

Number 16 – 19th July 2021

NEXT INSET
Friday 23rd July



End of term – as the 2020-21 school year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy summer break. I would like to sincerely thank staff, governors, PTA, parents/carers and pupils for their incredible efforts and support during such exceptional times over the past year and a half. I feel incredibly proud of Elm Grove's response throughout the pandemic; this would not have been possible without the whole community pulling together in the way that it did (and is still doing). I do want to give the staff team a special mention as they have gone above and beyond throughout. Thank you.

Good luck and best wishes to our Year 6 leavers, as well as other staff and families who are moving on to pastures new. Year 6 have done brilliantly despite so many events being cancelled and altered. They will still be able to enjoy some revised leavers events this week though – thank you to the PTA for funding the 'Silent Disco' for them.

Given Brighton and Hove is currently an Enhanced Response Area and has some of the highest Covid rates in the south east, **B&H council has advised schools to continue with their contact tracing for the remainder of the term.** This means year group pods would need to close, and staff and pupils still isolate, should there be a confirmed positive Covid case. We are keeping everything crossed that everyone will remain Covid free and this won't be necessary.

We are planning for a return to pre-pandemic systems and timings once the school re-opens in September. This includes an end to the staggered

start and end times. We therefore look forward to children returning between 8.50-9.00am on Monday 6th September (registers will be taken promptly at 9am). KS1 pupils will finish at 3.10pm and KS2 pupils at 3.15pm. Parents and carers of Reception and Year 1 pupils will drop off and collect their children at the Rec/Y1 entrance via the car park. Year 2 – Year 6 parents and carers can drop their children at the main gate to walk directly to their classes and then collect them from the main playground at the end of the school day.



LUNCH MENU CHANGES

On Thursday 22nd there will be a change of menu to the usual Friday options instead. The menu choice will now be fish fingers & chips or a mexican bean roll and chips.

Also, due to food waste we will no longer be serving gammon as an option on week 3 Wednesday's. We will instead be serving Turkey as the meat option.

Lost Property will be displayed on tables in the school car park at the start and end of each day between Tuesday 20th July and Thursday 22nd July. Please come and look to see if you can find any of your child's missing items.

You can purchase new school uniform via an option on ParentPay. The Inclusion Team have also established a uniform recycling scheme. Please contact them for further information: InclusionTeam@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch

We are supporting Safety Net in their project to support young people who are finding the transition to secondary school challenging. Please contact Jen.Tulloch@safety-net.org.uk for further information and referral paperwork. The sessions will be held at BACA and PACA.

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.

ANTI-RACISM - At Elm Grove we always try very hard to promote kind and considerate behaviour between all stakeholders.

The school is currently working on a number of projects, including some linked to recent Local Authority Racial Literacy training for staff. These include:

- A whole school anti-racism audit
- Facilitated focus groups for BAME parents and staff
- Piloting of history lessons about three kings from Botswana who visited Elm Grove Primary School, in collaboration with the black history project group
- Diversifying and decolonising the curriculum
- Increased provision of diverse books in class book corners (previous fund-raiser from non-school uniform day and link to local initiative 2020-21)
- Anti-racism and celebration of diversity school assemblies
- Full Governing Body discussion
- Class PSHE lessons and discussions
- Facilitated restorative conversations

Parents and carers have been invited to an online consultation meeting on the theme of anti-racism. This is taking place on Tuesday 20th July, 12.30-1.15pm with the Headteacher and Governors in attendance. We feel it is important to reach out to the school community to seek your ideas and feedback about the following areas:

- Racial literacy for children and pupils: How should we best equip children with the knowledge and confidence to understand racism, and feel safe and supported to challenge it? What else could we do to help parents and carers to support and educate their children about racism?
- Dealing with incidents and issues raised: How should we best respond to racist or prejudice-based incidents?

We feel it is important to hold an initial conversation now before the end of term. Furthermore, we will be following up with further parent consultations in the Autumn term. This work is part of a longer-term strategy and action plan.

Please park carefully when dropping children off at school, and DO NOT move any safety cones.

COVID TESTING

Families and households can access home test kits for adults. Follow the link to find out more:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-testing> .



ALLERGEN UPDATE

Please contact the school office (admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk) if your child develops a new allergy/ intolerance, or any details the school needs to be aware of change.

BOOK AMNESTY – the school is missing quite a few of its home school reading books. We would really appreciate families looking for any school books at home and returning them to school staff or the office. Many thanks.



Please see below for the symptoms and procedure should you/ your child have COVID-19.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
 - a new, continuous cough- this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
 - a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- Headaches and upset tummy can also be a symptom
- What to do if your child has symptoms if your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19:
- Get a **PCR** test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible
 - You, your child and anyone else you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get the test result
 - only leave your home to have the test.

Anyone in your childcare or support bubble should also stay at home if your child has been in close contact with them since their symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started

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SUN SAFETY!

Now that the summer months are finally upon us it is important that all of our pupils stay safe when outside at break and lunchtimes. We know that staying safe in the sun is important for both our long term and short term health and that children can be especially sensitive to sun burning. On these hot and sunny days please ensure that your child/ren come into school wearing sun cream (SPF30 and above is recommended) and wearing appropriate clothing. Children are able to wear sun hats outside (not in class) and can bring in named sunscreen to apply in school. And don't forget a water bottle!

AND a coat if it is raining!

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.

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.

<https://studybugs.com/>

DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Thursday 22.7.21	Last day of year for pupils/non-uniform day
Friday 23.7.21	INSET (staff only)
Thursday 2.9.21	INSET (staff only)
Friday 3.9.21	INSET (staff only)
Monday 6.9.21	Pupils return to school

NEWSLETTER - Large print copies are available at the office

Best wishes for a lovely summer break,

Head teacher