



Newsletter

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Number 4 – 21st October 2022

Next INSET
Tuesday 3rd January



HAPPY HALF TERM EVERYBODY!

Firstly, we would like to thank Mrs Ringrose, from the office, for her work and wish her well as she will be leaving Elm Grove today to go full time at her other job.

Another big thank you for all of your generous donations towards our Harvest festival on Thursday. Also, to those who were able to, for coming in to support your children at their assembly performances. With your donations we have completely filled the PTA's pantry with more left over to go in. The pantry will be open starting from the 31st October. It is located next to the bike sheds.



Pumpkins at the ready – it's our **annual PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION** on Monday 31st October – Halloween! This is the first day back after half term. Please can all children bring their carved pumpkins on Monday morning drop off to the top playground. Suggested donation £1/pumpkin. Mrs Willard will judge the pumpkins with a prize for every year group and an overall top prize given out at the end of the day. Pumpkins can then all be taken home to be lit for Halloween J Also this year for the creative grown-ups out there, we will be holding our first **GROWN UP CARVING COMPETITION** -

£5 entry with the winning pumpkin rewarded with a bottle of champagne!

It may only be October but the PTA are beginning to make plans for our **WINTER MAKERS MARKET & FAIR** to be held on Saturday 10th December.

If you are a maker and would like to reserve a table please email Becky on elmgrovepta0@gmail.com. Do you have your own small business, something you do on the side, or is your child a whiz at making something special? All are welcome. We will also have our incredible Santa's Grotto, games



Parents
Evening

Parents Evening Update

The autumn term parents evening appointments will be taking place on Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th of November. The parents evening appointments will run from 3.50pm to 6.20pm with appointments lasting 10minutes. This parents evening will be held in person not on MS Teams. Appointments are now available to book via SchoolPing.

You may already be aware of problems with the parents evening booking system. The only way for us to rectify this was to remove the current bookings and create new forms. The new schedule of bookings will be sent out shortly via SchoolPing. If you have already booked an appointment this will no longer be valid, please rebook.

We apologise sincerely for any inconvenience this has caused.

If you cannot access SchoolPing you can book an appointment via email or phone call to the school office:01273 708004

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Swimming After ½ Term

Swimming is part of a curriculum requirement and is offered to all of KS2 (Years 3-6). Each class has 3 half terms per year of weekly swimming lessons. These sessions enable the majority of children who attend Elm Grove to learn to swim confidently and know how to be safe in and around water. After the October half term **Holly, Cedar, Redwood and Elder** class be swimming.

As the school is charged for the hire of local swimming facilities, we ask for a contribution for each child attending a swimming session in years 3, 4, 5 & 6. Currently the contribution is £1.50 per child per session (£9 for the ½ term). All contributions are made via ParentPay. The payment item is now set up ready for Holly, Cedar, Redwood and Elder pupils to make their contribution.



Sports Update

We took some Y5/6 children to a tag rugby festival at Hove Rugby Club recently. Most were beginners to the game and they showed fantastic determination and application, picking up the main ideas really quickly and working together superbly. They looked a completely different team by the end of the afternoon! Really well done to: Sydney, Willow, Indi, Shahin, Oisin (Y5); Olivia S, Anya, Georgia, Sonny, Billy S, Mason (Y6). As we have a number of strong table-tennis players currently at our school, we were invited to enter a team into the Brighton Schools' championships recently. The standard was impressively high, but despite losing 4 matches and drawing 1, many of the games were actually very closely contested. Very well done to Ben (Oak); Duggie, Danny (Elder); Sylvie (Cedar).

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.



Secondary School Applications

The closing date for Year 6 applications to transfer to secondary school in September 2023 is the **31st October 2022**.

Guidance on the application process is available on the council website here: [School application guides](#)

Online applications are open on the council website here: [Apply for a school place](#)

We recommend that parents apply online as this means they will receive an automatic confirmation of their application. It also means they will receive an offer from us by email on 1st March 2023. If parents are unable to apply online they can apply by downloading an application form using this link: [Download school application forms](#) . Please contact the school office if you need any support with this.

Email offers in response to online applications will be made after noon on 1st March 2023. Offer *letters* in response to paper applications will be posted first class on 1st March 2023 which means they will not be received until after 1st March. **No decisions will be given by telephone.**



Let your friends and neighbours know that if their child is going starting school in September 2023 they can visit Elm Grove for a school tour. See the available dates on our school website and the diary below.

For more information on applying for a Primary school place please go to: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/children-and-learning/brighton-hove-schools/starting-infant-junior-or-primary-school>

The deadline to apply to start primary school in September 2023 is 15th January 2023.

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

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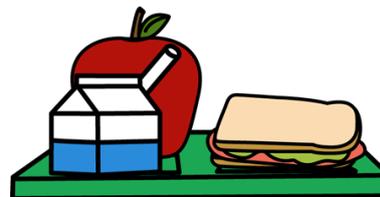
Be Bright Be Seen

Sustrans 'Bike It Lucy' will be in assembly on **Wednesday 2nd November** to talk about being bright and being seen during the autumn and winter months. She's inviting all children to Bling Up their bikes, scooters, coats or shoes and bring them in on the day. We will be having parades around the playground to celebrate being seen. Ideas for decorating bikes, scooters, coats and shoes can include tinfoil, tinsel, cardboard, pipe cleaners or anything you have lying around the house. Be creative and get colouring anything that's not bright enough and don't forget to send your child in with a bike helmet if you bring a bike in (Lucy will have a couple of spares on the day). Any questions please contact Lucy 07768 424363 / lucy.dance@sustrans.org.uk

- To connect learning to the world outside school
- To get ready for secondary school and life-long learning

Supporting your child's learning at home can help their development and be a really positive addition to their school education. Getting into a routine and speaking positively about school and education can help support your child's learning at home.

Look out for the next homework grid on **Friday 4th November**



Pre-order School Dinners with ParentPay

We have now set up a pre-booking system through ParentPay in which you can book your child's school dinner at home up to 10 weeks in advance. This will help the school minimise food waste, minimise pupil's choosing the wrong choice or forgetting to choose at all and reduces administrative burden on the school staff.

Find out how to use the pre-booking system

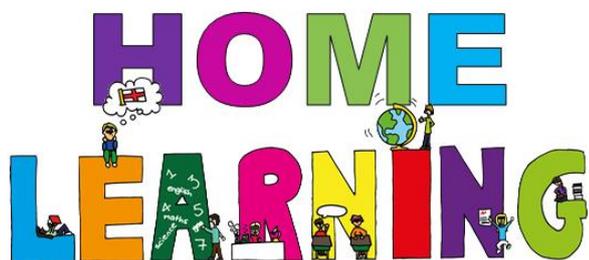
here: <https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/4410744979473-How-to-make-meal-or-event-bookings#how-to-make-meal-or-event-bookings-0-0>

Video instructions: <https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/6265244826257--VIDEO-How-to-book-a-meal>

Pupil's will still be able to choose their dinners in class in the morning if they wish. But we do recommend this pre booking system especially for Reception and KS1 pupils.

Please note: If you have pre-booked a dinner and your child is then absent from school it is the parent/carers responsibility to cancel the booking or you will still be charged.

If you are booking a school dinner in the morning each day it must be done before 9.30am.



Helping your child's learning at home

Homework is an aspect of school-life that is often controversial. Some parents and carers think that children should be doing a lot of it; others believe that there is no place for it at all.

At Elm Grove we believe that homework is important:

- To connect parents and carers to their child's learning
- To consolidate learning and support the learning at school
- To give children a chance to try out and share their new learning at home
- To gain fluency by repetition

(continued...)

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.

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OUTDOOR PLAY

We are looking to replenish the selection of 'loose parts' for OPAL play. 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. 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.



BLOSSOM GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

alternate Saturdays
10.30am-12pm



Blossom Garden volunteers

It's time to restart our Blossom Garden parent/carer volunteer sessions.

We'd love to welcome some new faces this term, as some of our group were Y6 parents who have now left. If you like the idea of contributing something to the school, having a decent work out in the fresh air in sociable company, join us! Sessions are alternate Saturdays, 10.30am-12pm, drop in for as much or as little time as you have, no obligation to come every time. All equipment provided but helpful to bring your own gardening gloves if you have them. If you'd like a reminder just before each session, text Emma on 07737 926 442 and she'll add you to the WhatsApp group (only fortnightly messages to confirm numbers).

OCTOBER DATES

24th (first day of half term)

NOVEMBER DATES

5th and 19th

DECEMBER DATES

3rd

We hope to see you there on a Saturday soon!

NEWSLETTER - Large print copies are available at the office

Head teacher



GOLDEN BOOK MERITS



Beech	Hector, Ariella & Ed
Birch	Efi, Agnes S & Arlo
Baobab	Simran, Talula & Ava-Rose
Bonsai	Eleanor, Mya & Betty
Holly	Ella, Anika & Casper
Horse Chestnut	Evelyn, Stanley & Louis
Cedar	Noah, Cicely & Diggory
Cypress	Rudi, Niko & Romy
Redwood	Jacob, Javi, Sam & Toula
Rowan	Joseph, Jayden, Oisin, Elka & Poppy
Elder	Valentina, Verity & Monte
Oak	Maiwenn, Siyar & Edward

DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Friday 21 st October	Last day of half term PTA Y6 cake sale
Monday 31 st October	Children return to school PTA Pumpkin carving competition
Wednesday 2 nd Nov	Bling Up Your Bike Day
Thursday 3 rd November	Prospective parent tour
Friday 4 th November	PTA Discos Reception and Y3 & 4
Tuesday 8 th November	Prospective parent tour
Tuesday 8 th November	Parents Eve 3.40- 6.20pm
Wednesday 9 th Nov	Flu immunisation & Prospective parent tour
Thursday 10 th Nov	Parents Eve 3.40- 6.20pm
Friday 11 th November	PTA Discos Y1 & 2 and Y3 & 4
Monday 14 th Nov	Anti-bullying week
Wednesday 16 th Nov	Individual photos
Thursday 17 th Nov	Prospective parent tour x2
Friday 25 th Nov	OPAL play parent/carer meeting a.m.
Saturday 10 th December	PTA Makers Market 12-4pm
Friday 16 th December	Last day of term PTA Xmas raffle

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