



**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 9

22.01.2021

Inspiring Learners, Enriching Lives, Achieving Together

Dear Families,

Remote learning feedback:

A huge thank you to the 84 families who completed the remote learning questionnaire. It was humbling to read the incredible feedback we received.

'Keeps them engaged. Gives them a responsibility to complete tasks and a sense of achievement when getting a positive response from the teacher. Helps parents understand how to complete tasks as often very different to how we learnt at school!'

57% of families felt that there was the right amount of learning set for their children with a further 23% saying that there was a little too much as they were juggling full time work commitments, as well as trying to support home learning. However, the vast majority of these families also commented that their feedback was more in relation to government guidelines rather than the total amount of learning being supplied. Only 4% of families stated that there was not enough learning.

'The lessons and corresponding activities are clearly defined, which gives structure to our child's learning. They also provide implicit guidance regarding the expected pace of learning/progress. As a by-product of remote learning, we see first-hand how each topic is taught, how new learning is introduced etc.'

Throughout the feedback, the use of PowerPoints with teacher's voiceovers has been celebrated as something that supports new learning and helps children with their tasks. It has also been wonderful to read (and see first-hand) how much the children, parents and teachers have enjoyed our Teams meetings each morning.

*Thank you to
all staff for the
incredible
learning offer!*

What amendments have we made in light of the survey?

A significant change that we have already made in relation to questionnaire responses was linked to accessing and completing learning online. Many families from Maple and Hazel class expressed that it was not possible to complete the vast majority of the learning via the Seesaw app. We have now amended the way that the children's work is uploaded and it should now be possible to complete the learning via the App.

On Wednesday, we held a staff meeting to share feedback and to look at how we can continue to develop our remote learning offer. There were two common threads families would like to receive. These were: additional live learning and more time with the teacher.

In response to this, we have decided to enhance our morning meeting even more.

The meeting structure will now be:

- Take the register
- Play an interactive game
- Share feedback from previous day's learning
- Explain today's learning with a specific task modelled by the class teacher.
- At the end of the session, children will have the opportunity to stay on and ask the teacher a question about their learning.

I heard a great expression this week – engagement = attendance. Please ensure that your child accesses the morning meetings on a daily basis. As you can see from above, the children access live learning and feedback during these meetings whilst also having the opportunity to stay behind to ask a question.

Questions and concerns raised:

There were also some questions and concerns about children 'missing out' due to critical worker children being in school and also how long families should spend on learning. I have copied the below answers from our last newsletter and hope that it helps to reassure families.

Is my child missing out on learning if they stay at home?

Absolutely not. The children in the critical worker bubble are split into Infant and Junior Bubbles. They have two teaching assistants in each bubble to supervise. They are having the same learning and accessing the same level of teacher support, via the app, as the children learning at home.

How long should my child spend completing remote learning?

This is a really tricky question to answer as it depends on your child's age and levels of focus, concentration and level of independence. The government guidance for schools is that we need to set 3 hours of home learning per day for KS1 and 4 hours for KS2 (this includes the morning Teams meeting).

Having listened to feedback from families, when we closed the Year 5 and 6 bubble, the most effective way to support your child's learning was to make an agreed daily timetable with your child, with LOTS of breaks between each piece of learning. Please **do not spend more than** 45 mins for Key Stage 1 and 1 hour for Key Stage 2 for each piece of learning. This will include the children watching the video or PowerPoint presentation. If your child finishes their learning prior to this time, that is absolutely fine. If they do not complete their learning in this time, again that is absolutely fine.

Don't forget our helpful weekly timetable!

- Morning meeting
- English
- 15 minute active break
- Numbots/TTrockstars
- Maths
- Lunch with an active element e.g. daily walk

- Guided Reading
- Connected curriculum learning

Again, PLEASE be kind to yourselves! If you have been working on a reduced timetable, now is the time to start increasing the expectations. As children have been working remotely for 3 weeks, we are excited to see that families are getting into a rhythm with home learning. Therefore, on a daily basis as a minimum, please encourage your children to:

- Morning meeting
- English lesson
- Maths Lesson
- Reading (10 minutes)

Fortnightly Family Fun Challenges

We are excited to introduce some family fun challenges, beginning today with our 'Elm Park Leaves' activity.

These are absolutely optional but we would love for you and your family to get involved and have some fun together, whilst also feeling part of our wonderful Elm Park community. These challenges will be set fortnightly on a Friday and we would love to see photos/messages about them.

Challenge 1 – Elm Park Leaves

Decorate an Elm Park leaf (attached to this email) and put it up in a window of your house. When we return to school, please bring the leaf in and we will make a giant Elm Park tree display to remind us all that we are one big school family.

Some ideas for your leaves:

- A positive message of hope
- Pictures of things that you are thankful for
- Colourful patterns or drawings



We would love the leaves to be visible for people who are going for a walk or a cycle around the village and the surrounding area. You could do one as a family or one each, whatever is best for you. If you are walking past school, see if you can spot any in our windows too.

Please take a photo of your leaves so that we can see your fantastic creations.

Detective Trail:

Following the success of the Scarecrow Trail, a local resident, Kayleigh Harris, has very kindly organised a Detective Trail around Winterbourne for families to enjoy. This will give you something fun to do on your daily walks as well as raising money for the 3 local primary schools. More information can be found at the Facebook group 'Winterbourne Scarecrow Trail' and the link to donate is below: <https://gofund.me/9404c144>

Stay safe and well.

Carol Bond

Head Teacher