



ELTHAM
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SINCE 1814

Summer term Newsletter

16 July 2020

MESSAGE FROM MR BULPITT

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with your God

We are three weeks into the school year and the children have settled into their new systems and expectations brilliantly.

I have met with the senior leadership team of the school, and last night reviewed the school's risk assessment with the governing body.

Please can I remind parents of new procedures and the rationale behind them:

Staggered start and finish times

The new times for the beginning and end of the school day, and the changes in playtimes are working well. They are designed to (a) reduce the contact between families at the school gate (b) keep children in identifiable 'bubbles' or groups.

This has been successful, and to help achieve these aims we opened the MUGA for parents to wait between drop off times, and with the opportunity to socially distance from others.

In this time we (school and parents) **must** adhere to the 'rule of six' whilst on the MUGA which includes your children. Also, make sure that you are socially distanced from one another. 'Mingling' between groups (including ensuring that children are waiting with you) should not happen.

Lastly, the MUGA is for families to have a safe place to wait. Once you have picked up your children, please keep to the 'one way system' and exit the school site.

This will maintain our bubble structure, as well as protect one another through following the governments' 'rule of six'.

Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs

We continue to work with Alpha Club to look for a start date and a system that compliments the school's bubble methodology.

Lunchtimes

We continue to provide a packed lunch to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Parents are able to supplement these with food from home. Please ensure that there are no nuts or nut based products.

We are talking with GS Plus about finding a way to offer hot lunches to these year groups, whilst keeping children in separate bubbles.

Adult to Adult transmission

To help protect each other and staff at school, we already operate bubble systems for staff groups (staff rooms, office teams, Key Stage teaching teams). Please can you help minimise risk by keeping a 2m space between you and the staff if you have to speak to the class teacher at the beginning or end of the school day. Moreover, please keep to the 'one way system' and allow your child to walk independently to their classroom.

Thank you all for wearing face coverings whilst on the school site because of the restricted space between adults at the beginning and end of the school day.

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Recovery Curriculum

The teachers have all been using these first two weeks to identify what objectives children need to 'recover' or 'repeat' as well as those which will need to be a 'focus' this term.

We have seen that reading (including phonics) is an area that we would like to prioritise this term and we believe that this is an area that we can see quick gains together. We will be re-launching Bug Club with the children and assigning books and activities for children to complete at home. But also, they will be bringing their reading books home each day. Please encourage them to read with you every day and talk about the storyline, characters, their actions and motivations as well as language choices that the author has used.

Remote Learning

Thank you all for your responses to our homework survey. All teachers will be in contact with the parents of that class to confirm homework arrangements.

Where children and families are 'self-isolating', but the class (bubble) is still at school, we will set work via google classrooms, the class email or tapestry and teachers will keep in contact with the child through the week, but not every day.

Should the bubble close and all children are self-isolating, then the teacher will set and respond to children's work each day, in the same way as during 'lockdown'.

Emotional Wellbeing

The children have shown outstanding resilience and adaptation throughout this time. We have set relationship education, class collective worship and Personal, Social, Health Education as a priority to support children's emotional wellbeing. We are pleased with the children's response to being back at school and will continue to be mindful of their wellbeing in this new set-up.

Thank You

This has been a successful start to the school year, despite all of the challenges that we face. Thank you all for your support, good wishes, cooperation and understanding as we implement these changes and aim to keep each other safe whilst keeping learning and achievement at the forefront.

Once again, thank you for your support and understanding. I trust that you have a lovely weekend, and see you 'on the gate' on Monday morning.

With very best wishes

Matthew Bulpitt | Headteacher

Reminder:

The start and finish times for children will be as follows

8:30 – 15:00 for Reception and Year 1 children.

8:45 – 15:15 for Year 2 and Year 3 children.

9:00 – 15:30 for Year 4 and Year 5 children.

9:15 – 15:45 for Year 6 children.

Nursery 8:30 – 11:30, 12:30 – 15:30.

The school's 'one way system' will be used for all adults if they enter the site to drop off

Pick up children. Entrance is from Archery Road and exit on Orangery Lane



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2020 / 2021

Term one

Term time: Wednesday 2 September to Friday 23 October 2020.

Staff Inset Days: 2, 3 & 4 September 2020 [no children in school on these dates]

Children return to school: Monday 7 September 2020

Half-term holiday: Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October 2020.

Term two

Term time: Monday 2 November to Friday 18 December 2020.

Christmas and New Year holiday: Monday 21 December 2020 to Friday 1 January 2021.

Term three

Term time: Monday 4 January to Friday 12 February 2021.

Half-term holiday: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2021.

Term four

Term time: Monday 22 February to Wednesday 31 March 2021.

Easter holiday: Thursday 1 April to Friday 16 April 2021.

Term five

Term time: Monday 19 April to Friday 28 May 2021 (except May Day bank holiday: 3 May).

Half-term holiday: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2021 (spring bank holiday on 31 May).

Term six

Term time: Monday 7 June to Friday 23 July 2021.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE REMAINS 4 STAFF INSET DAYS TO BE TAKEN

Other confirmed dates:

Individual School photos: 18 November 2020

Christmas Pantomime: 16 December 2020

REMINDERS:

- ◆ The School Office will remain Closed in September ~ you can contact the school via phone or email: office@elthamce.greenwich.sch.uk
- ◆ **Reporting Absences:** it is very important that we know why your child may not be in school so please report a child's absence via: absence@elthamce.greenwich.sch.uk before 9am.
- ◆ **Class email addresses:** these will be active from September, but only for curriculum based messages
- ◆ **School Dinners:** In September we will not be able to serve hot lunches for the time being, we will however be able to provide a packed lunch (a sandwich, biscuit, piece of fruit and a snack). If you would prefer to provide your child with lunch we ask that it does not contain any nuts, bars of chocolate or fizzy drinks. If your child has a school packed please continue to use SIMS Pay to pay for it, weekly in advance [£13.75 per week]
- ◆ **Office Closure:** Please note that because the Office will be closed you may experience difficulty if you want to drop anything to the school. Please be patient during this time, thank you.

