



# Newsletter

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Number 16 – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Next INSET  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June



June 17th - 23rd is **Refugee Week**. We will be marking this week by sharing inspiring stories and poems and then creating images inspired by our discussions on what home means to us, what we would choose to remind us of home and also how we can make people feel at home at Elm Grove.

It would be lovely to have some parent and carer ideas on this too; this could be a photo, a symbol or a quote - anything that, for you, sums up the idea of Home. If you are happy to have it as part of our display (in school or on the website), please do email it FAO Ms Smith to admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk.

On Friday 21st June after school, we will display some of the images we have created during the week after school in our main hall - please do pop in to have a look!

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/>

## Summer Term Learning Journeys

Reception – Down on the farm  
Year 1 – Dinosaur Roar!  
Year 2 – Wonderful Me! Wonderful World!  
Year 3 – Up, Up and Away!  
Year 4 – Rivers and Rainforests  
Year 5 – Earth and Space  
Year 6 – Heroes

Website link: [Elm Grove Primary School, Brighton](#)

Knowledge Organisers sharing subject content will be uploaded soon!

## Opportunity to become a co-opted governor at Elm Grove School –

At Elm Grove we have a strong and committed team of governors who provide effective support and challenge to the headteacher and the leadership team. Some long-serving governors will be stepping down at the end of the year and we are looking to appoint three co-opted governors who will challenge and support the new head teacher in his first year.

Our governors have a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest in wanting the best possible education for the children in our school and professional experience for the staff. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who:-

- Has experience of financial management or human resources but this is not essential
- Is interested in children's education and the performance of the school
- Has spare time and the energy for the role
- Is able to work well as part of a team
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and debate issues that affect the school

There are 5 full governing board meetings per year and two committees holding 3/4 meetings each per year. There are some very experienced governors on the board who would support new governors alongside the local authority's governor induction training.

If you are interested, please do ask some of the current governors (listed on the school website) about the role and/or email the clerk to the governors ([AnnaJohnson@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:AnnaJohnson@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk)) for an application form.

Any appointments will be confirmed in July.

**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.**

### PTA news -

It's been another great term for fundraising thanks to all of your time and help. The Spring Fair raised £3,708.96, the Sponsored Read raised £2,944.88 and the Reception Frozen Friday raised £281.10! But we're not done yet..!

If you haven't already please get your tickets for our incredible comedy night at Komedia on 17th June before it sells out -

<https://www.komedia.co.uk/brighton/comedy/chuckles-for-charity-elm-grove-primary-school-fundraiser-2/>

Please also sign up for our Blossom Garden volunteer days on 23-26 July. The After School Club will be providing FREE childcare for all volunteers. We need your help to clear the decking in the Blossom Garden to make way for the NEW PLAYGROUND being built there over the summer holidays. Please give a couple of hours of your time as the builders can't start until we've cleared the site! Watch out for the sign up being shared on your class WhatsApp group.

Lastly don't forget to buy your cakes at the Y6 end of term cake sale today - all funds raised are going towards their final leavers party.

Happy Half Term, the PTA x



**Blossom Garden**  
**VOLUNTEER WEEK**

Our lovely Blossom Garden is getting a fancy makeover in the Summer Holidays but before it does we need to clear it ready for the refurbishment. Doing this ourselves frees up more budget for play equipment, a climbing wall and new flooring.

If you can spare a few hours to help with 'lifting & shifting' across the dates below we'd be very grateful!

**23rd-26th July, 9am-3pm**

The After School Club will be providing childcare, so feel free to bring the kids!

The poster features an illustration of a man and a woman working in a garden, surrounded by green foliage and red flowers.



**YEAR 6 CAKE SALE!**

FRIDAY 24TH MAY 3:20PM  
TOP PLAYGROUND

All cakes 50p

Please help Y6 raise money for their Day of the Dead Leavers Party!

If your child has a formal ASC diagnosis and finds crowded spaces tricky, their parents/carers can buy a cake on their behalf from 3.30. Families with access and mobility issues can also attend the cake sale as they would the regulars.

The poster has a purple background with colorful confetti and a sugar skull illustration.



ELM GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**CHUCKLES FOR CHARITY!**

JAMES ELLIS   JEN BRISTER   KERRY GODLIMAN   MAISIE ADAM   IAN STONE

MONDAY 17TH JUNE, 2024  
8PM (DOORS 7PM)

**KOMEDIA**

TICKETS £25  
FROM KOMEDIA WEBSITE

RAFFLE ON THE NIGHT  
£100 TOP CASH PRIZE

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CHARITY - ELM GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA - PROVIDING FOOD, HYGIENE SUPPLIES, BOOKS, PLAY EQUIPMENT, SCHOOL TRIPS AND HELPING THOSE PUPILS WHO CANNOT AFFORD THE BASIC NECESSITIES. REG CHARITY NO. 1144560

LINE UP SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The poster is yellow with black and red text, featuring microphone icons and portraits of the comedians.

**Pantry News** - We have a new email address for everyone at the school to use. Please use this email to:-

- share any feedback
- make any specific requests for the Pantry such as alternative food sources or uniform which you may need
- if you are able to support the Pantry by:-  
Giving your time / adding some food produce to your weekly shop and bringing them in to the pantry/ making a regular donation through our local giving page/ donating your uniform which now maybe too small.

All feedback and support is very welcome.

Please get in touch with us

at [pantry@elmgrovepta.com](mailto:pantry@elmgrovepta.com)

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## Sports news –

**Golf** - Our Y3/4 golf team recently won a competition with a huge winning score of 956 points. There were 4 events held in total, and we have just discovered that of the 27 schools involved, our winning score was the highest - in fact the next best score was 779 points. Our golfers will therefore now represent the whole city in the Sussex School Games finals in Crawley next month! Congratulations to all those involved.

**Skiing** - Sylvie in Year 5 recently represented Elm Grove in a skiing competition at Hemel Hempstead Snow Centre.

She did really well! Out of a field of 57 girls, she came 6<sup>th</sup> overall and 4<sup>th</sup> in her age group of under 12's .

## Parent Pay and swimming charges –

Please note that all trips and items for purchase via Parent Pay will now have the facility for parents and carers to overpay if they feel able to help towards covering the cost for other children whose family may not be able to contribute the full amount of an activity.

This has been set up at the request of the PTA and parents and carers who would like to further support those families who are finding the current financial climate difficult.

I also need to inform parents and carers in KS2 that from September the cost of swimming will increase to £2 per session. The school is having to do this in order to cover the increased costs it is being charged for using the facilities.

## Wraparound childcare survey for parents and carers –

Having received funding from the Department for Education to increase access to wraparound childcare for primary school children, we would like your views regarding what provision is needed in your area. Wraparound childcare is childcare provision from 8am to 6pm during term-times.

The survey should take no longer than 5 minutes. **The closing date for responses is Friday 7th June 2024.** Please click here to [complete the survey](#).

To learn more about financial support you're entitled to for childcare,

visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

## BARCO -

BARCO is dedicated to anti-racism advocacy and education, promoting cultural understanding and diversity through community events. Our workshops and carnivals are designed to educate both children and adults about the importance of diversity and cultural heritage in a fun and engaging way.

### Mini BASH (in partnership with Brighton Fringe):

This event is scheduled for **May 26th at Ironworks Studios**. It is an exciting opportunity for students and their families to engage in creative workshops, including flag and mask making. These workshops are designed to foster creativity and provide a hands-on experience in cultural expressions. The children's events start from 1pm.

<https://www.brightonfringe.org/events/barco-mini-bash/>



**Brighton BASH Carnival: Set for July 27th at St Ann's Well Gardens**, this free event will feature a children and parents parade, showcasing the flags and masks created at our workshops. The parade is not only a display of creativity but also a celebration of diversity and community spirit. We also have a competition on the day for the best flag and mask, with winners receiving a BARCO goody bag!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brighton-bash-carnival-tickets-883184427397?aff=oddtcreator>



### Why Support These Events?

Participating in the mini BASH and Brighton BASH Carnival offers educational benefits by allowing students to learn through art, engage in diversity, and understand the significance of community involvement. These events provide a platform for students to express themselves creatively and participate in a larger dialogue about cultural diversity and inclusion.

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### School updates –

We appreciate your ongoing support in the following areas:

**1 Healthy snacks** – there has been a recent increase in KS2 pupils eating less healthy snacks, such as crisps and sugary snacks, at break times. Please ensure children have one of the following for their mid-morning snack: breadsticks/rice cakes/oatcakes/plain popcorn.

**2 School uniform** – all children are expected to wear the school colours of green, white and grey even in the warmer summer months. No black items, strappy or crop tops please. Shoes and sandals need to have a back so children can still run around safely (no sliders or flip flops).

Named sunhats and water bottles are also recommended.

**3 Early collections** – we've had a recent increase in early collections, particularly on Fridays. Early collections need to be pre-arranged and approved by the school for specific reasons such as a confirmed dental or medical appointment that cannot be arranged out of school.

Please can I also respectfully remind parents and carers of the expectation to speak to all members of staff politely. The main office area can get busy as times with lots of phone calls, visitors, tasks, first aid incidents and door buzzers all happening at once so please bear with us at these times.

Thank you

### 2024-2025 Academic Year –

Planning for the next academic year is underway and parents and carers will be informed as soon as the staffing structure and classes are confirmed. We want to make sure there is plenty of time for the children to have transition opportunities during the second part of the summer term.

We intend to reshuffle the following current year groups:

Reception  
Year 1  
Year 2  
Year 3

New class groups will be shared as soon as they are arranged. Date to follow in the next newsletter.

### Smartphone survey -

We're writing today as part of the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign to invite you to take part in a short survey to gauge wider opinion on children owning smartphones.

SURVEY LINK HERE:

<https://forms.gle/zr9HZd4bizZ6Jr6p9>

We are conscious that this can be a sensitive subject and that everyone wants to do what's best for their children. You may already know your stance and we're certainly not trying to overrule personal decisions.

However, unequivocal research is finding that despite all the benefits of keeping in touch, young people's mental health and wellbeing is increasingly being damaged by smartphone usage. A global study produced last year found a strong link between the age a child first starts using a phone/tablet and their mental health as young adults.

With this in mind, we would like to be proactive as a community and take steps to help protect and support our children while we still can. We are mindful that this technology is here to stay, and it does present many benefits and opportunities, so we are keen to ensure our children navigate and engage with it in a positive way.

The survey should take no more than a few minutes and is completely anonymous. We would like to hear your views and appreciate and thank you for your time in completing it.

SURVEY LINK HERE:

<https://forms.gle/zr9HZd4bizZ6Jr6p9>

We will share a full report of the survey findings and proposed next steps as soon as possible.

Finally, if you're interested in joining the WhatsApp group on this topic please click the link. Everyone is welcome.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LAz9gj3mnTx4ntLvTpkMDT>

Best wishes,

Elm Grove Smartphone Delay Group

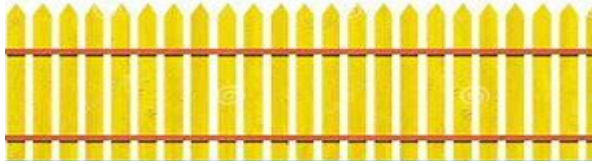
**Internet Matters** – Resources for parents and carers: [Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice, Support – Internet Matters](#)

[Pre-teens \(11-13\) online safety advice | Internet Matters](#)

The charity produces a wealth of practical information and guidance on keeping children and young people safer online across four age ranges from 0-4 yrs to 14+ with guidance on setting controls for devices and platforms, etc.



**Health and Safety** – please can we encourage Reception and Y1 parents and carers to use the yellow fence pathway to access the classrooms at drop off and pick up time. Whilst everyone is very mindful, the area outside of the pathway is a car park and vehicles do sometimes come and go during this time.



### Parent/carer surveys 2024

A link to Elm Grove's 2024 parent/carer survey was sent out a couple of weeks ago via School Ping. Thank you to those who have completed it so far.

However, a number of parents and carers have let the school know that there are some glitches on the questionnaire and they have not been able to successfully add and save comments in the comments boxes.

We are currently trying to address this and will send out an updated link once we have. The closing date of the questionnaires will be extended as a result. Apologies for any confusion and inconvenience.

### Ravi's Dream Team –

Please support Ravi's Dream Team on Britain's Got Talent semi-finals being shown during half term.

The local choir (featuring one of Elm Grove's regular volunteers as well as AI Start who is linked to the school) is raising awareness of Brain Tumour charities and features children currently undergoing treatment for brain tumours, or who are in recovery, along with family members, school and medical staff.

[Ravi's Dream Team Choir | Britain's Got Talent \(BGT\) \(ravidream.com\)](#)



### THIRDSPACE THEATRE HOLIDAY CLUBS 2024

FREE HAF PLACES BOOKING OPENING SOON!

29th July – 1st August at Brighton Youth Centre

27th August – 30th August at Hanover Community Centre

ThirdSpace Theatre are hosting two drama holiday clubs this summer with separate age groups bookable for those aged 7-11 and 12-16 years. Sign up now for three days of theatrical adventure with this award-winning theatre company.

No previous experience needed. The emphasis is very much on having fun! A deliciously healthy hot lunch is included every day.

BOOK

HERE: <https://eequ.org/experience/3668>

Booking for free HAF places will go live during half term, in the week beginning 27th May

Book or register your interest for a FREE HAF place here: <https://eequ.org/brightonhovehaf>

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**Diary dates:**

Date	Event
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	INSET – school closed to children
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Children return to school</b>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Marc the Vet school assemblies – animal welfare
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Komedia comedy night
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Refugee Week display
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> June – Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Fortnight
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	KS2 Sports Day at Withdean Stadium
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 9.30 - 10.30am	Year 2 Sports Day
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 9.30 - 10.30am	Reception Sports Day
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 9.30 - 10.30am	Year 1 Sports Day
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Secondary school transition day (Y6)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 leavers show
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Annual reports home to parents and carers
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Meet the teacher - pupils
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Open evening
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 leavers party
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last day of term for children



**GOLDEN BOOK MERITS**

<b>Apple</b>	Remi, Erin T, Lyra, Erin F, Sully, Mylo
<b>Cherry</b>	Connie, Leo, Zoe, Sorrel, Angus, Hudson
<b>Beech</b>	Leon, Freddie, Lola, Hugo, Jack, Tiarnee
<b>Birch</b>	Whole class, Belle, Esmae M, Frankie
<b>Baobab</b>	Rusty, Leah, Esther, Felix, Grace, Nemo
<b>Bonsai</b>	Ellie, Henry, Pearl, Frankie, Effie C, Harper
<b>Holly</b>	Anya, Sathira, Dotti, Ruby, Jack, Anya-Rose
<b>Horse Chestnut</b>	Ivy, Iona, Ruby-Rose, Raven, Eddie, Arry
<b>Cedar</b>	Whole class, Max, Kieran, Kit
<b>Cypress</b>	Leo, Elijah, Ella, Amari, Jahmari, Isla R
<b>Redwood</b>	Eddie, Robyn, Lewis, Suki, Theo, Akseli
<b>Rowan</b>	Audrey, Ollie, Cicely, Oliver, Manaf, Misheck
<b>Elder</b>	Whole class, Indira, Polly, Shahin, Beau
<b>Oak</b>	Whole class, Arthur, Oisin, Scarlett

**Miss School Miss Out**

If you're not going to school you will miss out on...

- Learning new skills
- Your friends
- Support and help
- School activities
- Having fun

Being in school and on time is good for you.  
90% attendance may look impressive but it means missing 19 days of education in a year.  
Don't be one of the few to miss school and miss out!  
If you need help with school attendance, please talk to your school for advice.

Brighton & Hove City Council

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