



# Elmlea Schools' Trust Newsletter Issue 16 Friday 8th January

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year 2021! I hope you were able to enjoy the holidays as much as was possible although this may seem a dim and distant memory now.

We know none of us have had the start we had planned to the year and in school we are back in to remote learning. I have been on all the learning platforms this week to see the learning that is taking place and every member of our Elmlea families should feel so proud of all they have achieved with parents supporting and children learning as they go.

A big thank you to all our staff teams who immediately responded once lockdown was announced.

Our teachers have been posting responding and holding live sessions and trying to support your children academically and emotionally in many different ways online. We hope the daily live sessions really help with this. Our support staff teams have been in school supporting critical workers and vulnerable children and ensuring their wellbeing too.

We fully appreciate that many of you at home are trying to work as well as support your children and there have been tears all round. As we said last time there is only so much you can do, please be kind to yourself and your best efforts have to be good enough.

## Requests for critical childcare

We have had a significant increase in requests for critical childcare this lockdown and thank you to all parents who reconsidered other options when we expressed our concern at the high numbers, which increased the risk to our staff and children. We are very grateful for this and we feel the numbers are now safer than they were and more manageable for the moment. We have however had to ask teachers to now join the support staff rota to ensure children are safely looked after. They will let your children know when they are in school and not online as much that day. We will close our requests for additional childcare shifts at 12.00pm daily unless of course you are asked to do emergency cover for example in hospital.



Take care and remember to be kind to yourselves.

Lorraine Wright, Executive Headteacher

## Remote Learning Updates

You may remember the start of last lockdown was extremely stressful as every family adjusted and found their own rhythm for home learning. There is an increased expectation from the DfE of the content of our home learning this time round and we have responded to that. However,



please remember each family circumstance is different so only do what you can do.

The technology this time has not held up as well as last time and the Seesaw platform Yr1 – Yr6 are using has been problematic which is really disappointing and we did not realise this until we all began using it again. We do however know there is great capacity within Teams which we are urgently exploring and will communicate this as soon as we can.

Please also note that in order to support the larger numbers of critical worker children in school, teachers will be having to support childcare in school. This will be on a rota basis and the class teacher will notify via seesaw the days they have to come in. We will however make sure that the teacher is still able to complete their live sessions even if in school, so the children still get a daily check in with their class teacher. Other teachers in the year group will pick up posts on seesaw if the class teacher in school is unable to.

In response to feedback from children and parents regarding the live sessions for all Junior children, we have moved to one session per day in the afternoon to reduce stress points in the morning. Teachers will post the times to join on seesaw.

Any technical issues with Seesaw or Teams, please email [tom.weller@elmleaschoolstrust.com](mailto:tom.weller@elmleaschoolstrust.com) You will not receive a reply, but we will try to rectify the technical issues.

## Parent Gym

Parent Gym is a programme, developed by psychologists, which aims to support parents to raise happy, confident children. Last year many families took part in group sessions based at the junior school, led by our in-house coaches. At the present time, we are unable to run these sessions, but parent Gym have sent us a link to virtual sessions and a Facebook support group that parents and families may find useful at this challenging time. Anyone can access these free resources.

### Free Virtual parent Gym E-Workouts:

parent Gym are offering eight short digital, bite-sized modules which parents can access on their phones or devices, to help families stay calm and positive through the coming weeks.

<https://parentgym.com/workouts/>

### You can also access the Parenting through uncertainty Facebook page:

A group bringing parents together to share stories, thoughts, tips and ideas on how to get through these challenging times.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/148481499806766>



## The Sports Project

The Sports Project is a non-profit community interest company, has set up a variety of fun and challenging online sport and physical activity after-school clubs. Starting 11<sup>th</sup> January, these will help with the children's physical and mental well-being during lockdown.

Click on the link below for more information and to sign up <https://the-sports-project.class4kids.co.uk> Parents/carers or older siblings can join in for free!



THINK BETTER • FEEL BETTER • BE BETTER

## Important information from Aspens about Junior School lunches!

Dear parents, you should by now have received an email directly from Aspens, so this is just to re-iterate that all existing orders you have placed via Aspens will be cancelled by close of play today (Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January) and refunds will be processed for all orders going forward from Monday to half term.

The previously-published menu will stay on the system so if you are a critical key worker and your child will be attending school as of next week, you will need to go back on and reorder their meals.

[aspens-services.co.uk](https://aspens-services.co.uk)

**ASPENS SERVICES LTD**



### Key Dates 2021

#### Term 3

Tuesday 5th January

to

Friday 12th February

### French lessons via Zoom

Bonne Année ! I wanted to let you know that despite the disruption over the last year, I have been bowled over by the children's enthusiasm for their zoom French clubs. They have learnt a huge amount and grown in confidence and it has amazed me just how interactive it can be - we sing, play games, do role-plays, even cooking together and the children are making great strides learning not just words but actually learning how to agree adjectives and build sentences with simple verbs. We will continue with our zoom French language clubs after-school everyday day at 4.15pm and your child is most welcome to join us. We have beginner and intermediate clubs for Reception up to Year 6. [Find out more](#)



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