



ELMWOOD INFANT SCHOOL

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Article 17 - Children have the right to information and to speak out/be heard.



Newsletter - 20th April 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this strange and unprecedented time, I thought I would go ahead and write my usual newsletter to say hello and share with you some of the positive news that is emerging during this time. I can't believe it is the start of the summer term!

The staff are working incredibly hard to ensure home learning is available for your child during the period of school closure. You will all be aware that this closure period has been extended for at least another three weeks, as the nation battles the coronavirus pandemic, and we are here to support you as much as we possibly can throughout this time.

You'll find lots of activities for your child to do on the SeeSaw, EvidenceMe platforms and on our website. Please don't try and do all of what is suggested – there is far too much, and don't worry if you are unable to upload anything. However, we all enjoy seeing the things you are able to upload and can then reply with messages and acknowledgements to keep the children motivated!

Please watch out for the videos from staff and other professionals, some of which are posted on our website. There are assemblies from myself and Sam (our attendance mascot) and stories from police officers paramedics and teachers -all for the children to enjoy.

And finally, well done to you, parents and carers! We know how challenging it must be to have to keep the children at home during this time and want to thank you for working so closely with us to achieve the best we can for the children. We miss our school community terribly and cannot wait for the day when we can all return to school.



Thank you to the children and staff who made this banner on behalf of our school community. The banner says thank you to the NHS staff and all critical workers who are doing an incredible job to help keep us all safe. We also have blue neon lights on display throughout the night as a visual thank you and blue fairy lights in our school entrance. Do you have blue lights or a rainbow picture on display for all to see?

Our banner has been shared on social media and promoted by Croydon media sites too. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter:

@ElmwoodInfants





Croydon Children's Services - GOOD!

Just before Covid-19 arrived, Croydon's children's services were inspected by Ofsted. The service has been on a fast paced improvement journey since an inspection in 2017, which found lots of areas where the provision and support was not good enough. The service has now been inspected again and has moved from inadequate to good - a fantastic accomplishment! Please read the full report by clicking on the link: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50149056>

You can also see a video about this achievement, which were proudly asked to be involved in. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V17iRUvkqh0>

The Elmwood Food Bank

Who would have thought, when we set up our food bank a few years ago, that it would play a vital role in supporting our families through a pandemic? The donations that we have received from parents and staff have been so generous, enabling us to provide a reliable, immediate support for families experiencing food poverty. Our bank is supplemented by a generous grant from our local ward (thank you to our Ward Councillors for supporting our bank), from our school budget and from Legacy Youth Zone. Food bags are available on Tuesdays and Fridays - all we ask is that you email or phone us to let us know that you need one.

Free School Meal Vouchers



If your child is eligible for free schools meals (this is different to the universal meal that all infant children receive), you should be receiving a voucher from us each week to support with your food shopping. The voucher system was set up to help schools provide the £2.30 per day to families, where children were not attending school. It then got changed to £3 per day (£15 per week) and was then extended to include the two weeks of the Easter holidays, when funding is not usually provided to schools. The demand on the system has resulted in delays with the processing of vouchers by the company, meaning we are not always able to issue them as efficiently as we would like to. Also, it relies on us having the correct phone number and email address for you. Miss Payne and I are working constantly on this to try and make sure vouchers are issued as efficiently as possible. The system may change soon as we move across to the designated government FSM scheme but we will be in touch with those of you that this relates to.

Show Racism the Red Card



WINNERS AGAIN!



I am delighted to inform you that we are winners again of this national competition, which aims to tackle racism, particularly within football and sport.

Well done to Shark class for their creative (winning) entry, linked to everyone being different but everyone being special - associating this with a box of chocolates! Once we return to school, we'll find out where the award ceremony will be and look forward to celebrating in style!

Please contact us at support@elmwood-inf.croydon.sch.uk if you have a query about FSM vouchers and we will do our very best to help you.

Nursery offers are being sent to parents today (Monday 20th April).

Finally, from the staff and governor of Elmwood Infant School, we wish you well and hope you stay safe and healthy during this difficult time. We are all very proud to be part of a school that puts our community at the heart of everything we do and cannot wait to see you all again. Please keep in touch via email or by calling the school between 9am and 3pm. Miss Harris 😊



Reception and Junior Places

If you have a child in Year 2 or Nursery, you should have received an email informing you of your child's school place from September. Some parents have had trouble with the link in the email that has been sent. Please go to the e-admissions site and log in with your username and password. You will then be able to accept your child's place.

<https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>

If you are expecting an email about your child's school place but have not received it, please log onto the eadmissions site and you should be able to see the information you are waiting for.