



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

ELMWOOD INFANT SCHOOL

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Newsletter – 14th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to the autumn term! We've just completed our first week of school for all children since we closed back in March and it has been fantastic. There's a great deal to tell you about how the week has gone and to share with you a few reminders but I'd like to tell you about some of the things that have happened over the summer holidays first.

We have had a great deal of fire safety work completed across the school, including the installation of a new fire panel, more emergency lighting, new doors to the classrooms and smoke detectors around the school. We completed our first fire drill of the new school year with Year 1 and Year 2 earlier in the week and they were SO sensible. Well done children!

Our Nursery has been refurbished, making it look smart and welcoming and we have had the toilet areas for Year 1 and Year 2 refurbished too, creating a much nicer environment for the children to use. Finally, I am sure you will have noticed the amazing planters we have had installed in our playground? These have helped us to create an outdoor learning space for Year 1 children – we are delighted with them. They look incredible and provide the children with lots of opportunities to explore nature. All of this work would not have been possible without Ian, our Site Manager, working as hard as he did over the summer holidays. Thank you Ian!

The rest of our news is focused mostly on updating you on the measures we have in place to keep everyone safe through our social distancing measures and heightened hygiene.

Our Communication

We are trying to avoid sending things to and from home/school, which is why, as much as possible, letters and documents will be sent via email and placed on our website. If you have not been receiving documents via email from us please contact the office and make sure we have your email address.

The best way to contact the office is via email on: office@elmwood-inf.croydon.sch.uk or by contacting the team by phone.

Attendance

We were so delighted to welcome the children back to school last week and to see almost every child return. We had just 5 children absent across the whole school, resulting in the best attendance for a long time.

Of course, attendance might fluctuate this term, especially if we have to ask some of the bubbles across our school to self-isolate. We'll take each day as it comes and work with you to ensure the children get the best possible education they can. By helping us to adhere to our social distancing and hygiene measures, I hope we will be able to keep our school functioning as fully as possible across the next few months.

If you begin to feel anxious about anything, come and speak to a member of staff on the playground. There are lots of us available on the playground at the start of the school day.

What does my child need to bring to school?

Children should not bring bags to and from school this term. The only thing they need with them is a water bottle, book bag (once these have been re-established), their coat and packed lunch if they are having one. PE kits are not needed in school either. Children should come to school in their PE kit on the day they have PE. They are welcome to wear navy jogging bottoms instead of shorts as the weather gets colder.

Dates for Your Diary

Our main diary dates for the autumn term have been placed on our website but here are a few reminders of events that are coming up soon:

15 th Sep	Nursery start full time
18 th Sep	Jeans for Genes Day
23 rd Sep	Year 1 curriculum meeting – Zoom
23 rd Sep	Reception start full time
24 th Sep	Year 2 curriculum meeting – Zoom
2 nd Oct	Key Worker Thank You Day
5 th Oct	Recep curriculum meeting – Zoom

A warm welcome to all of our new Reception and Nursery children and families who join us this week. We are looking forward to working in partnership with you.

Jeans for Genes Day

Friday 18th September

Wear your jeans on Friday 18th September and raise awareness of the Jeans for Genes charity which aims to support children affected by a genetic disorder. We are not collecting money for the charity on this occasion.

Article 23 – Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families

Article 24 – Every children has the right to the best possible health.

Water and Lunchtime

Some children just can't manage their water bottle as it is too big or difficult to open. A bottle that holds 500ml of water is the best size and can be refilled at any time using our (filtered) water dispensers. Please ensure your child has a water bottle each day – these can be purchased from the playground each morning for £1.50. All Nursery and Reception children will be provided with a free bottle when they start school. 😊

As much as possible, please encourage your child to have a school meal as this limits the number of things coming to and from school. Please be assured that a halal option is available whenever there is meat on our menu. If your child is having a packed lunch, please make sure it is in as small a container as possible and that this is wiped down at home each day.

Our menu is available on the school website.

The Start and End of the School Day

Thank you for adhering to our guidelines relating to the start and end of the school day.

Remember you can drop off your child between 8.40am and 9.10am and collect him/her between 2.50pm and 3.20pm. Please do not arrive at the school gates earlier than these times as this creates congestion and impacts on social distancing.

From Monday, parents of Owls and Ducks can drop off as well as collect the children from the classroom door. Children in Macaws should still be dropped off and collected from the fire exit.

A few more reminders to ensure we keep ourselves distanced:

- Keep your distance from the classroom door at the start/end of the day.
- Only one adult should be dropping off and collecting children from school.
- Please leave the school premises as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child.
- Wear a face covering if you have to enter our school building.

Admission to Reception for 2021-2022

If your child was born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016, you **MUST** apply by 15 January 2021 for a primary school place for your child. Please go to <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/school-admissions> for more information.

Our 'visits' to look at our school are being done via Zoom meetings and video this term, with our first ones taking place on Thursday 15th October at 10am or 6pm. Please contact the school office if you would like to book a place for one of these times.

Transfer to Year 3

If your child is in Year 2, you need to apply for a place at a Junior school by the 15th January. Please use the same website address to access the information you need.

Parent Governor Vacancy - Are you interested?

The role of a school governor is extremely important and many essential decisions about this school are taken by our Governing Board. School governors work together with the school leadership team to continually improve the education for every child at our school. Our school governors have 3 core functions. They:

1. Ensure the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of our school;
2. Hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of our school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Oversee the financial performance of our school and make sure its money is well spent.

The governing board have identified that they are short of the following skills and experiences:

- ✓ Experience of managing HR issues or an awareness of HR policy and procedure within a workplace.
- ✓ An understanding of finance and budget setting within a workplace setting.

Whilst the above skills/experience is preferable, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this role with you, whether or not you have this experience.

Croydon schools have governors from all walks of life, from different ethnic groups and all age groups over 18 years old. Very few people cannot be governors. However, the appointment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check as we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Therefore, if successful, an enhanced DBS check will be completed.

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, please express this interest by emailing head@elmwood-inf.croydon.sch.uk. If we have more than one person with the right skills we will need to hold an election.