



# Elmwood Junior School

Head Teacher: Mrs A Read

## ELMWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

*NEWSLETTER - 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020*

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

It was lovely to see all the children back in school last half term and I am very pleased to say that they quickly settled in to the new routines we have put in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

During these first few months, we have been assessing the children in English and Mathematics in order to identify any gaps in their knowledge and understanding so we may put appropriate provision in place to address this.

You will have received a letter from your child's teacher offering you a telephone appointment to discuss your child's progress and the targets they have been set. At present, we are not in a position to offer face-to-face appointments due to the restriction of visitors to the school.

Although we are not expecting another school closure, we have prepared for remote learning should the need arise. You will have received a 'Meet the Teacher' information sheet that includes your child's individual logins for a wide range of learning platforms and this term all homework is being set virtually.

Since September, Harrison Catering are providing school lunches and a 2-week menu is available to view on the website. From Monday, 16th November, Harrison Catering is offering a 3 week menu to provide a wider range of meal choices. This new menu will be put on the website shortly. Children place their order each morning and to maintain our class bubbles, lunches are eaten in the classroom.

We continue to stagger the start and end of the school day in order to limit large gatherings at any one time. It is important that your child does not arrive in the morning before the specified time, which is 8.40-8.55 for Year 3 and Year 4 and 9.00-9.15 for Year 5 and Year 6. We also ask that children are collected promptly, Year 3 and Year 4 at 2.45, Year 5 and Year 6 at 3.00.

This has been successful to some degree but as you are aware, the biggest congestion comes at the end of the school day. It is for this reason that we have recently asked all those dropping off and collecting children to please wear a face covering and to leave the school grounds promptly.

This is to protect you as well as the children who are walking in and out of the school gates at this very busy time.



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There are still a number of children who arrive late in the morning or are collected late after the school day ends. Please ensure your child is dropped off at the designated time and that they are picked up promptly at the end of the school day.



This year Elmwood Junior School have been participating in the Children in Need activities 'Five to Thrive'. BBC Children in Need have partnered up with Joe Wicks to give a focus of fitness and well-being. In class the children have been completing workouts with Joe Wicks (via video) and then completing various activities concentrating on mental health and well-being.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November the School will be joining Joe Wicks and other schools across the country for the final 20 minutes of his 24 hour workout. The children are invited to wear yellow and donate £1. We are not accepting cash this year, so please follow the attached link to make your donation via Parentpay:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=1687>

Please see below a reminder of safeguarding information which includes details of who you can contact if you have a safeguarding concern.

Thank you for the support you have shown us over the half term. We really appreciate your understanding for the changes we have put in place in our efforts to keep all children, staff, and parents/carers as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely

Ann Read  
Head Teacher

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## Safeguarding at Elmwood Junior School

### What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes

At Elmwood Junior School we have a **child centred** approach to Safeguarding – this means that any action we take is always in the best interests of the child.

Each school in Croydon, by law, must have a member of staff in charge of Safeguarding. This member of staff works hard to ensure that both children and families remain safe and well. The Safeguarding Lead at our school is **Mrs Devecioglu**. She works very closely with the Safeguarding team to discuss, share and report concerns. The team consists of: **Mrs Read, Mr Beck, Mrs Kriesler, Mrs Macleod, Mr Ozgu and Mrs Henfrey**.

As well as the Safeguarding team, **all** other members of staff within the school (teaching assistants, sports staff, kitchen staff, site management staff etc.) also receive regular training on Safeguarding issues. Our school has a **culture of vigilance**, this means that Safeguarding is **everyone's** responsibility – not just the Safeguarding Lead or Team. Parents are a very important part of the school community and we ask that parents inform us of any concerns regarding their own, or other families.

**All** members of staff have been trained to follow strict procedures for the reporting of any concerns. Should you wish to gain a deeper understanding of these procedures please read the 'Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy' which can be found on the document zone of our website ([www.elmwood-jun.croydon.sch.uk](http://www.elmwood-jun.croydon.sch.uk)).

All staff are aware of the need for **sensitivity** and **confidentiality** regarding Safeguarding concerns. They will only ever share their concerns with a member of the Safeguarding Team. In most cases this will then result in a member of the team contacting parents to discuss the concerns. Only in circumstances where we have an **immediate concern** for the child's safety would we contact outside services before parents have been consulted.

Concerns may include things such as:

- The care of a particular child e.g. concerns over neglect (is the child regularly having cheese and biscuits for lunch due to lack of funds on their ParentPay account?)
- A child is being bullied by others.
- One off incidents that may have been witnessed by an adult.



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- Concerns about domestic violence in the household.
- Concerns that children are being kept off school unnecessarily.
- Children socialising with others inappropriately outside of school.
- Inappropriate behaviour online.
- The way in which a child is disciplined:

All parents/carers can have very different ways of disciplining their child. This could include shouting, putting them on a naughty step (if they are younger) or sending them to their room (if they are older), being grounded, pocket money being taken away or not being allowed to do something they were looking forward to like an outing or a club. These are all appropriate ways of disciplining children in order to show them that there is a consequence for their actions and helping them to learn the difference between right and wrong. When children are being hit, punched, kicked or hurt in a way that leaves them with injuries, marks or bruises then that is not okay and can be described as physical abuse. **Physical abuse is a crime.** School staff have a duty of care for children. Should we be concerned that physical abuse is taking place we would have to take further action in order to safeguard the child.

We encourage children to speak up about matters that concern them and how to keep themselves safe. We teach them that they can phone 999 in an emergency and we also teach them the Childline number (0800 1111). When necessary, children are allowed to use a phone within the school to contact Childline.

Finally, we are aware that many people are fearful about having to speak to someone about concerns that they may have as they may feel that what they say may result in the child(ren) being taken away from the parents. This is very rarely the case and would only happen in the most extreme of circumstances. If we as a school are aware of issues, we will be able to help signpost the appropriate services to families so that they are able to get the support that they require.

Please contact Mrs Devecioglu (Safeguarding Lead), by phone or email, if you would like to discuss a personal issue which is affecting you/your child's emotional wellbeing and together you can discuss possible support methods.

Mrs Devecioglu: 020 8684 4007 [safeguarding@elmwood-jun.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@elmwood-jun.croydon.sch.uk)

The NSPCC are also very useful and can provide some useful advice on Safeguarding matters. To contact the NSPCC, please call 0808 800 5000 or visit their website [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)