



Elements Primary School



18th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you all keeping well and staying safe.

Thank you to you all for your continued understanding and support during these unusual times.

As you will expect we are constantly reviewing our arrangements, particularly as an increased number of children wish to return to school.

Changes to groups

As lockdown restrictions continue to change we have reviewed our group sizes and have made the decision to increase these to the maximum number of 15, as set out in the DfE guidance to schools. We originally set our group size at 10 pupils per group. However we have now reached this maximum number and so without change we would have to start limiting who can choose to return to school. We feel that the procedures we have in place around social distancing, sanitisation and cleaning are robust and we would not be putting the children or staff at greater risk.

September Opening

We are also making plans for a return to school to more, if not all, pupils in September. We are expecting to be in our new building and so will have much more space to accommodate children and maintain social distancing if this is still required, We will also have new staff joining us which increases our capacity to have the children working in smaller groups if necessary. This means it is highly likely we will be able to accommodate all our children in September even if the current guidelines and restrictions remain in place.

We would only need to reduce the number of children on site if there was a, hopefully highly unlikely, spike in cases of the virus which returns us to the severe lockdown measures we experienced at the beginning of this period.

Please see a letter from Mark Wilson, our CEO further in this newsletter regarding our future planning.

New Build Tours

In anticipation of our move into the new build we are planning some days when you will be able to come and look round our new building before the start of term These are currently planned for the following dates:

Year 2 (Current Y1) - 25th August 2020

Year 1 (Current Y2) - 26th August 2020

Reception (New intake) - 27th August 2020

Arrangements including time slots will be shared in the coming weeks. Please be aware that we will need to limit numbers to 2 adults per family. In the meantime please put the dates in your diary!

Please, stay safe.

Miss S Horsbrough

Executive Principal

We are aware that some of our children are travelling to school not using a car seat and so wanted to share this important information with you to make you aware of what the law says about this matter.

We hope this information is useful.

UK law dictates that a child must use a child car seat until they're 12-years-old or 135cm tall (approx 4' 4"), whichever comes first.

Children over the age of 12 or more than 135cm tall must wear a seat belt.

There are some exceptions when a child does not need to legally use a car seat:

- A child can travel in a taxi or minicab without a car seat, but wearing a seat belt, if the driver doesn't provide the correct child car seat. They must travel in the rear and wear an adult seat belt if they're over the age of three.
- Children can also travel in a coach or minibus without a child car seat, but must travel in the rear seats of a minibus if a child car seat or an adult seat belt isn't fitted. If child car seats are not fitted or deemed unsuitable, children aged three or older travelling in a minibus must use a seat belt.
- A child aged three or older may also use an adult seat belt if making an **unexpected** but necessary journey over a short distance.

The same rules apply for children with disabilities or medical conditions, but they may use a disabled person's seat belt or child restraint designed for their needs. A doctor may issue an exemption certificate if necessary.

Age range (approx.)	Weight / Height	Child Restraint Type	
Birth to 9-12 months	Up to 13kgs	Baby / Infant Carrier	
9 months to 4 years	9kgs to 18kgs	Child Seat	
4 years to 11 years	15kgs upwards	Booster Seat	
6 years to 11 years	From 22kgs	Booster Seat	
Over 12 years	135cms or above	Adult Seat Belt	

We are doing lots of planning at the moment and thinking about September. We are aware that due to lockdown some of the children's uniforms will have had much less wear than in a normal school year, particularly items like P.E. tops and jumpers. We are therefore going to create a 'Swap Shop' in September in which you can donate new or nearly new items of uniform that other parents can then buy. For each piece of uniform that you bring back in suitable condition you will receive a voucher for £1 off any new items you purchase through school.

We will still be purchasing all our children going into Year 1 and Year 2 their first jumper for their new year group.



School Holidays 2020/2021

In a previous email you will have received the school holiday schedule for the academic year 2020/2021. We had hoped that we would be able to allocate two weeks for our Spring Bank half term. Unfortunately the dates for the Year 1 Phonics screening falls in what would have been the additional week. This is a statutory assessment that school must deliver and children must complete. As a result we have had to amend our holiday schedule. Please see below for the correct schedule for the school holidays next year. We have slightly extended the Easter holidays and the Summer break instead. Please note, the March WOW week has moved to the first week back after the holidays. If you have already booked a holiday based on the previous schedule please do speak to school. If you have your booking paperwork which shows your booking was made before today we will adjust your child's register accordingly. Apologies for any inconvenience.

ELEMENTS SCHOOL CALENDAR – 2020/21 (190 pupil days)

2020	SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER					DECEMBER				
Monday		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
Tuesday	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
Thursday	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
Friday	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
	Total number of days					Total number of days					Total number of days					Total number of days				
	10					17					21					14				
2021	JANUARY					FEBRUARY					MARCH					APRIL				
Monday		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Wednesday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Thursday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
	Total number of days					Total number of days					Total number of days					Total number of days				
	20					17					23					11				
2021	MAY					JUNE					JULY					AUGUST				
Monday	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30
Tuesday	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31
Wednesday	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	1
Thursday	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	2
Friday	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	3
	Total number of days					Total number of days					Total number of days					Total number of days				
	19					18					17					200				

	Bank Holidays		Teacher Training Days
	Other Holidays		WOW Week

15th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Arrangements for the Expansion of Opening

The Secretary of State for Education this week reversed the government's aim for all Primary-aged children to be back in school before the summer holidays and went on to say that the full opening of schools from September cannot be guaranteed.

I write on behalf of the Trust to keep you updated with our plans for expanding opening in schools. Our planning addresses the organisational and safety challenges associated with wider opening now and after the School Summer Holidays in September, assuming that Social Distancing measures remain government policy. I write now to inform any longer-term arrangements that you may want/ need to make. Were changes in Social Distancing Policy announced, our plans would be adapted accordingly and would be immediately communicated with you.

The Chief Medical Officer for England has stated that Social Distancing measures are likely needed until at least the end of this calendar year. This will have significant impact on the number of children/young people in schools. Quite simply, our schools do not have the space to accommodate everybody at the same time while Social Distancing measures are in place. And, alas, the British weather is not reliable enough to plan for 50% of students to be outside at all times.

We are actively risk assessing the various options for wider opening, beyond those arrangements for the next few weeks that have already been communicated to you. It is absolutely our aim to welcome as many of our children back as soon as we possibly and safely can. Options under consideration at this time for September opening at Elements include:

- Plan A - Full time 'normal' provision for all.
- Plan B - Full time provision for all teaching in small 'bubble' groups.
- A split week with children in for a reduced number of days.

Provision for those children identified by the school and the children of Key Workers will remain as current.

Thank you for bearing with us, through these very difficult times. Much uncertainty remains. Rest assured, our schools are doing everything in their power to help the situation. We will keep you informed of further developments as they happen.

Best Regards



Mark Wilson
Chief Executive Officer