



# Newsletter

Head Teacher: Ms Louise Willard

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Number 1 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Next INSET  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January



The children need to be congratulated on how well they have managed their return to school on the first week back, despite the extreme heat! I need to give a special mention to our new pupils who have settled in so well already. It has also been lovely to welcome our new Reception cohort and families too. We hope your children flourish during their time at Elm Grove.

We are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Souttar after her maternity leave (Reception Cherry Tree class) and welcome Ms Dina Cameroo to the Elm Grove team (Y6 Oak Tree class - individual pupil support)  
Please see our attached 2023-24 staff list.

Congratulations to Mr Costa who is moving to the countryside to take on a new role outside of education. We wish him every success in his new position. The school is currently recruiting for Mr Costa's replacement.

**Summer Holiday works** – thanks to a joint PTA and school project, both Holly and Rowan pupils are enjoying their newly redecorated and recarpeted classrooms. This continues the ongoing plan to refurbish two classrooms per year. Windows on the east elevation of the school have also been refurbished and the much anticipated library is really taking shape. We cannot wait for the children to enjoy it once it opens – hopefully in a few weeks time.

To reassure everyone, the Local Authority has confirmed that Elm Grove School doesn't contain any RAAC – we are lucky to be housed in a beautiful Victorian building and send our thoughts to all the schools facing such a challenge at this time.

**Martlets fundraiser – Shaun the Sheep by the sea trail ..... the adventure starts on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September!**



Elm Grove's 'Blossom the Sheep' will be unveiled, along with all the other sheep, tomorrow. Until then Blossom's location is TOP SECRET.

You can find out all about the trail, the route map and the many events via the link below:

[Events - Shaun by the Sea](#)



Elm Grove's Shaun the Sheep was designed and painted by the children in last year's Y6 as their legacy project to the school. The sheep will eventually be left at Elm Grove as a memory of them, now they have left. They decided that the sheep should be called "Blossom" after their memories of playing in the blossom garden. They designed the sheep around the flowers that grow in the blossom garden. Each child picked a flower that grows in the blossom garden and practised representing a simplified design of it, using their finger prints. With their finger prints making the art work, they felt that they could literally "leave their mark" at Elm Grove to be remembered in the future.

Elm Grove will hold a non-uniform/dress up day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October in order to fundraise for Martlets/Blossom and all the incredible work they do in the community.

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### Secondary School Applications -

The closing date for Year 6 applications to transfer to secondary school in September 2024 is the 31st October 2023.

Guidance on the application process is available on the council website here: [Secondary school admissions guide 2024 to 2025 \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/secondary-school-admissions-guide-2024-to-2025)

B&H 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 by email on 1st March 2024. Alternatively, you can download a form.

[Download school application forms \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/secondary-school-admissions-guide-2024-to-2025)

Please contact the Inclusion Team if you need any support with this.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM** - We expect all children to wear Elm Grove school colours of green, grey and white every day. This may include uniform with the Elm Grove logo, or uniform purchased from local supermarkets or other stores/sources.

However, items should not include other logos apart from the official school one. Please note our school uniform does not include any **black** items. The only expectation for shoes is that they are safe and appropriate for school. All children are also expected to have a PE kit and suitable sports shoes.

All uniform requirements will be reinforced in school and followed up by staff if children arrive in non uniform colours. Our free school uniform library is well stocked and available for all. It is based in the school pantry - please contact the office if you are unsure about how to access it. Please can we also remind you that children should not wear jewellery, apart from stud earrings, or wear highly colourful accessories (such as unicorn headbands!) or tights. Thank you for your support with this. There will be plenty of non-uniform and dressing up opportunities across the year for the children to get out all their colourful and fun items!

**Home school communication** - at Elm Grove we endeavour to have an open door policy where parents and carers can communicate quickly and effectively with the school. School staff are always at the school entrances or in the playground at the start and end of each day and are happy to answer any questions you might have.

If you wish to email a member of staff please send the email to: [admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk) with 'Attention: *teacher name*' in the subject bar and they will ensure the appropriate staff member/s receives the email.

Please note that staff have a heavy workload and many after school meetings so they will respond as soon as they can (usually within 48 hours). If the matter is urgent please email: [louisewillard@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:louisewillard@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

For general enquiries please email Shelly, Jen or Hannah in the office at: [admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

To contact the Inclusion team please email: [InclusionTeam@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:InclusionTeam@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

To contact the SENDCO please email: [carlakemp@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:carlakemp@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

To contact the Chair of Governors please email: [dianaboyd@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:dianaboyd@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

To contact the School Business Manager please email: [seancopping@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:seancopping@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

Please contact the school office if you need to set up School Ping as this is our main communication tool.

Elm Grove Phone Number 01273 708004

Please visit our Elm Grove **School website** if you want to find out information about the school. This includes policy documentation, club details, newsletters, calendar dates, year group information, a gallery of photos – plus more. The website is regularly updated to ensure it is as current as possible: [Elm Grove Primary School, Brighton](https://www.elmgroveprimaryschool.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

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

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### 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 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.

**We ask that Parents and Carers please adhere to the following guidelines when using class WhatsApp groups:**

- The group should be used keeping in mind mutual respect and cultural sensitivity between all its members
- The group is not a political platform for airing opinions on current affairs
- The group should not be used for private conversations with anyone else using the group

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



### Swimming

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.

As the school is charged for the hire of local swimming facilities, we ask for a voluntary contribution for each child attending a swimming session in years 3, 4, 5 & 6. Currently the contribution is £1.50 per child per session (£10.50 for the ½ term), but this may be altered, depending on budgeting or other factors. All contributions are made via Parentpay. If all families pay, this will cover the cost of the hire of the swimming pool.

A swimming hat may be purchased via Parentpay for £1.

Children in Holly, Cedar, Rowan and Oak are swimming this half term.



## Attendance Matters

*Every student. Every day.*

Thank you for supporting our school attendance focus. We really appreciate the efforts families go to ensure good attendance.

Please contact the Inclusion Team if you have any attendance concerns you wish to discuss.

Please follow the link to our current attendance policy on the school website: [Absences – Elm Grove Primary School, Brighton](#)

## 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/>

### ALLERGEN UPDATE



Please contact the school office ([admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto: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.

**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.

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**Elm Grove's School Development Plan Priorities 2023-2024** - agreed as a result of data analysis, professional dialogue, governor input, monitoring, feedback:

- Ensure that all members of the school community buy into the identified culture which emphasises positive attitudes, commitment to rigorously high standards, respect for learning and each other
- Cement the working practices of phase leaders and members of the senior leadership team in order to impact on outcomes through a cohesive culture, and being critical and challenging colleagues
- Improve outcomes in maths through developing summative assessment strategies and rigorous data analysis which provide a road map of specific actions and revised targets
- Build on improved provision in English and make sure that the revised DfE Reading framework is effectively delivered while at the same time focusing on improved summative assessment strategies
- Further embed the revised foundation subjects curriculum with particular attention to the clarity of how learning is assessed over time (Ofsted key action January 2023)
- Continue specific staff research (based on identified school and educational priorities) in order to make sure that there is a clear focus on self-improvement and ensuring the institution is a constantly learning community, culminating in a new school Teaching and Learning Policy
- Improve outcomes for vulnerable groups (SEND, Pupil Premium pupils & those most affected by COVID) by offering bespoke learning opportunities, including participation on the Brighton & Hove From Mitigation to Success CPD programme
- Participation in Brighton and Hove's Growing Anti-Racist Schools programme to ensure respect for all communities, celebrating diversity and challenging discrimination in a non-tokenistic way
- Assessing the implementation the 5 year building plan to ensure targets are being met
- Launch Arbor to improve communication and data systems across the school

- Through continued involvement with Brighton and Hove's Our City Our World initiative enable children to have access to an inspiring broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum which encourages collaboration, problem solving, critical thinking, metacognition and high aspirations for their futures
- Enhance effective approaches to monitoring in order to promote and sustain high standards across all areas of the curriculum by consistent implementation of first quality teaching
- Cement the schools favourable public image by what it does, how it promotes and celebrates its successes, as well as how its environment reflects its values
- Further the concept that the school is a learning place for all, with a clear focus on professional development and partnership working
- Develop succession planning that takes into account diversity, equality and the promotion of staff into different roles



Let your friends and neighbours know that if their child is due to start school in September 2024 they can visit Elm Grove for a school tour.

For more information on applying for a Primary school place please go to: [Important dates for infant, junior and primary school applications \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/important-dates-for-infant-junior-and-primary-school-applications)

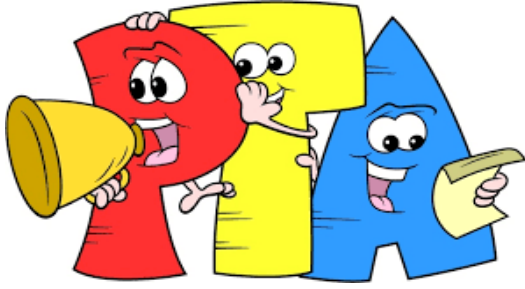
The deadline to apply to start primary school in September 2024 is 15th January 2024

**Elm Grove tour dates:**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 10am  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 10.45am  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2pm  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 9.30am  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 9.45am  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 10am and 6pm  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 10.45am

Please call the school office to book a place (01273 708004)

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Welcome back to school and welcome to all of our new starters!

We may only be in week one of the new term, but the PTA are already busy planning for the year ahead...

We will be hosting a New Starters Coffee Morning on Friday 22nd September in the school after drop off. Has your child just started in Reception? Or perhaps you've moved to the area and your child has started further up the school? If so we'd love you to come for tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. It's a great opportunity to meet other families who've just joined too. Details to follow.

Its time for a little friendly competition as we hold our all singing all dancing Quiz Night on Friday 29th September. Hosted by the Mucky Duck's very own Quiz Face Dean Harrington there will be questions to suit all, a playdoh round, picture round, prizes and a fully licensed bar. Grab a table with your friends and make a night of it. This promises to be a brilliant night out and a huge fundraiser for our green wall. Tickets go on sale from next week so book early to secure your table, and get thinking on that team name...

We're also very excited to announce our crowdfunder to help us raise the funds needed to build our fantastic green wall across the top of the top playground.

<https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/elm-grove-primary-school-green-wall>

The green wall will not only bring wildlife into our top playground, but grow to act as a barrier to protect all of the children from the harmful effects of pollution from the traffic on Elm Grove and also become a fantastic learning resource.

The PTA have successfully won a bid for £500 from Save Our Wild Isles to get our crowdfunder off to a great start, and Aviva are match funding every donation we get – for every £1 donated, they will give another £2! This means if we can raise £3000 in donations, they will give us a further £6000 enabling us to reach our target!

PTA news continued .....We're offering rewards for donations – for £10 or more you can have your name in one of the bricks of our new planters, for £20 you can have your name on a bird box or bug brick, for £50 you can sponsor a square meter of our hedgerow, and for £100 or more you can have one of the trees dedicated to someone.

We want to get our crowdfunder out to the whole community and beyond – please pledge your support and share the link

<https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/elm-grove-primary-school-green-wall> with your friends, family, neighbours, employer and any local businesses that you know and help us get the support we need to get this green project off the ground!

The Pantry provides invaluable support for our school community, but for it to continue to operate we need more volunteers, it's currently unsustainable with just a handful of people helping at the moment. Can you spare 15 mins once a week, once a fortnight or even once a month to help us keep it open by checking the fridge, topping up the shelves and giving it a quick sweep? If you'd like to help please email [secretary@elmgrovepta.com](mailto:secretary@elmgrovepta.com).

As always you can follow us on Insta @elmgroveschoolpta and Facebook @ElmGrovePTA to keep up with what we're up to. Thanks everyone and happy new (school) year. The PTA x

**Reminder** – we ask that all personal toys, Pokemon cards and smart watches stay at home to avoid any distraction to learning and upset if items get lost or broken. Thank you.

However, we gratefully receive any donations to the OPAL sheds 'loose parts'. The sheds will be open at lunchtimes from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

[OPAL Play – Elm Grove Primary School, Brighton](#)



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Please find other documents attached to this newsletter, including information about TurnerFest, a flyer for an experienced local private tutor, a staffing overview and information about a drama club based at the school.

Children in KS1 will also have an assembly on September 19<sup>th</sup> regarding harmonica club. Visit [www.harpacademy.co.uk](http://www.harpacademy.co.uk) and click the Gold Harmonica, call Richard Taylor on 07525 256954, or email your enquiry to [richard@harpacademy.co.uk](mailto:richard@harpacademy.co.uk) if you think your child may be interested in starting.

Charges apply for these clubs.

Mr Waring has already sent out information about all of the many sports clubs on offer at Elm Grove this term.



### Uniform Ordering

At Elm Grove we have an online uniform shop run by School Trends. To order uniform please follow this link:

[https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/Elm\\_Grove\\_Primary\\_School\\_BN2\\_3ES](https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/Elm_Grove_Primary_School_BN2_3ES)

or visit [www.schooltrends.co.uk](http://www.schooltrends.co.uk) then select 'Find My School' and follow the order instructions.

There are no minimum order quantities and your uniform will be delivered directly to your chosen address. As well as our logo school uniform items, you are also able to order plain items such as trousers and skirts.

**School Meal Ordering** – all school meals need to be ordered by 10am on the day the lunch is to be taken to give the kitchen enough time to cook the correct number of meals.. Please call the school to order by then if your child is going to be late in as a result of a medical appointment or other reason. The school will ask you to provide a packed lunch for your child if they arrive after 10am without ordering a lunch. Thank you for your support with this.



### GOLDEN BOOK MERITS



<b>Beech</b>	Juniper, Tiarne, Lizzie
<b>Birch</b>	Iris, Arthur, Maia
<b>Baobab</b>	Harry, Frank, Rowan
<b>Bonsai</b>	Charlotte, Jake, Agnes S
<b>Holly</b>	Whole class
<b>Horse Chestnut</b>	Talula, Ibuki, Truman
<b>Cedar</b>	Marlie, Otis, Ripley
<b>Cypress</b>	Amari, Sam W, Momo
<b>Redwood</b>	Arlo, Fred, Robyn
<b>Rowan</b>	Ciceley, Diggory, Livvy
<b>Elder</b>	Whole class
<b>Oak</b>	Robin, Kimberly, Alex M

### DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	PTA welcome event
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	PTA Quiz Night
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Prospective parent tour
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Martlets 'Shaun the Sheep' – non uniform day
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Prospective parent tour
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Prospective parent tour
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival (more info to follow)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of half term PTA cake sale
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Prospective parent tour
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Prospective parent tour
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Eve tbc
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Parents Eve tbc
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Individual photos
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Prospective parent tour x2

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

*Louise Widdard*

Head teacher

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