



# Newsletter

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Number 10 – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Next INSET  
Monday June 6<sup>th</sup>

## NEU Strike Action

As you will have seen reported in the news, we have received notification from the National Education Union (NEU) of a proposed series of industrial action.

The days of action are planned for: 1 February, 2 March, 15 March, 16 March

This action relates to the continuing dispute between the NEU and the Secretary of State for Education regarding changes to Teachers Pay & Conditions, and the fact that the Government has not fully funded the pay award offer this year, which is having a significant impact on all school budgets.

Nearly all of the teaching staff in our school are members of the NEU and we have been informed that they intend to support the industrial action. As a consequence of this, the Governing Body has made the decision that we will have to **close the school next Wednesday, 1st February**. We may also need to close, or have a partial opening, on the further dates in March.

We do understand that, by closing the school, we will create difficulties for many families who may have to make alternative provision for the care of their children. We appreciate that this could result in having to take time off work or rely on the kindness and help of family and friends.

We await the outcome of further talks between the Secretary of State for Education and the NEU and will provide you with any updates as soon as we receive more information.

## B&H Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme -

Engagement meetings are currently taking place regarding proposed changes to Elm Grove and Queen's Park Road.

The sessions are as follows:

- Wednesday 1st February, 5.30pm -7pm at St Luke's School.
- Online sessions: Wednesday 1st February and Thursday 2nd February, both at 10-11.30am – (to obtain joining details, go to: [transport.policy@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:transport.policy@brighton-hove.gov.uk)).
- **Thursday 2nd February, 5.30pm -7pm at Elm Grove school**

These sessions will give residents and people working locally an opportunity to discuss crossings, slowing traffic and greening etc around the school as well as elsewhere on Elm Grove and Queen's Park Road/Egremont Place.



**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.

**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.**



### **Mrs Hutchinson's ECO blog -**

As a mother and teacher, I find that I don't always have a huge amount of spare time. So, I have put together a few top tips that may help you during 2023 to be more eco-friendly.

**Eco Tip 1:** Buying clothes second hand. This is one of the best ways that busy parents can help our planet. Buying new all the time puts a massive strain on the planet. It's difficult to pinpoint the fashion industry's exact carbon footprint due to a lack of reputable data. But, it is estimated that the industry is responsible for between 2-8% of global carbon emissions. The increasing consumption, manufacture and use of textile products affect the global climate, the quality of ecosystems and human health, through their high use of energy, chemicals, land and water. I have to say that I love clothes! I love trying new things- but almost always from charity shops! We are so lucky with the quality and range of charity shops in Brighton- so have a fun day out trying on some new threads! The best part about this is that you can donate the clothes back when you have finished with them.

**Eco Tip 2:** Buying toys second hand. We have all been in the predicament of our children wanting the next "big lump of plastic" toy. From Paw Patrol to Octonauts, the list goes on. I have compromised here and will only buy these second hand from places such as eBay, Facebook marketplace, Gumtree etc. As children get tired of the same toys, it is possible to find very good second-hand toys.

**Eco tip 3:** Use a toy library. The Early Childhood Project is a wonderful charity based in Brighton- here you can go and borrow toys and books for free. The staff are wonderful and there are many groups for parents and children to attend. Bi-lingual groups, Dad's group etc. <https://ecpuk.org/>

**Eco tip 4:** Wear warm clothes. We are all worried about the rise of the cost of living. Here are a few changes that we are making at home in order to save money and reduce our carbon footprint.

1. I am only filling the kettle to the exact amount needed to make tea/coffee.
  2. Boiling water in the kettle before filling your saucepan to cook.
  3. Layer up - power down. On your next trip to the charity shops find the warmest jumper you can find. (This can be a game to see who can wear the silliest jumper in the family.) Wear it around the house and have layers underneath to ensure you are warm. Feet and hands lose heat easily so make sure you wear warm socks, slippers and then turn down your thermostat slightly.
  4. I have been planning my oven use. When the oven is on, I think about what I could pop in for the next day - this can then be reheated in the microwave.
  5. Shower for 4 minutes, set a timer!
  6. Block draughts and close doors to retain heat.
- Our school vision: You can follow our journey on the Elm Grove Website where we have a page dedicated to everything Eco.

Last year we became involved in a project called Our City our World. I attended conferences about the climate emergency and planned how at Elm Grove school we can become more sustainable. Here is a link to the website where you can see a picture of me attending a Thoughtbox conference. We spent a day at Moulsecomb Primary school finding out how to have courageous conversations with young people about the climate emergency. <https://www.ourcityourworld.co.uk/news/thoughtbox-meets-our-city-our-world/>

The Next steps: This year we are putting together a strategy group to put our Eco Vision into action. We are looking for parent volunteers who are interested in helping to make Elm Grove a more sustainable school. Please contact me on SarahThwaites-Hutchinson@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk if you would like to find out any further information or indeed would like to volunteer.

This week each class received their own indoor plant to look after and benefit from. They were funded through the Dobbies vouchers awarded after a community vote.

The voucher has also been used to buy more equipment for eco club, wildflowers, and plants for a sensory garden.



**SATS meeting for Y6 parents and carers –**  
Please come along to a SATS information sharing presentation on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 3.30pm in Elder classroom (opposite the school office).

The Year 6 teachers and Ms Willard will talk through the process, expectations and timetables. They will also answer any questions you might have.

## RED BEARD NEEDS YOU



The Secret Slide: The Garden of Yesterday Competition

IF YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE BACK IN TIME, WHERE  
WOULD YOU GO?



We want you to create a postcard of your chosen time or place and send it to us:

Captain Redbeard  
33 Durkheim Drive  
Wells  
BA5 2BS

or get your grown up to send us a photo to  
thesecondslide@gmail.com

WINNER WILL BE CHOSEN ON :

30TH MARCH 2023

AND WILL WIN AN EXCLUSIVE  
SECRET SLIDE T-SHIRT

GOOD LUCK



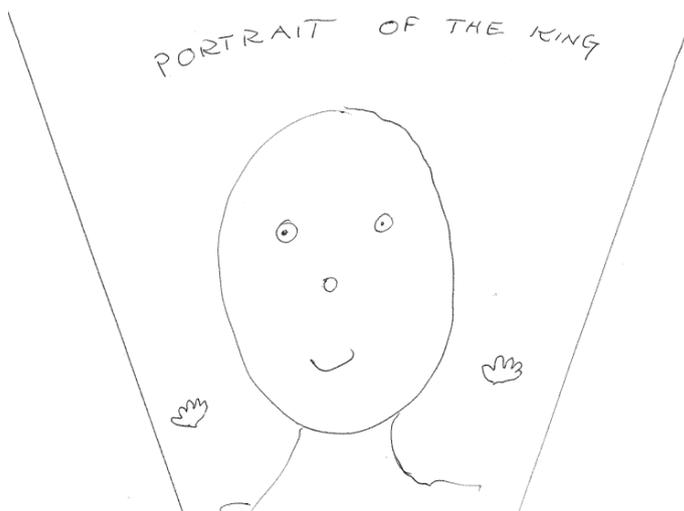
### King Charles 111 exhibition

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, B&H Mayor's Office is staging an exhibition of portraits of His Majesty made by school children. The guidelines for the image to go on display are:

- Pennant shaped portrait of King Charles, portrait format A4 or A3
- Colour or Black and White
- All media accepted whether painted, collage, sketch or colour pencils
- Name, year group and school written at the back of the portrait please

**Submissions** can be dropped off at the school office at the latest **by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March**. The school will then deliver any entries to the Town Hall.

All portraits submitted will be exhibited, subject to space.



### ALLERGEN UPDATE



Please contact the school office if your child develops a new allergy/ intolerance, or any details the school needs to be aware of change.

**Homework** - please look out for homework grids on:

Friday 27.1.23

Friday 10.2.2023

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## KS2 Snacks



The PTA is helping provide KS2 snacks and also checking with Public Health Brighton/Healthy schools. I think we should broaden which snacks we advise as acceptable for breaks. Please let me know if you have any issues with this change.

This guidance as follows is from Public Health Brighton.

*Starchy carbohydrates such as breadsticks, oatcakes etc are a great source of energy. Raisins are a good and healthier alternative to sweets, however we advise to serve them with a meal (e.g. wrap/sandwich and raisins) for better oral health. We also advise to serve raisins in moderation (just a small quantity) due to the high concentrated amount of sugar, however they are a healthy snack.*

There are also more resources on the website. Other good alternatives: plain popcorn, toasted pitta, hummus and veggie sticks – there are more here <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/>



## GOLDEN BOOK MERITS



<b>Apple</b>	Tiarnee, Leon, Frankie, Nola, Maia, Agnes
<b>Cherry</b>	Greta, Arthur, Isla
<b>Beech</b>	Felix, Hector, Summer
<b>Birch</b>	Arlo, Finlay, Effie C, Henry, Annie, Esmé
<b>Baobab</b>	Mina, Jessica, Joshua T, Ava-Rose, Estelle, Ivy
<b>Bonsai</b>	Ruby, Honey, Ayeza, Ruby, Hamza, Nell
<b>Holly</b>	
<b>Horse Chestnut</b>	Arthur, Freddie K, Samuel
<b>Cedar</b>	Molly, Noah, Scarlett, Felix, Poppy, Rolando
<b>Cypress</b>	Nikita, Evellyn, Nathan, Suki, Arlo, Sebastian
<b>Redwood</b>	Thalia, Cheyenne, Sienna, Danielle
<b>Rowan</b>	Seyf, Cleo, Oisin
<b>Elder</b>	Verity, Vinnie, Etien, Samuel B, Anya, Valentina
<b>Oak</b>	Mattie, Remy, Stanley, Edward, Georgia, Freddie

## DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	NEU strike – school closed
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Y6 SATs talk to parents & carers.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of half term. PTA Year 1 Cake sale
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Children return to school
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA Jumble Sale
22 <sup>nd</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 PGL trip
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents Evening
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Parent Evening
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Spring Fair
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	End of term PTA Year 4 cake sale
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Children's Parade
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 SATs

**Parents Evening** - The Spring Term parents evening appointments will be taking place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. 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. Parents and carers will be notified when appointments become available to book via SchoolPing.

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

Head teacher

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