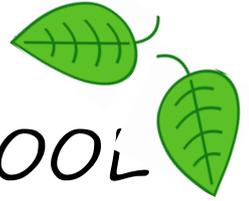




Article 17 - Children have the right to information & to speak out/be heard.



ELMWOOD INFANT SCHOOL

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow



Newsletter – 21st June 2021



Hello Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy couple of weeks at Elmwood, with amazing sunshine and then some torrential rain over the past few days. The rain has helped our planters though - they look incredible! Have you seen (and smelt) all of the different plants? The planters are bursting with flowers and insects and are a great learning focus. These were installed last year in the summer holidays and have made such a difference to the playground environment. This summer, we were due to have the railings by Reception replaced with planters but the price of timber has rocketed at the moment and so we've delayed this until later in the year.

It's been Refugee Week this week and as a Rights Respecting School, the children have been thinking about Article 22 - the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in the Convention. The children across the school have been thinking about the experiences of refugee children and learning about some famous people, such as Rita Ora, who was a refugee.

Next week is our Sports Week and we are linking this to the Olympic Games, with each class attached to one of four countries: Great Britain, Japan, Jamaica and the USA. Unfortunately, we are not able to invite you to attend our sports events next week as our grounds are just too small to ensure everyone keeps a safe distance from each other, especially with the Delta variant increasing in the Croydon area. We will tell you all about it though – watch out for photos on Evidence Me and SeeSaw.



Our Covid Action Plan

We've taken a cautious approach since returning from the May half term, returning to class based phonics and keeping book bags in school – just to monitor the number of people displaying symptoms of Covid. We've not seen a significant increase in positive cases or symptoms across the school, which has been a relief but we are very mindful of the fact that numbers of people testing positive is on the rise again.

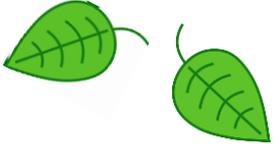
From this week, book bags will be sent home again, with children once again being able to access learn to read books as well as read for pleasure books, however we have decided against re-starting split phonics (this is where the classes within a year group are mixed for a half an hour phonics lesson). Children will remain in their classes for their phonics session for the rest of the term.

Attendance last week was fantastic and there were three classes with 100% and two classes with 99%!

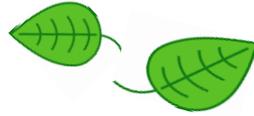
Well done everyone!

Wellbeing Wednesdays

Every Wednesday, the children and staff focus on activities to support mental health and wellbeing. There are lots of resources available to support parents in this area – please ask if you need any help.



Transitions



Mr Cooper, our new Headteacher was in school for part of our INSET day and is looking forward to another visit later on this month. Lots of communication is taking place between us so that the transition from myself to Mr Cooper goes as smoothly as possible.

Staff from our school are working with members of the Junior School to ensure that our Year 2 children are ready for their move to Year 3!

Next week, children in Reception and Year 1 will find out which class they will be in next year. Watch out for a letter that we'll be sending you via SeeSaw and Evidence Me! There will be an opportunity before the end of term for your child to visit their new classroom and meet their new teacher and teaching assistant. Due to our covid restrictions, we can't invite you into school to meet the teaching team but we will make sure you have an opportunity to do this in the autumn term.



If your child is starting Nursery or Reception in September, you should have received a letter with lots of information and forms to fill in and return. Zoom meetings are being held in the next couple of weeks, where we will share lots more information with you and provide you with an opportunity to meet the staff.



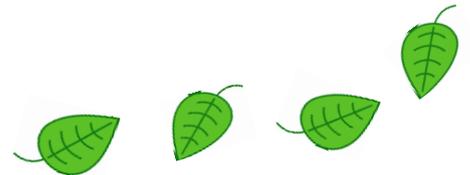
Parking

Thank you to the parents to have responded to our questionnaire about the staggered starts and ends to the school day. We are keen to know whether these timings have had a positive impact on parking and road safety during the year they have been in place.

It is likely that we will return to the timings we had in place before the pandemic as these maximised learning time in the classroom. However, your views are important so please do let us know what you think.

Considerate Parking Please

Please be respectful to the local residents when dropping off and collecting your child and avoid parking across driveways.



The Return of Breakfast and After School Club! 😊

I am delighted to announce the re-opening of our Breakfast and After-School Clubs from September! These had to be withdrawn for the spring and summer due to the impact of Covid but are back in the autumn term, bigger and better than ever! Led by the same staff, our breakfast and after school clubs are available to children from Reception to Year 2 and to siblings in the juniors. Initially, the clubs will not be available for children who do not have a sibling in the Infant School.

We've extended the times of the clubs and so the prices have increased a little to reflect this:



Breakfast Club from 7.45-8.45am (£5)

After School Club 3.10-6.00pm (£11)



For more information please contact the office.