

ELMWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

New Appointments for September 2021

Class Teachers: We are pleased to have the following class teachers join us this academic year: Miss Staunton joins year 6, Mr Pollock and Miss Jimenez join year 5, Miss Harris, Miss Ruzycki and Miss Fraser join Year 4.

We have had a very good start to the new academic year and the children have settled well into their new classes. You will be receiving your child's 'Mid-Term Targets' today which will tell you the targets they are currently working towards.

Teacher and Parent/Carer Consultation

Due to the continuing Covid-19 measures in place to minimise risk to staff, pupils and parents/carers, face to face consultation meetings will not be arranged for this term. Class teachers will be contacting you after half term to arrange a phone conversation to discuss your child's work and the targets they have been set to make further progress. This was very successful last year and I am sure you will find it an informative discussion.

Meet the Teacher

All class teachers have sent parents/carers a 'Meet the Teacher' information sheet that introduced themselves as their child's new class teacher and gave details of their child's individual logins for a wide range of online platforms. Teachers also included their school email address in order to provide parents/carers with a means of communication with them whilst the current situation continues to prevent face to face contact.

Whilst the school continues to have additional safety measures in place, we have had a number of positive cases of Covid-19 of both staff and pupils. Parents/Carers have been informed following each case and we do strongly recommend that your child has a lateral flow test to avoid them coming to school with symptoms and therefore causing the virus to spread.

Recovery Curriculum

All children have been engaged in assessment activities this half term to enable teachers to identify gaps in their knowledge, understanding and application, due to disruption to their learning last year.

Additional funding from the Government is being used to ensure we have the necessary resources to give extra support to those who need it most.

How the school is using this funding:

- Assessment resources to help teachers determine how to most effectively support all children.
- Additional qualified teacher in each year group providing 1:1 mentoring and small group tuition to address gaps in pupils' knowledge and understanding

- Full time on-site Counsellor
- National Tuition Programme

Remote Learning







Where a child or class is required to self-isolate, or there is a further lockdown requiring children to remain at home, the children will switch to remote learning which will align as closely as possible with in-school provision.

Homework- Remote Learning

All Year groups are now being asked to complete their homework online. ‘Paper’ homework is not being issued as the amount of material going to and from school is being minimised.

The same homework timetable is being followed for all year groups and uses the same platforms.

Homework Timetable

Monday	
Tuesday	  SATs Companion
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	 Google Classroom

All children have subscriptions/logins to:

Sora gives access to a huge selection of eBooks and audiobooks. The collection spans millions of titles from thousands of publishers. Children ‘borrow’ books like a conventional library. Teachers can see the titles that pupils have read and how much time they have spent reading.

Google Classroom is being used to set Friday comprehension homework. Children can add their answers to text boxes on the virtual worksheet. Teachers will add summative comments using a bank of pre-written responses.

Readiwriter delivers interactive activities and games that help students develop a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of spelling and vocabulary. It uses best-practice gamification and established pedagogical approaches to teach spelling with confidence. Teachers can assign over 10,000 words using pre-built and custom word lists.

Mathletics allows students to find engagement through purpose and reward. It provides learners with the chance to put their mathematics skills to use through activities and challenges that are relevant and attention-grabbing.

Mirodo (Years 3-5)/SATs Companion (Year 6) is being used to set SPAG homework and ensure coverage of punctuation and grammar work that may have been missed.

Timestables Rockstars _Develops Timestables knowledge and fluency.



Freckle A maths resource linked to Maths STARS assessment.



Quality Mark Awards

Science Quality Mark Silver

The school has successfully renewed the Science Quality Mark Silver. Schools that achieve PSQM demonstrate commitment and expertise in science leadership, teaching and learning.

The assessor stated:

*'We are delighted to inform you that your submission for a **Round 20 Primary Science Quality Mark** was successful. Congratulations! This has been an incredibly challenging year and all the reviewers have been very impressed by the high quality of the submissions we have received. The commitment to leading science in primary school over the last demanding year has been outstanding and the positive impact is very clear'.*

Best wishes The PSQM HQ team

We thank Mrs Kirby, Science co-ordinator, who lead the school in achieving this award and all staff who contributed to the working group and submitted evidence for the audit.

The Wire Award

The WIRE Award is an award offered by Croydon SACRE for schools and teachers. The school submitted an application form on 19th May 2021 for 2021/2022.

The WIRE (**W**idening **I**nclusivity in **RE**) Award is a SACRE-led project which seeks to encourage all Croydon schools to be increasingly proactive with their RE, to widen their doors and become more inclusive. The award:-

- ❖ Works on an annual basis
- ❖ Requires schools to complete four simple elements
- ❖ Is free to schools
- ❖ Supports British Values

All supporting evidence was submitted to SACRE Croydon on 8th July 2021. We received notification on 1st October 2021 that we achieved the WIRE Award and were congratulated on an excellent entry.

Our congratulations go to Mrs Maharaj, the RE co-ordinator, who submitted the evidence for the assessment and led the school in gaining this award.

Soundstart

We are pleased to have continued with the Year 4 Soundstart lessons in this term. Over the course of the year, children in Year 4 have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument with specialist teachers from Croydon Music and Arts. The children have been learning either the ukulele, the recorder, a wind or string instrument of the orchestra. The classes will change to a new instrument half way through the year.

Library 2021-2022

Elmwood Junior School library re-opened to all pupils in September 2021, after being closed for approximately 18 months.

Year 3 and 4 pupils have visited the library for the first time and all pupils from year 3 to year 6 have been allowed to borrow books, once a week, to take home to read. Pupils were reminded about taking care of books and every pupil was given a bookmark.

Each class has a library session for one hour a week. Half the class visits the library for half an hour to borrow books, discuss British Values, Rights in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and to browse. Pupils also use the library computers to go on Education City English. Then the other half come in for half an hour.

Pupils are also encouraged to use our Digital Library, SORA. They can access this at school or at home using their library card number.

AUTHORFY

Authorfy is a website that provides free author videos where authors introduce their books and give a brief synopsis or read extracts from their books. Authorfy brings readers and writers closer together through interactive video masterclasses and fun downloadable activities. There's something for everyone – teachers, parents and pupils. Authorfy is a global community of everyone who enjoys books, reading and writing. Teachers are able to use these for virtual author visits and every month there is a selection of new books that are introduced by the authors. This is a very useful resource to introduce children to new books and authors or to revisit old favourite authors.

The link has been put on the school website so that parents can access it to encourage children to read for pleasure.

Harvest

Harvest Festival was celebrated on Wednesday, 20th October 2021. This year Harvest was celebrated in year group assemblies. Pupils sang Harvest songs and were given a loaf of bread to share in their classes. Each year group had a lesson on Harvest during Religious Education sessions.

Year 3: How Christians celebrate Harvest, Year 4: Thank You for the Harvest, Year 5: Harvest Prayers and Year 6: Where Does your Food Come From? Pupils reflected on the meaning of Harvest and the joy of sharing.

I would like to thank parents/carers for their very generous harvest gifts which have been donated to the Croydon Refugee Day Centre. The food will be distributed to families in need.



Remembrance Day Service 11th November 2021

Elmwood Junior School have been invited by the Royal British Legion to attend the commemoration service being held at Croydon's War Memorial in Katherine Street on Thursday, 11th November 2021. Twenty pupils from Year 6 will attend the service and lay their crosses at the Cenotaph outside the Town Hall. A traditional two-minute silence is held at 11am.

After the ceremony, pupils are invited to have refreshments and will be given the opportunity to talk to the Mayor and veteran soldiers.

Finally, they will be taken on a tour of the Council Chambers and given an opportunity to ask questions about Council Meetings. They will be shown around the Mayor's Parlour where they will learn about the significance of the mace and other items that are in the display cabinets.

This is a fantastic learning experience for pupils and Elmwood is privileged to be invited to participate every year.

Orienteering Festival

On the 29th September, 10 children from Years 4-6 were selected to form an Elmwood team at Lloyd Park for an Orienteering Festival organised by Croydon Schools Sports Partnerships.

This was a great opportunity for the children to get out of school on their first 'trip' since the pandemic. The activity was aimed at building teamwork skills, as well as geographical knowledge, in the context of a sporting challenge, giving it a competitive edge.

Our team excelled in all of the challenges and was given a special commendation by one of the leaders.

They could not believe that our team was comprised of 10 children from different classes and age groups, due to their teamwork, sportsmanship and general capabilities. He mentioned that they were a credit to the school and this certainly made our day.

Painshill Visit for Year 6

On the 11th and 12th October, Year 6 visited the historic Painshill Park in Cobham, Surrey. They enjoyed the magnificent grounds, completing an orienteering activity involving map work and coordinates, as well as working together to find different stamps, earning their team points. It was fantastic to see the children not only being inspired and curious with their surroundings, but tackling and solving problems together.

The second part of the day involved a study and investigation of the water wheel at Painshill Park. The children were given a range of materials and asked to try to get the water wheel working again. They were then led to a hilly area where they created a river bed, guiding water down. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by children, teachers and parents.

Year 3 Diwali Workshop

On Thursday, 14th October 2021, Mr Nabhinandan Das from the South London Hindu temple (ISKCON), gave a presentation to Year 3 about the Hindu festival of Diwali. This was followed by a workshop where they had the opportunity to learn about Diwali through drama, music and dance and began to understand the significance of this festival to members of the Hindu faith.

This visit coincided with the festival of Diwali on 4th November and the unit on Hinduism that pupils are studying in the first part of the Autumn term.

Elmwood Vs Atwood Cup Match

For the girl's first cup match the team travelled to Atwood Primary Academy where the girls played amazingly well. The team had been training for a couple of weeks prior and were very apprehensive about representing the school. They worked as a team throughout, demonstrating great sportsmanship and resilience. The final result was 6-2 to Elmwood, we are very proud of them!

Scholastic Book Club

To encourage pupils to build up their own personal libraries, the school library will set up a Scholastic Book Club from 12th November 2021 to 6th December 2021.

Pupils will be given a leaflet and a letter informing parents that an Online Scholastic Book Club has been set up and that further information is available on the school website.

Parents will have a choice of purchasing online or via the school using the order form.

The Scholastic Book Club is run by the school so that pupils can benefit from the excellent offers and save the cost of packaging and postage (£3.95 for orders under £25.00). The school library also benefits by receiving 20% of the order value in free books.

The British Museum Visit for Year 3

In November, Year 3 will be visiting the British Museum in Central London. This visit will give the children an opportunity to investigate real artefacts from both Pre-historic times and Ancient Egypt.

These areas are of particular interest to Year 3, as they have been studying them both this term. This opportunity allows the children to form their own conclusions and make inferences based on primary sources; which is highlighted as an important feature of providing a history education by The Historical Society. This visit will provide the children with an invaluable experience in terms of their learning.

Year 4 Roman Workshops

As part of the year 4 Roman topic this term, we have organised for Roman Centurion workshops to take place in school, in the week commencing 1st November. Each class will be having a half day workshop and half day craft activity over the course of the day.

During the workshop, the pupils will be introduced to their visitor- who he is, what he does and what he is wearing and carrying. They will also be encouraged to ask pre-prepared questions which have arisen during the teaching of this topic in the first half term. The craft project provided is Roman mosaics- the children will draw out their design and then glue the mosaic pieces into place. As well as the making, they will also talk about what they are making and why these were important.

We are sure this immersive experience will supplement the learning that children have already done as well as the future topics in the Roman unit of work.

London Visit for Year 6

We have arranged for Year 6 to visit London to experience some of the sights and culture of the city. They will visit Shrek's Adventure, have lunch in a restaurant and watch a matinee performance of Matilda.

Children are very familiar with the works of Roald Dahl and will get the opportunity to see how the story has been adapted for the stage.

Be Internet Legends Whole School And Parents Assembly

On Thursday 11th November and Friday 12th November, the school will take part in a LIVE assembly from 'The Internet Legends'. This will be a fantastic experience for the whole of key stage 2 and their parents who have been sent a link to join and watch from home. 'The Internet Legends' will talk to the children about online safety and introduce the 5 pillars of keeping safe online.

These are:

- 1) Sharp - in the Mindful Mountain you must stay sharp to stay safe.
- 2) Alert - in the Reality River you must stay alert and think carefully about what you share online. Always think, would you be happy to share that about yourself?
- 3) Secure - in the Tower of Treasure you must keep your personal information safe and always use a strong password.
- 4) Kind - in the kind kingdom you must always respect each other and be kind.
- 5) Brave - wherever you are online, always be brave. Brave enough to ask for help or tell someone if you are not sure about something.

This will be a good way to introduce some of the online safety lessons that we will now be sharing in each year group. It will also help to remind children of the tips and tricks they need to be safer and more confident online.

Christmas Pantomime Peter Pan (virtual)

As we are unable to take the children to the pantomime this year, we have arranged for the children to watch a virtual performance of Peter Pan.

This is a fully interactive, live show that will enable the children to participate through pressing buttons for 'Boo, Laugh, Cheer, Clap, Shout, "Behind you"'.
We are sure the children will enjoy all the usual 'festive fun'.

Website

We are continually updating the 'Latest News' section of our website so please visit regularly at www.elmwood-jun.croydon.sch.uk

Mrs Dorothy Buck

It is with much sadness that I inform you of the death of Mrs Dorothy Buck.

Mrs Buck first came to the school in the late 1960s as a class teacher. She continued to work at the school for many years and was later asked to set up the school library. She became teacher librarian until she retired in July 2009. After her retirement, Mrs Buck continued to come in on a part-time basis until she retired completely in 2019. Her dedication and commitment to the school and the pupils throughout this time was remarkable and she will be greatly missed by her friends and colleagues at the school.

Finally,

After much careful consideration, I have informed the Governors of my intention to resign as Head Teacher of Elmwood Junior School at the end of the Autumn term 2021.

I have been at the school for nearly 34 years and as Head Teacher for the last 14 years. It has been an honour and a privilege to lead the school during this time and I believe we maintain an excellent standing within the community together with an excellent reputation for the high quality education we provide for all children.

The Governors and the LA have started the appointment process and I shall keep you updated with any developments.

School closes today, Friday 22nd October and reopens on Tuesday 2nd November.

Please note that there is an additional day's holiday on Friday 27th May 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

I wish you all a very happy half term break.

Yours sincerely

Ann Read
Head Teacher

HOLIDAY DATES 2021 - 2022

Autumn Term 2021

<i>Closed to Children</i>	<i>Thursday, 02 September - Teacher Training Day</i>
<i>Closed to children</i>	<i>Friday, 03 September - Teacher Training Day</i>
<i>Open to children</i>	<i>Monday, 06 September</i>
<i>Closes (last day for children)</i>	<i>Friday, 22 October</i>
<i>Half Term (school closed)</i>	<i>Monday, 25 October to Friday, 29 October</i>
<i>Closed to Children</i>	<i>Monday, 01 November - Teacher Training Day</i>
<i>Open to Children</i>	<i>Tuesday, 02 November</i>
<i>Closes (last day for children)</i>	<i>Friday, 17 December</i>

Spring Term 2022

<i>Open to children</i>	<i>Tuesday, 04 January</i>
<i>Closes (last day for children)</i>	<i>Friday, 11 February</i>
<i>Half Term (school closed)</i>	<i>Monday, 14 February to Friday, 18 February</i>
<i>Closed to children</i>	<i>Monday, 21 February - Teacher Training Day</i>
<i>Open to children</i>	<i>Tuesday, 22 February</i>
<i>Closes (last day for children)</i>	<i>Friday, 08 April</i>

Summer Term 2022

<i>Open to Children</i>	<i>Monday, 25 April</i>
<i>School Closed - Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 02 May</i>
<i>Closes (last day for children)</i>	<i>Thursday, 26 May</i>
<i>Half Term (school closed)</i>	<i>Friday, 27 May to Friday, 03 June- Inc Bank Hols</i>
<i>Closed to Children</i>	<i>Monday, 06 June - Teacher Training Day</i>
<i>Open to children</i>	<i>Tuesday, 07 June</i>
<i>Closes (last day for children)</i>	<i>Friday, 22 July</i>