



Elm Park Primary School  
Newsletter No. 7 14.01.2022  
Inspiring Enriching Achieving  
Head teacher's Message



Dear Families,

Happy New Year to you all. I truly hope that you had a wonderful winter break.

We have all been extremely proud of the way our children have returned to school.



In our INSET day, we held Pupil Progress Meetings with our teachers. We have these at the beginning of every term and talked about every single child. The focus for these meetings is reviewing their progress in Reading, Writing and Maths and looking to see if they need any support in closing gaps in learning, or perhaps challenging them even further. We also talk about the happiness, confidence and behaviour for learning to see if we can help in these areas as well. One thing that we have noticed is the positive impact on our children's progress when families read at home with their children. This is also evident in the progress rates of our children in relation to spelling and number facts. Any support with completing homework and sharing stories/books with your child really does make a difference – so I wanted to say a huge thank you to all of our families who support and encourage their children to complete home learning. You really are making a difference.

In addition to our Pupil Progress Meetings, myself and my leadership team are popping into classes to look at the incredible learning opportunities our children have, with a particular focus on writing. We have already seen all teaching within the Reception and Year 1 and 2 as well as Year 6. During this time, we have observed teachers, looked at children's writing books, talked with children as well as looking at the progress of all children in the class. It has been incredible to see the high quality of teaching and learning in every class and we are looking forward to seeing the rest of the year groups next week.



Finally, I just wanted to share with families the importance of attendance. In two weeks' time, I am meeting with our Education Welfare Officer. During this meeting, we will complete a detailed analysis of all children's attendance. I would like to extend my thanks to all families for working hard to ensure that children are in on time. It really does make a difference to your child's progress.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend,

Carol Bond

Head Teacher

## Inspiring

This week, we have started our new Connected Curriculum topics with a bang! Our new key question is 'How can we look after our world for future generations?' so we have been taking part in local environmental projects.

On Tuesday, the children in Year 5/6 took part in a workshop delivered by two engineers from UWE. They found out about how digital devices can be used to track traffic in the local area then created their own solutions to reduce traffic. Year 5/6 also went litter picking in Winterbourne and came back with many full bags of rubbish and items to be recycled.

On Wednesday, the children in Reception and Beech class focused on our school environment. They did a litter pick on the field and conservation area. They also decorated butterfly houses and decided where in the school grounds would be the best place for them to be put. We can't wait to see who makes their homes in these houses soon.

Today, Year 4 have been making wildflower bee bombs. When these are thrown, they will distribute seeds of flowers that butterflies and bees will love. The children have designed posters to put up in the local area about the importance of leaving grass and flowers long for pollinators. We will let you know when these posters have been put up so you can go and see them for yourselves. The children also collected litter from the park by The Greenfields Centre.

Children in Willow and Chestnut Class have visited the Frome Valley Growing Project today. Wrapped up warm, they headed down to the project to explore the site, especially the food forest area. They then planted saplings along the hedgerow. We are looking forward to seeing them grow.

It has been a really wonderful week and the children have made us incredibly proud with their enthusiasm, kindness and respect. We are very grateful to the members of the Winterbourne Environmental Group and the Frome Valley Growing Project, who have helped to make these Bang days such a success!



A very big thank you to Mrs Lugg for organising such a wonderful event and to our local community groups for helping to make it such a wonderful experience.

## Enriching

At the end of term, our incredible PTFA held the Christmas Fayre. They raised an incredible £1090.16. This money has been used to help fund the wonderful whole school trip to see Snow White at the Bristol Hippodrome.

Additionally, I would like to share a surprise! The PTFA have kindly agreed to fund outdoor gym equipment. It is currently being installed next to the Key Stage 2 playground. The gym equipment will be used throughout playtimes and lunchtimes by Year 5 and 6 but will also be built into PE lessons for all other children within the school. This is an image of the equipment that is being installed. In our next newsletter, I will share with you some photographs of the installation and the children enjoying it!



Thank you to the PTFA for co-funding this exciting project and to all of our families, who support PTFA events and help to make big projects like this possible.

### PE and Sports News

After 2 years of no swimming lessons, it has been wonderful for the children to be back in the pool again. Last week, Year 6 began their block of swimming lessons and it was lovely to see their excitement and enthusiasm. Well done Year 6! We have another block of lessons booked for Year 5 later in the year.



## Achieving

### House Team News

The children have been busy collecting House Points again at the start of this term. Well done to everyone for following our Golden Rules and for striving to be the best that you can be.

The house points so far are:

1<sup>st</sup> – Yellow – 2704 points

2<sup>nd</sup> – Blue – 2605 points

3<sup>rd</sup> – Red – 2438 points

4<sup>th</sup> – Green – 2326 points



## Covid Update:

During the course of the past 3 weeks, there have been A LOT of changes to covid testing and the self-isolation period. This morning, all South Gloucestershire Head Teacher attended a virtual briefing on the new covid measure and I wanted to share these with you.

### When should I get a test?

#### If your child has no symptoms:

Across the UK, if your child tests positive for Covid with a lateral flow test (LFT), there is no longer any need to book a PCR test to confirm that result.

You should **report your child's result online** or by calling 119, and **self-isolate** immediately. You will be contacted by the relevant tracing service so your contacts can be notified.

The guidance that positive LFTs don't need a confirmatory PCR will remain in place while Covid case levels are high. Under these conditions, the vast majority of people are extremely likely to have coronavirus.

People who are eligible for the **£500 test and trace payment** in England will be asked to take a PCR so they can access financial support.

#### If you have symptoms:

If you have Covid symptoms - **a cough, a fever or a loss of taste or smell** - you must take a PCR test as soon as possible, and self-isolate while you wait for the result.

### Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

### Updated guidance on isolation and testing for confirmed cases (early release from isolation)

How five-day isolation rule works in England

