terms of whether they were working towards, achieving or exceeding 'age related' expectations. Currently, most children are behind these age related expectations, but this is to be expected because the children have missed so much school in the past year because of Covid 19.

### **So what are we doing about this in terms of addressing any gaps in the children's learning in order to ensure that they make good progress?**

Currently staff are training in whole school approaches to learning and these approaches will be implemented in September (they are currently delayed because of Covid 19 restrictions). These include a new phonics scheme called 'Soundwrite', a new handwriting scheme called 'Kinetic letters' and new materials to support children's learning of important number facts, including 'Numbersense'. Focussing on these really important key skills in English and Maths will help the children to catch up, and ensure that they make good progress in English and Maths.

We decided to implement these approaches in light of our very thorough assessments of the children, and in light of the fact that these are very high quality, evidence based approaches to learning, that many other schools are adopting

**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.**

### Parent Consultation Group-

We are looking for interested parents and carers to join our next virtual Parent Consultation group to discuss ways to develop our communication platforms and positively promote the school in the local community.

Please email Louise Willard

([louisewillard@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:louisewillard@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk)) if you are interested in sharing your ideas and views on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 1pm**



The school plans to plant a special tree in memory of our previous Site Manager, James Roocroft, who sadly lost his short battle with cancer in January 2021.

Please send any donations into school in a sealed envelope if you wish to contribute.

Elm Grove was a very important part of James' life and it feels fitting to create a lasting tribute to him in the school grounds.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM** – All children are expected to wear Elm Grove uniform colours of green, white and grey – in any combination. (NB this can include jogging bottoms and hoodies). No items with logos please, apart from the optional Elm Grove logo. We have made the decision to say grey, not black tights/leggings. We also ask that the children wear sensible, school appropriate shoes.

<https://www.elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk/information/school-uniform/>

**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.



The Big Ask is a survey for children and young people aged 4–17 in England and their parents. This is a national survey for young people that has been created by The Children's Commissioner for England.

Children have a chance to have their say on the things that matter to them. They can tell the survey what their life is like, what they want in the future, and anything they think is holding them back.

What children say will be used to tell the people who run the country or the local area what children think needs to change to make their life better.

Complete the survey here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>



### PTA NEWS

Thank you to everyone that has contributed for our Change for Change campaign! We are busy counting all the money we have received so far but please keep collecting for as long as you like and just hand it in when you can!

We are holding a sponsored Fun Run over the half term! This is for you and your family to take park when you can. You will soon receive a sponsor form and full details via your child/ren.

Thank you

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## 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.

**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.



In preparation to re-open our OPAL sheds (when it is deemed safe to do so) we need to replenish the selection of 'loose parts' in them. We are looking forward to once again seeing the children creating camps, inventing a range of imaginative games and having lots of fun with the resources found in the sheds. However, stocks are very low due to the sheds being shut for such an extended period.

Please see the list of suggested items we are looking for:

**Planks**

**Ropes**

**Pots, Pans & utensils**

**Logs**

**Old curtains**

**Quilt covers**

**Blankets**

**Guttering**

**Pipes**

**Poles**

**Cushions**

**Unwanted toys and games**

**Dressing up clothes**

**Suitcases**

**Chalks**

All donations will be gratefully received. Please deposit them in the containers labelled 'loose parts' at the rear of the car park. Many thanks. Please see the [OPAL leaflet](#) to find out more about the initiative if you are new to the school.

## DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Wednesday 19.5.21	Parents evening (virtual)
Wednesday 26.5.21	Parents evening (virtual)
Thursday 27.5.21	Parents evening (virtual) Last day of half term for children
Friday 28.5.2021	School closed - Inset Day
Monday 7.6.21	Children return to school

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

Best wishes,

Head teacher

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