

Number 15 – 5th July 2021

NEXT INSET
Friday 23rd July



There has been an increase in positive COVID cases in local schools recently and I would like to thank you for your continued support maintaining our COVID measures. Thank you in particular to parents, carers and staff in Year 1 during the recent pod closure – we're all looking forward to seeing the children back at school tomorrow (Tuesday July 6th). We really hope everyone remains infection free and we can make it to the end of term without needing to close any other year group pods.

2021-22 STAFF LIST & TRANSITION

Please find the 2021-2022 staffing structure attached. A School Ping message will be sent later today notifying parents and carers of their child's new class, teachers and teaching assistants for the next academic year. Children currently in Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 will move to new groupings from September. Year 2 and Year 5 will stay in the same class groups. More year groups are being re-shuffled this year as it wasn't appropriate to do the usual shuffles last July during the lockdown. School staff have thought extremely carefully about the new classes in order to create balanced learning groups, whilst also considering friendships.

The school is looking at creative transition opportunities to help prepare the children for September. COVID restrictions will prevent the usual 'meet the teacher' session, but teachers and teaching assistants will make a short video for the children to watch instead. Every child will also receive a transition leaflet with information about their new class.

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



VIRTUAL KS1 ATHLETICS COMPETITION

Our Y1 and Y2 children entered a virtual KS1 agility athletics competition earlier this term. The children competed as teams of 8-12, and we entered 12 teams in total. Across the city there were 49 teams altogether, and all of our 12 teams managed to finish in the top 16 places! A special mention should go to the 3 teams from Baobab, Bonsai and Beech who finished in 1st, 2nd and 4th places respectively. We're sure that the children will be excited to see another trophy added to the cabinet before the end of term.

MDSA Vacancies

We have vacancies for two Midday Supervisors to join our lunchtime supervision team from September 2021, working 7.5 hours per week, Monday to Friday, term time only.

The successful candidate will have a calm and positive manner with children and will assist in promoting positive behaviour through a number of school initiatives.

Elm Grove is a thriving primary school with a dedicated and professional staff. We have an excellent reputation for our inclusive practices and are proud of the positive ethos and good relationships that exist in our school. The successful candidates would be expected to make strong contributions towards this important aspect of the school's community. Further information and an application pack can be obtained from the School Office or by e-mail

valerie.gates@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 14 July 2021

Interview date: Wednesday 21 July 2021

STAFFING UPDATE

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to three members of staff this summer:

Mr McLaren is going to train to become a Speech and Language Therapist based in part due to the experiences he has had with his own voice. We wish him every success, but hopefully he will be doing supply work at Elm Grove whenever possible

- Mrs Cornforth is taking a year long career break to re-venture back into the casting industry. We will look forward to her returning to Elm Grove in September 2022
- Kiran Harkin is leaving his role as MDSA to explore new ventures. We wish him every success for the future

We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Souttar back to teach in Reception after her maternity leave, and Mrs Rees to Year 4 after her recent career break.



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.

Parent/Carer WhatsApp Groups

Did you know that every year group at Elm Grove has a parent WhatsApp group? This is a parent run group chat (not run by or including school staff) that is used by many parents to communicate information about social events. It is a chance to get to know the other parents in your child's class and be involved in activities run by the PTA and other parents. Each year group has its own group which is created by a member of the PTA with a child in that year. Each of these PTA year group reps are there ensure that all families are welcomed onto the groups.

If you would like to join your child/ren's group chat you can email admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk with your mobile number and we will pass this along to your child/ren's year group rep.



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



Last chance to enter the kids' PTA prize draw!

The kids' summer prize draw closes at 7pm on Wednesday 7th July. Visit <https://www.elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk/prize-draw/> to see the fantastic prizes, claim your child's free ticket, and make a donation if you can. Revisit the same page from 6.30pm on Friday 9th July to watch the draw. Good luck!

Elm Grove PTA Committee
email: elmgrovepta0@gmail.com

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> .



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 suncream 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
Friday 16.7.21	Reports to parents
Thursday 22.7.21	Last day of year for pupils/non-uniform day
Monday 6.9.2021	Pupils return to school

NEWSLETTER - Large print copies are available at the office

Best wishes,

Head teacher