



**WE ARE HAVING A
NEW SCHOOL BUILT
READY TO MOVE
IN DURING 2021-22.**



Ofsted
Graded GOOD
2019

CONTINUES TO BE A GOOD SCHOOL - NOVEMBER 2019

'Elm Park is a happy and friendly school.'
'Pupils love learning because teachers make it fun.'

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School Newsletter 1.

11.9.2020

Dear Families,

Inspiring Learners, Enriching Lives, Achieving Together

I hope this email reaches you and your families in good health after the summer break. It has been truly wonderful to welcome all of our families back to school and to see our classrooms and playgrounds once again filled with children. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new reception children, who have settled in really well and will be staying for their very first school lunch on Monday. It has also been really exciting to welcome 17 new children to our school ranging from year 1 – year 6. These families have come from near and far to join our school and we wholeheartedly welcome them into our community. We also have several other families on our waiting list as Elm Park continues to grow from strength to strength.

Elm Park at its best...

During this first full week back, year 6 children have been planning presentations for their House Captain nominations. As part of the process, the children have recorded video messages to their houses explaining why they feel they should be nominated as house captain. It is with a huge sense of pride that I can say we had 26 year 6 children put themselves forward for the roles – an Elm Park record! Voting has taken place today and children will find out on Monday, who has been nominated. To all of the children, who nominated themselves, I would like to say a very big well done. You all put your viewpoints across very clearly and spoke with confidence. Congratulations to you all. Thank you to our year 6 teachers and teaching assistants for finalising the videos.

Teaching assistant update:

For the second year in a row, we have been able to ensure that all classes at Elm Park have highly skilled teaching assistants working in the classes every morning. This means that every class has two adults during core learning times within the school day to not only support academic progress but to also provide pastoral support to our children returning after lockdown. To find out who is working in your child's class, please see the class newsletter.

Homework changes:

Spelling homework has changed days slightly due to COVID-19 restrictions. Therefore, spelling homework will be sent home on a Monday and needs to be returned to school on Thursdays. The actual test will take place on Mondays so that all books from home can have been quarantined for 72 hours prior to staff marking the tests.

Reading diaries will need to be in school only on a Monday. Teachers will ask the children to open their diaries and will verbally celebrate children's reading achievements on a 1:1 level. The children will then be

given a sticker to stick in their diary, which may include a reminder for children to record reading 5 times per week.

Timestable Rockstars and Numbots will be reset from Monday. All children's coins will still be saved and these will be carried over. If your child does not currently have a login, please speak to their teacher. Mrs Lugg will issue any new joiners with their logins by Thursday 17th September.

Update on the recovery curriculum

To ensure that all children have the time to resettle and to assess their current learning needs, the school has followed the #SouthGlos recovery curriculum. To support children with the school return, activities have been planned to not only ensure that children build on their current English and Maths skills but also to redevelop social communication skills, for example listening in larger groups, collaboration with peers and communication skills. This has been really well received by children and we are already seeing huge benefits. The Elm Park Connected Curriculum will start again on Monday 14th September, with a continued emphasis on developing key skills within the foundation subjects. For children who require additional support with resettling, bespoke provision will continue to be provided by the class teacher and teaching assistant.

Building update

The new build enabling works are continuing to take place. This week, we have seen a temporary carpark created for staff at the front of the school. The 'Bobcat' has now moved onto the school field where a new Key Stage 2 playground or 'Muga' is being built prior to the main contractors moving on site in the middle of October. It has been wonderful to see the excitement of the children as they are starting to see things changing within the school grounds. I am hoping that over the next few weeks, I will have further pictures of the inside of the building and landscaping to show you. Watch this space!

Finally

Finally, I just want to take this opportunity from my staff and I to say how humbled we all felt at the end of the last academic year with all of the thoughtful and heartfelt messages we all received. We are truly excited for all that this new year will offer and look forward to working with all of our families to continue to improve our school for all of our children.

Wishing you a very relaxing weekend.

Mrs Carol Bond

Acting Headteacher