

Spring Newsletter

April 2021

Head teacher's update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping well. As the government is following its roadmap for the country to come out of lockdown, our school can also start to think about its exciting next steps, but ONLY if we remember that we are STILL in a pandemic so we need to remember the following 5 steps:

1. Hands washed regularly, Face coverings, Space of 2 metres and fresh air
2. Testing regularly
3. Vaccination
4. Take care of mental health
5. Isolate if required and do not mix with others. You may be eligible for a £500 payment.

Please follow the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance#test-and-trace-support-payments>

If your child or a member of the household has Covid symptoms then they must get tested at a test centre. Please note that a negative test result from a centre (not home test kit) is required for your child to return to school if they experienced Covid symptoms.

If your child experiences Covid symptoms or tests positive or is isolating them please complete this short form as well as communicating this via parentmail: <https://forms.gle/gSyrw1usy6TuSsTa9>

It is essential that this is communicated to the school ASAP to stop further transmission.

Here are a few key updates for our school based on the updated guidance for schools:

- ⇒ The RWI phonic groups in early years and year 1 will be resuming after Easter in their usual fashion, spread across the year group. If there is a spike in new cases within the school/Newham then this arrangement will be reviewed again.
- ⇒ From 1 April, clinically extremely vulnerable individuals are no longer advised to shield.
- ⇒ Schools can resume educational day visits no earlier than 12 April but we will still be discouraging using public transport until further notice.
- ⇒ From 29 March, outdoor competition between different schools can take place.

General notices:

Abdul Hasib shared the wonderful free adult courses running at the Priory Park Centre (part of Newham Adult Learning service aka NALS) to the PTA last week. As the lockdown is easing, they will be re-opening the centre on Monday 19th April 2021. Please follow the link to the website

<https://www.newhamadultlearning.co.uk/> or call – 0203 373 7443 or 0203 373 9706

Here are some of the free courses:

- Digital Skills courses
- E.g. "Support with your Chromebook." You might also be eligible for a free Chromebook too!
- Wellbeing courses
- ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) courses

You need to enrol now to secure a place and complete a few online sessions before the Easter break. This will help you to support your children better too.

Live streaming – you can join into the lessons remotely if you can't come in person.

Support for vulnerable families

The school is running a 9 day Easter holiday provision for targeted pupils who are either eligible for free school meals (FSM) or whose educational standards have fallen behind their peers. It will involve all day lessons including in English and Maths in the mornings followed by lunch provided by the school and more physical and creative work in the afternoons.

£30 vouchers will be issued to all pupils eligible for FSM over the Easter holiday break, secured from the government by campaigners such as Marcus Rashford.

A regular food bank started in the KS2 playground last week in partnership with Hope for Humanity and will be running each fortnight.

Safeguarding notices for children/families:

Smart watches are not allowed in school since pupils can use them to make phone calls.

Please limit the time that pupils spend on devices and screens since it is affecting their education and mental health.

PLEASE drive sensibly on Upton Park Road and do not reverse since it is congested and there have already been 2 accidents.

Happy Easter and Ramadan Mubarak for those families observing these two important religious observances.

- Ms S Samra

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Elmhurst Primary Newsletter! We hope you are all well and staying safe.

We are pleased to have our children back in school and are very proud of how well they have settled back in despite the many months being at home.

Our staff, parents and children have been doing an outstanding job adapting to these changes and have had a very interesting and fun term! Take a look inside to see what we have been up to as a school during this half term.

TERM DATES	
SCHOOL TERM	PUPIL HOLIDAY
Half Term	
Friday 2nd April 2021 – Friday 16 th April 2021	
Summer Term 1	May Day
Monday 19 April 2021 – Friday 28 May 2021	Monday 3rd 2021
	Half Term
	Monday 31st May 2021 - Friday 4th June 2021
Summer Term 2	Summer Break
Monday 7 June 2021 – Tuesday 20th July 2021	Wednesday 21st July 2021 – Wednesday 1st September 2021

We would like to wish Ms Nessa and Ms Saleema Begum a big congratulations for their new chapter ahead. We will be thinking of you both and sending you lots of love during your maternity leave. All the best to you and yours! We hope your maternity leave is filled with nothing but love and laughter. See you when you return!

Trip to the Park



Year 1 went to West Ham Park on Thursday 25th March for our spring science trip. We searched for different signs of spring, looking for spring flowers like daffodils, crocuses, buttercups and daisies. We saw lots of bees pollinating flowers and searching for nectar, and heard different types of birds tweeting in the branches. Some of us even saw some bright green parakeets! The year 1 classes collected fallen petals, green leaves and blossoms to make their own spring collages back at school.

Nursery

The Nursery children have settled in very well since their return back to school. They have all grown so big and are making new friends and building strong relationships with their teachers. The children are doing well to implement the 5Cs at such a young age; they are becoming more confident, caring and are exploring different ways to be creative and independent. They are all very happy and have thoroughly enjoyed their first term, the nursery teachers look forward to helping our young children develop further in the next term.



The Nursery children have been learning about Easter for the past two weeks. This week the children have had lots of fun making their very own Easter cakes, Easter baskets/Easter bags. The enjoyed learning about how the chocolate melted, crunching up the shredded wheat, mixing it all together and adding their mixture into their cupcake cases independently. We hope you enjoy looking at our photos as much we enjoyed making our own Easter cakes.



Debating Competition

It's a topic that has dominated the international agenda for months but that does not mean it is beyond the minds of Elmhurst's debating team!

A group of year six debaters discussed the motion 'THBT the Indian government is treating the country's farmers unfairly'. They brought up important issues such as the financial difficulties faced by those in the agricultural sector and weighed it up against the duty of the government to support the whole economy, especially during the era of the COVID pandemic.

The two teams went head-to-head in front of Miss Samra and Mr Ahmed, who were both impressed by the confidence the children showed to take on such a complex topic. In the end, the opposition came out on top by a very narrow margin.

Parent/Carer Opportunities

Exciting fitness & device opportunity for women

Capital Kids Cricket (CKC) has Sport's England's funding to give smart tablets for fitness purposes to a few selected women who are aged 16 and above. To be eligible you **must attend** at least one CKC session weekly and demonstrate that you require a tablet since your family devices are in heavy use or you only have access to a phone and it is hard to follow instructions.

Tablets will be loaned out for 10 weeks, but these may continue depending on different projects. Please see the flyer for session details.

Sessions are:

Monday- Yoga (4pm)

Friday-Aerobics (10am)

Friday-Boxing (4:45 pm)

Saturday- Aerobics (10am)

All enquiries should be sent to office@ckc.london



WOMEN ONLY FREE VIRTUAL FITNESS SESSIONS!

Aerobics and Fitness (ages 16+)
- Mondays 4pm
- Fridays 10am

CKC will provide tablets to those who need to get access to these classes (limited tablets, T&C applies)

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/CCYeAJRkVNC4L1Ma7>

Contact:
Email: office@ckc.london
Phone: 07931 770717
Website: www.ckc.london



As a school, with the help of our music coordinator Ms T Cowley, we have developed a rich provision in music to help our children explore and appreciate this subject.

Ms Cowley has set up classes for our year 5 and 6 children to learn flute and guitar. The children have really embraced their lessons and it has really stimulated their inner musical abilities.

We encourage and invite more of our pupils to join in this opportunity. A letter will be sent out on Parent Mail with more details about the classes, we really do hope more of our pupils can join.

Choir club will also be resuming after the Easter break.

We look forward to rocking with the children!!

Easter Assembly



This half term, Year 2 have been studying the Christian festival of Easter. The children and staff have worked hard to put together all they have learnt into a virtual assembly which tells the story of Easter. Every child contributed through acting, narrating and singing. We hope you enjoy it.

The Easter assembly is now available to watch on our school website or can be accessed using the link below:

<https://youtu.be/aER61pz8sW0>

We hope you enjoy watching our lovely children!



Year 3 Celebrate Holi



Year 3 are currently learning about the festival of Holi in Religious Education. Holi is known as the festival of colours and spring and involves people throwing coloured powder at each other. The children in Year 3 had the opportunity of experiencing this festival in our very own playground. The sun was shining, lots of colour was thrown and lots of fun was had!



Red Nose Day



19 MARCH 2021

On Friday March 19th, many schools across the country raised money for Comic Relief by taking part in Red Nose Day.

At Elmhurst we asked our children to take part by wearing any item of red clothing to support this national cause.

As a school we were able to raise £286 which has now been donated to Comic Relief. We are proud of our children for doing something to help the community.



World Book Day 2021

It was the first week back at school and Elmhurst finished the week on a high by celebrating WORLD BOOK DAY! It was wonderful to see our lovely pupils coming into school dressed as their favourite book characters and spending the day learning all about new stories. The teachers, as always, got their best dress-up outfits together. Have a look at some fab pics from the day!





We are Newham
Working Together for Children
and Families with SEND

Monday 19th April 2021
10am to 12:30

What is our offer
and how to access

<https://zoom.us/j/97626905329>
Meeting ID: 976 2690 5329

An information sharing event with and for parents of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Newham to hear about the services in the local area.

Newham
Together

The best place
for Children and
Young People



Ramadan Mubarak



We wish our Muslim parents and children Ramadan Greetings as this important observance is starting either on 12th or 13th April 2021. As you know Ramadan is a month in which Muslims fast and fasting is an act of worship, a chance to get closer to God and a way to become more compassionate to those in need.

We are aware that some parents allow their children to fast from an early age depending on their general health, well-being and tolerance to hunger. We are also aware that for many children this is an exciting time and they are keen to join in with the family experience of Ramadan. However, it is important to remember that in line with religious guidance, children are only required to fast from the age of puberty. The age children begin fasting is particularly important as Ramadan now takes place during the British summer months, when the days are very long (18-19 hours this year) and fasting can be difficult even for adults and young children tend to be more active and require more energy and fluids.

In light of this, if you wish your child to fast during the school day, please do take the following advice into consideration:

Children's understanding of Ramadan can be developed in different ways - including making them aware of the importance of being thoughtful and selfless and perhaps fasting for a few hours at a time.

Alternatively, children can be encouraged to fast at the weekend, when the days can be staggered between rest and activity and when parents are better able to judge if a child is finding it difficult to fast.

If you have a child in Year 3/4, we would strongly encourage them to carry out part fasts or fast at the weekend as above. This is a way for them to experience Ramadan without it being overly challenging.

For children in Years 5/6 we do appreciate that they are a little older and slightly more resilient. **If your child in Year 5/6 is fasting then please inform the class teacher, including those who will be attending the Easter provision.** We can make provision for these children to stay inside with a teacher during this time if this will support the fast. If your child is fasting, please encourage them to have a healthy diet (with lots of fluids) at both Suhur and Iftar times.

It has been advised by the NHS to consider not fasting in these times if you have health problems or are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus .

I would add that as a school we appreciate some of the main benefits of Ramadan includes increased compassion for those in need and having good intentions at all times. These are indeed attributes we encourage in all our children.