

# Elmlea Schools' Trust Newsletter Issue 1 Friday 9th September 2024



## Term 1

Mon 2 Sept–25 Oct '24  
**INSET DAY** Fri 25 Oct '24

## Term 2

Mon 4 Nov—Fri 20 Dec '24  
**PTA Xmas fair - Sat 30 Nov**

## Term 3

Mon 6 Jan – Fri 14 Feb '25  
**INSET DAY** Mon 6 Jan '25  
*First day Term 3 Tues 7 Jan '25*

## Term 4

Mon 24 Feb – Fri 4 April '25  
**INSET DAY** Fri 7 March '25

## Term 5

Tues 22 April to Fri 23 May '25  
May Bank Holiday Mon 5 May

## Term 6

Mon 2 June – Fri 18 July '25  
**INSET DAY** Mon 23 June '25  
Last Day of Term 6 Fri 18 July

Full details can be found [here](#)

### **Teacher-led after school clubs**

A reminder to submit interest for your Junior school child to join an Elmlea teacher-led club they are eligible for, by 9.00am on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September – please complete the questionnaire following this [link](#).

**Infant Choir** To express interest in your Year 1 or 2 child joining on Thursdays after school, click [here](#).



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year. It has been so lovely to welcome the children into school and we are so proud of them and how quickly they have settled into their new classes.

A special welcome to our Reception 2024 children who have all been very brave and started school for the first time. Our Reception team have been so impressed by all of the children who have shown such resilience. Next week we know they are all looking forward to being together as a whole class and also getting to experience school dinners.

We have also had new children join us across the school in other year groups and we extend a very warm welcome to you and your family and hope you quickly feel part of the Elmlea school community.

**Welcome to new staff** – we have had a number of new staff join the team this year and we extend a warm welcome to Mrs Gritten, Ms Unrine, Ms Nayyar who have joined as learning support assistants. Mr Webster – PE teacher, Ms Morris – Reception teacher, Ms Tam – Yr1 teacher, Mr Pinguenet – Yr2 teacher, Mrs Short Yr6 teacher and Ms Vann – Deputy Headteacher ( see below).

“I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new Deputy Headteacher at Elmlea. I've spent a number of years working in London schools, but as a Bristolian through and through, I was delighted to return to my home city over the summer. I feel passionately about creating a nurturing, engaging learning environment where every child can thrive, and I'm really looking forward to working with your children and the brilliant team here. I will regularly be out on the Infant School gate, so please do come and say hello!” Ms Vann.

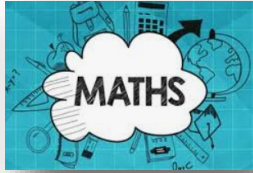
Ms Neal our EYFS Lead and Reception teacher will be starting her maternity leave next week – we send our best wishes and look forward to meeting her new baby.

**School uniform** – Your children are looking so smart in their school uniform and thank you to you for supporting the school in this way. We know the children are proud to be part of Elmlea and this is part of our school identity. Please ensure all uniform is named so it can be returned to your child.

**Lost property** – Every week we have so much lost property and from now on every Friday starting next week, all named uniform will be returned to your child, any unnamed uniform will be put in the uniform shed.

**Driving to school** – a number of our families have to unavoidably drive to school – if you do, please remember to use the suggested one way system at drop off and pick up by driving up Brainsfield and turning right onto Elmlea Avenue and out to Parys Lane. Please give yourself time to park safely, legally and with respect for our neighbours driveways. We were very concerned to hear that already someone had been parking on the zig zag lines outside school. The safety of everyone coming to school is paramount please respect this.

**Lorraine Wright,**  
Executive Headteacher



### Maths curriculum update for the Junior School.

As a trust, we have been trialling a new approach to our maths curriculum to ensure that we are giving the children the best opportunities to be successful mathematicians. We have made the informed decision, based on research and best practise, that for Years 3-5 the children will be taught in their main classes by their class teacher.

### Music News

Violin/viola/cello Lessons: If your child would like to learn to play one of these instruments, there are some spaces left. Don't worry if you don't have an instrument because we have some in school, or they can be loaned from Bristol Beacon. Here is a link to a [letter](#) with more details and how to sign up for lessons.



### Penguins swimming club sessions



Penguins swimming club are running sessions for anyone in the junior school interested in taking part in school swimming galas this year. There will be a small cost which will be split between participants. They will be on some Sunday evenings between 18:35 and 19:30 at Clifton College and run by a lovely coach called Sophia. Anyone interested please email Julia with your phone number so you can be added to the Swim team WhatsApp [juliabray21@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:juliabray21@yahoo.co.uk).

### PAPAYA 'Parents against phone addiction in young adolescents'

There is a growing group of parent/carers at Elmlea who are following the Smartphone Free Childhood movement and Jonathan Haidt's work ('The Anxious Generation'). Informed by this and her own work as a GP of students in Bristol, Susie Davies formed PAPAYA ('Parents against phone addiction in young adolescents'). Susie has conducted many workshops in local primary and secondary schools, and invites Elmlea parents to join her online talk on Wednesday 18th September, 19.00-20.15.



## Inclusion Information and Support

### Bristol Parent Carer Coffee Morning with Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools Project

Come along to one of our coffee mornings with the Bristol Parent Carer forum as part of the above project - these sessions are open to all parent carers within the school community. During these sessions, we will facilitate open discussions where parent carers can share their insights and experiences regarding their children.

Additionally, we will offer signposting information to parent carers in your school community, ensuring they are aware of available local support services for themselves and their children or young people. Types of support that parent carer forums could offer to deliver in schools that are part of the PINS project include:

- Set up and facilitate a SEND parent carer participation group in the school
- Support to develop a sustainable and effective relationship between school leadership and the SEND parent carers
- Support to identify the priorities of SEND parent carers
- Facilitation of participation discussions to coproduce responses to priority areas
- Regularly feedback to monitor the impact and effectiveness of coproducing with families
- Empower SEND parent carers to understand and engage with other (health and social care) services to enable better engagement and support for families
- Provide information about the wider SEND system to promote greater understanding and awareness of available support

Identify and signpost to appropriate practitioners and services for families

**Elmlea dates** : Term 1: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September | Term 2: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November | Term 3: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January . **All will take place at 9am in the Junior Library**

### Sunflower Scheme

Are you aware of the Sunflower Scheme for invisible disabilities? Find out more [here](#).

