



Newsletter

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NEXT INSET DAY

Thursday 3rd January 2019
Friday 4th January 2019

Number 1 – 10th September 2018

WELCOME to the new academic year at Elm Grove Primary School. The new term has got off to a good start and the children are settling well.

I would like to especially welcome our new pupils and their families, Mr McLaren (Year 4 Cypress teacher), Mrs Kemp (Year 5 PPA cover teacher) and Mrs Ringrose (Office Administrator – Thurs & Fri's). I would also like to say welcome back to Mr Holloway (Year 5 Redwood class).

A full staff list is being sent with this newsletter, as well as holiday dates for the year. An overview of school clubs for the term will follow tomorrow.

READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE – staff are enthusiastically delivering a new approach to behaviour management. We have simplified our school rules to just 3: Ready, Respectful, Safe. The focus is on having consistently high expectations of all children's behaviour and recognising pupils for their positive contribution – especially those who go over and above.

You may notice:

- 'Good News/Congratulations' postcards being sent home (each member of staff will write one per week)
- Good news phone calls or text messages
- Recognition boards in classrooms
- Children being met and individually welcomed each morning by staff at their classroom doors, including shaking hands (only if pupils want to)
- One child per class invited to Hot Chocolate Club with the Headteacher on Friday afternoons as a result of their outstanding behaviour

Each class will also have a special 'together' time on Friday afternoons.

Children who forget any of the rules will have a reminder and last chance warning before meeting with the staff member involved, at an agreed time, using a restorative justice approach. Parents and carers will be kept informed as appropriate.

An updated behaviour policy will be shared in the near future.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) -



We **urgently** need to replenish the selection of 'loose parts' in our playground sheds. Every day the children can

be seen creating camps, inventing a range of imaginative games and having lots of fun with the resources found in the sheds. However, stocks are running very low.

Please see the list of items we are currently looking for:

Planks

Ropes

Pots, Pans & utensils

Logs

Old curtains

Quilt covers

Blankets

Guttering

Pipes

Poles

Cushions

Unwanted toys and games

Dressing up clothes

Small world – lego etc

Crates

Tyres

Suitcases

Chalks

All donations will be gratefully received. Please deposit them in the containers labelled 'loose parts' at the rear of the car park. Many thanks.

DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTING CHILDREN AT THE START AND END OF THE DAY (Year 2 – Year 6 pupils) –

to encourage independence and avoid congestion, please can adults say goodbye to their children on the terrace, (parents and carers can of course still access the office if required).

Then at the end of the day, wait to collect them on the top playground, not the terrace. If everyone adheres to this it will keep the terrace clear for pupils to leave the building safely. Thank-you.

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.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION – the school constantly strives to provide clear and accessible communication. However, we are aware that this is an area which can be improved and will be a priority for us over the year. Parent and carer questionnaire feedback on this issue was helpful and will certainly inform our planning.

Our new website is due to be launched in the very near future. This is a far more accessible website than our current one and will be kept regularly updated with current information and dates. More information will follow shortly.

Text messages, emails and letters will also be centralised in a bid to target them more effectively and ensure they are sent in a timely manner.

We will keep you updated on further planned improvements in this area.

Please make sure the school office has a current email address and phone number to contact you on.

SCHOOL UNIFORM – Thank-you to everyone for supporting the request for all children to come to school in the required uniform. It is very much appreciated.

All children are expected to wear Elm Grove uniform colours of green, white and grey – in any combination. (NB this can include jogging bottoms and hoodies). No items with logos please, apart from the optional Elm Grove logo. We have made the decision to say grey, **not** black tights/leggings. We also ask that the children wear sensible, school appropriate shoes. The PE uniform is white T-shirt and white shorts. Uniform can be purchased via the school office or in local supermarkets.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS - You may be aware that KS2 children have recently been given the opportunity of learning one of the following instruments here at Elm Grove Primary School: violin, keyboard and clarinet. Lessons are provided by teachers from Brighton & Hove Music & Arts (BHMA). If you would like to apply online for lessons you can do so via <https://www.bhma.org.uk/online-instrumental-form> or please ask at the office for an application form.



Our school, along with other local schools, is going to be part of Operation Encompass. This is a joint project with Sussex Police

which is due to start this September. The project provides early reporting to schools of any domestic abuse incidents involving children (incidents in which a child was present, ordinarily resides at the incident location or with an involved party).

We know that children and young people can be significantly affected through witnessing or being exposed to domestic abuse and this operation will allow our school to better support our pupils/students and their families. A nominated member of school staff, known as a Key Adult, will be trained to liaise with the police. Our Key Adult is Lucy Roberts (Inclusion Leader) and the Deputy Key Adult is Louise Willard (Headteacher). They will be able to use information that has been shared with them, in confidence, to ensure that the right support is available should it be required by a child/young person and/or their family. We are keen to offer the best support available to our pupils/students and we believe this is going to be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Additional information about Operation Encompass is available at www.operationencompass.org

Information about a wide range of local services for families is available at www.familyinfobrighton.org.uk

If you have any concerns or questions then please contact our Key Adults and we will be happy to discuss this further.



SCHOOL SPORT

PE kit: every year we spend hundreds of pounds from our PE budget on spare PE kit for each class. This kit is supposed to be lent out on an occasional basis, when a child has genuinely forgotten their kit, in order that they do not miss out on the learning. Unfortunately, most teachers have reported that they have had to lend kit for every lesson and have often run out of spare kit altogether because too many children have forgotten theirs. It does appear that a sizeable number of children across the school are relying on their teacher to provide them with kit, rather than bringing it from home. For this reason, please ensure that your child has their named PE kit in school (ie white t-shirt and white shorts) in a named bag. For outdoor PE, the children also need suitable trainers or plimsolls (although if these are already worn as school shoes, there is no need for an extra pair). Many thanks. Mr Waring

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. Thank you.

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DIARY DATES

Date	Event
Tuesday 11.9.18	School Nurse 'drop-in' – 8.30 am top playground
Thursday 4.10.18	Flu vaccinations Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3 & Y4 (more info to follow)
w/b 8.10.18	Individual Photos - TBC
w/b 15.10.18	Y6 residential - Kingswood
Friday 19.10.18	Last day of half term Non-uniform day
Monday 5.11.18	Children return to school
Wednesday 28.11.18	Parents Evening
Thursday 29.11.18	Parents Evening
Wednesday 19.12.18	Last day of term

Best wishes,
Louise Willard
Head teacher

NEWSLETTER - If you have a visual impairment, a copy of the newsletter is available in large print from the office.

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