

Number 11 – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

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



The children in Year 3 Holly class enjoyed making flags and parading in the playground last Friday, taking part in Same Skys Virtual Children's Parade. Hopefully the annual Children's Parade, marching through Brighton, will be back properly by next May.



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 starting from **MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MAY**. Many thanks. Please see the [OPAL leaflet](#) to find out more about the initiative if you are new to the school.



Children across the school are benefiting from new multicultural books in their book corners. The books were donated to the school through a multicultural school book fund raiser. The fundraiser was set up locally last year to provide 64 primary and secondary schools in Brighton and Hove a box of books each that feature BAME characters, authors and illustrators.

**PARENTS EVENINGS** – a separate Ping message has been sent out 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. They will be held virtually again via Microsoft Teams, or by phone if preferred. Parents and carers who have booked an appointment should receive their Teams invite on Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

Unfortunately a pump in one of the school boilers has broken down. The school is in the process of getting it fixed, but until it is we suggest the children wear extra layers to keep warm on colder days. The hot water has not been affected at all.

Classrooms at the back of the school building do not get the benefit of warmth from any sunshine during the day so can feel chilly, especially as windows currently need to remain open to ensure there is plenty of ventilation.

**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 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.



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/>

#### **Parent Consultation Group-**

We are looking for interested parents and carers to join our next Parent Consultation group to discuss ways to 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.

Time and date to be confirmed (May/June)

## 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.

## 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).*

## DIARY DATES

Date	Event
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) 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