



Elmlea  
Schools' Trust

# Elmlea Schools' Trust Newsletter Issue 22 Friday 26th February

Dear parents and carers,

At last the news we have been waiting for that we can reopen fully to all our children, hurray!!!. I'm sure there were cheers and sighs of relief in homes across the land.

At Elmlea, we too are really excited about all the children coming back into school and cannot wait to welcome them back. In school we have been working our way through the guidance and this time round the government have been very clear in their expectations which we really welcome.

All children will be welcomed back into Elmlea on March 8th. Attendance is mandatory and the expectation is that all children will be back in school. Any absence other than for illness will be considered unauthorised, this time round there is no choice about attendance.

## School Curriculum

As you can imagine at Elmlea we have already been thinking and planning for your child's return to school. As a staff team we are united in the approach we will take. We fully recognise that all children will have had different experiences of lockdown. What we do know is all our children have been unable to socialise in their usual ways and the vast majority have had to spend their weeks home learning. Consequently, settling your child positively back into school will be every teacher's priority.

Our teachers have thought very carefully about the structure of their lessons as well as the content of the school day to ensure your child's return to school is a really positive experience.

Alongside individual year group topic themes we will also have the following themes, that will run across the Trust for every year group and guide their wellbeing sessions across the week.

Week 1 - Welcome back

Week 2 - Friendship

Week 3 - Teamwork

Week 4 - Celebration

Teachers will be next week using tapestry, Seesaw and their teams sessions to talk about the return to school and if your child has any questions or worries please encourage them to share them.



## School Organisation

Our schools will be organised in a similar way to how it was in December with staggered drop off and pick up. Timings of the school day are outlined below.

The only changes to note is that Yr1 and Yr2 are able to come in at the same time. Yr2 will go straight into their classrooms via the pedestrian entrance and Yr1 will come into the playground to line up on the dots. This is to reduce the number of children waiting to come in at drop off time.

Please see the [safety guidance](#) we sent out in September to be shared with your child and our updated risk assessment can be found here for [Infants](#) and [Juniors](#).

The main updates to our Covid risk assessment are that we have introduced voluntary lateral flow testing twice a week for all staff and the take up has been very high. Every Sunday and Wednesday all staff are testing for covid.

All staff are now wearing masks or visors in the internal corridors and can choose to wear them in the classroom if they so wish.

## School Uniform

The children are expected to be in school uniform when they return to school, however we know that school shoes are difficult as you can't get to shops to get feet measured. If your child has grown out of their school shoes, trainers are fine to be worn for the rest of this term up to the Easter holidays.

If your child has grown out of their school uniform and you don't want to buy new stuff, thinking of our Yr6 families especially, we have a lot of second hand uniform both infant and junior available. We are in the process of organising a sale next week so you can come and pick up what you need.

Enjoy your weekend, knowing that we can all feel hopeful for the weeks ahead and all they hold for every family.

Lorraine Wright  
Executive Headteacher

## Preparing your child for coming back to school.

### Conversations

Encourage your child to talk about school and what they are looking forward to, who they will see. Perhaps talk to them about what is lunchtime like at school what would you normally do etc. This will enable them to visualise themselves back at school and imagine themselves there.

Please talk as positively as possible about their experience of lockdown. The media coverage is really negative and yet for our children this has been a unique, significant experience and we need to be careful about the language we use. In school we will not use phrases with the children such as "catch up" or "lost learning" as they are not helpful and being told to catch up creates stress.

### Routines

If your routines have been different this term, please can you use next week to get your child back into their school routines. This is especially important regarding bedtimes and wake up times.

Coming back into school will be physically challenging and emotionally demanding as your child will quickly become tired as they will need to build up their stamina. If you can help us by ensuring they have had enough sleep, this will support your child to manage their emotions too on rejoining school.



## School day – Drop off and Pick Up Times.

Year group	Drop Off	Enter school via ...	Pick Up
Reception	8:50am	Infant main gate and line up on dots.	3:15pm
Yr 1	8:45am	Infant main gate and line up in playground on dots.	3:10pm
Yr 2	8:45am	Infant pedestrian gate and straight into classrooms.	3:05pm
Yr 3	8.40am	Junior pedestrian gate and walk to classrooms via the playground. Wait in allocated holding bay if arrived before allocated time.	3.05pm
Yr 4	8.45am	Junior pedestrian gate and walk to classrooms via the playground. Wait in allocated holding bay if arrived before allocated time.	3.10pm
Yr 5	8.50am	Junior pedestrian gate and walk to classrooms via the playground. Wait in allocated holding bay if arrived before allocated time.	3.15pm
Yr 6	8.35am	Junior pedestrian gate and straight into classrooms via playground door.	3.00pm

# school dinners

### Juniors School dinners tasty new menu and ordering reminder

The new menu is now in place and can be found [here](#). May we remind parents that if their child is having a school dinners they must pre order on Aspens. If you haven't pre-ordered, you will receive a phone call from the school and will need to bring a packed lunch in for your child. **Please note** that we are unable to accommodate changes of minds on the day either.

If your child ends up not coming in, eg due to illness, self-isolating or school trips, please remember to cancel your Aspens order as otherwise you will still be charged. Thanks

### Infants back to school details and menu reminder

Please find attached [information](#) from Chartwells' detailing their plans for the safe full re-opening of schools from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Your meal choice will stay the same as you ordered before Christmas and the menu can be found [here](#).



### CALLING ALL BUDDING BAKERS!

Applications have just opened for the 7<sup>th</sup> series of **Junior Bake Off**; a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation in Britain.



We are looking for young budding bakers between **9-15 years old**.

Filming would take place from July 2021 and **applications close on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.

Interested bakers can apply online at [WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)

Please see some more information [here](#) and do feel free to contact us on **0207 067 4833**, should you have any questions

Best wishes, The Junior Bake Off Team

enquiries: [applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk](mailto:applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk)

### Music

Well done to children across all year groups for the effort they have been putting into their Seesaw music activities. Your hard work hasn't gone unnoticed. Particular praise goes to Hannah (6S) for her space themed composition using Google Chrome this week.



Instrumental and Singing lessons will resume the week beginning 8th March. I know many of the children have been enjoying their zoom lessons and will be looking forward to seeing their teachers in person. BPM will be in touch confirming the timetable.

Keep practicing everyone!

Mrs Parkes

### Digital Awareness UK online safety webinar

ParentGym are excited to welcome back leading online safety organisation, Digital Awareness UK, to deliver an **online safety webinar** to help parents, carers and coaches feel empowered when it comes to keeping children safe online during covid-19.



**When:** Thursday 4th March 2021, 5pm - 6pm **Where:** Zoom (see below for sign up details)

Screen time amongst young people has reportedly increased by 500% during lockdown, so keeping young people safe online has never been more important. Online issues such as bullying, hate speech, fake news, sexual harassment and exposure to upsetting content have increased at an alarming rate during the pandemic.

During the 1 hour zoom webinar, Digital Awareness UK will talk through:

1. Popular online apps and digital wellbeing trends
2. Critical issues to be aware of
3. Practical steps to protect children from online risk and to encourage happy and healthy tech habits.

There will also be plenty of time to ask questions about any concerns you may have in the home around online safety.

To sign up for the session please click here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parent-gym-keeping-children-safe-online-during-covid-19-registration-136790631461>



This [session](#) is **open to everyone** so we very much hope to see you there.

Best wishes, Team Parent Gym

[www.parentgym.com](http://www.parentgym.com)

*Please note: This session has been produced exclusively by Digital Awareness UK and therefore all views expressed during the session or related conversation are those of Digital Awareness UK solely.*

### Key Dates 2021



<u>Term 4</u>	<u>Term 5</u>	<u>Term 6</u>	<u>INSET DAYS</u>
Mon 22 Feb to Thurs 1 April	Mon 19 April to Fri 28 May	Mon 7 June to Weds 21 July	Mon 7 June & Fri 2 July (NEW date)