



Newsletter

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10 October 2025

Hello and welcome to the October Newsletter!

It has been an absolutely brilliant start to the school year. The children's attitude to learning has been a joy to witness and our new Reception team are getting on brilliantly! On a recent meander around the school, I was distracted by bloodcurdling screams coming from Year 5. It turned out that, inspired by their work on Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated attempt to reach the South Pole on his ship, the Endurance, Redwood and Rowan have used their learning to create horrific poems about their horrible, haunted school! Read on if you dare and wonder why you've sent your children somewhere so shockingly spine-chilling! Have a lovely weekend everyone. **Mr Massey**

Death of the Endurance, by Echo

She is stuck.
She is battered and broken. The ice will not let go.
The bony fingers of death are piercing her stomach.
Stabbing.
Spearing.
Scraping.
She cries as he bites.
Her muscles are weak as she is pulled apart like a broken toy.
She has made her sacrifice.
The deep sea is her cemetery.

Elm Grove School, by Ada

Elm Grove always eats the parents at pick-up time.
At 3:30, she spits them back out along with the noisy children.
She has 32 eyes staring back at the boring brick houses.
Inside her body, the corridors wriggle around like intestines.
The intestines lead you to Mr Massey's office...
The achy, grumbling stomach growls.
How many children has he eaten today?

Elm Grove School, by Iona

He is creaking.
He is happy.
His dry tongue slithers out of his massive mouth like a salamander climbing out of a fire.
The school comes alive one dark Halloween as he stomps through the roads of Hanover.
He is groaning.
He is ANGRY!
The children and teachers were scared stiff as the school shook.
It was mayhem!
Screaming,
Crying,
Shouting.
The children tried to run, but it was no good. He stomped on.
House after house.
Shop after shop.
Animals whimpered.
People screamed.
They could touch Death.
This memory will be their last!





Golden Book and Hot Chocolate Club



At Elm Grove we delight in recognising our students' outstanding work! One of the ways we do this is through the tremendously important historical document that is the Elm Grove Golden Book.

Every week, teachers select three children in their class who have particularly shone in one of our Learning Behaviour categories. These children's names are inscribed in the Golden Book, and the students are then presented with a certificate at our Friday Golden Book Assemblies, led by Mr. Waring and attended by years 1-6.

Teachers also select one child per class who has gone above and beyond in their overall behaviour and readiness to learn. These exceptional pupils are invited to attend Hot Chocolate Club with Mr. Massey that Friday afternoon, where they are treated to live guitar strumming, congratulations, and of course, the finest available hot chocolate. (Oat milk also available at no extra cost!)

Both distinctions are also shared in the weekly/monthly newsletter supplement— you'll find them on the next page in this issue.

We look forward to celebrating all our learning superstars this year!

Key Dates:

Event	Date
School Pupil Photos	15th Oct
Year 6 Cake sale / Non-uniform / Pumpkin comp	24th Oct
Autumn half term	27th-31st Oct
Secondary School Application Deadline	31st Oct
Prospective Parent Tours	Nov-Jan (Please see info next page)
Parents' Evening	11th & 13th Nov

School Uniform

We've been so pleased to see all our students turning up to school looking so smart in their uniforms. As it's the start of the year, we wanted to take the opportunity to remind parents of our expectations. These are:

- Bottle/dark green fleeces, cardigans, and jumpers (no hoodies please)
- Bottle/dark green or white polo shirts
- White school shirts
- Bottle/dark green or dark/charcoal grey formal pinafore dresses
- Charcoal/dark grey school trousers, leggings, jogging bottoms, school skirts or shorts, or jersey cycling shorts. Tights worn beneath dresses or shirts should also be charcoal/dark grey
- White and bottle/dark green gingham patterned dresses, shorts, or playsuits in summer

Where possible, children should wear black shoes, however this remains flexible provided footwear is safe and suitable for active play. Please note that open-toed sandals and Crocs are not permitted for safety reasons.

On PE days, children should attend school wearing:

- A plain, collarless white T-shirt
- White or charcoal/dark grey shorts, leggings of jogging bottoms

Please can we also remind you that children should not wear jewellery, apart from stud earrings.

We'd like to thank all parents/carers for their support in upholding our new uniform guidelines.





Golden Book Merits



Friday 3rd October

Beech	Lily, Hudson, Ester
Birch	Cora, Harry, Finn W
Baobab	Flora, Oona, Eden
Bonsai	Nate, Cyra Biba
Holly	Alex, Sophie, Albie
Horse Chestnut	Esmee, Isaac, Sia
Cedar	Hector G, Rowan, Iris
Cypress	Isla G, Isla T, Runa
Redwood	Jenny, Lucie, Josh
Rowan	Robin T, Ibuki, Ruby M
Elder	Oscar, Clara, Esme
Oak	James I, Sam C, Dulcie

Hot Chocolate Club

- **Kaizah** from Beech
- **Dexter** from Birch
- **Leo** from Baobab
- **Forrest** from Bonsai
- **Maggie** from Holly
- **Agnes** from Horse Chestnut
- **Leah** from Cedar
- **Marnie** from Cypress
- **Simi** from Redwood
- **Betty** from Rowan
- **Mei** from Elder
- **Mykhailo** from Oak



Christmas Artwork

Templates will be sent home this week for you to be able to have your child's artwork turned into beautiful winter/Christmas cards and other gifts and help the school raise money at the same time!

Artwork needs to be returned by **Wednesday 22nd October**.

Please check your child's bag for the template.

OPAL

As Winter approaches, we are thinking about appropriate 'spare parts' for children to enjoy as part of our **Outdoor Play And Learning**. If you have large objects (at least the size of a 'carry on suitcase') such as:

guttering / pipes / large pots and pans / planks of wood (if sanded) / suitcases / cones / tarps / small tyres (bike...) / logs

please feel free to bring them in and drop them off in the OPAL shed opposite **the pantry**.

Please avoid bringing in sheets/blankets (during winter they just get wet), books and smaller items such as toy figures/dolls, Lego... as we can not use them.

Below are a few photos of some OPAL spare parts in action.

If you have any questions about this or any other OPAL related questions please come and ask Benny de Castilho.





Golden Book Merits



Friday 10th October

Beech	Jakub, Fallon, Arthur S
Birch	Harmony, Orson, Cohen
Baobab	Edith, Aiden, Sorrel
Bonsai	Hudson, Luca, Manon
Holly	Maggie, Ishani, Morris
Horse Chestnut	Ola, Sia, Essie-Mae
Cedar	Rowan, Lula, Arlo
Cypress	Hettie, Ariella, Summer
Redwood	Honey, Eddie, Lilja
Rowan	Dinugi, Ava-Rose, Luna
Elder	Noah, Seb, Lilly
Oak	James O, Leo, Raya C

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION

And Y6 Cake Sale

Friday 24 October

Please drop pumpkins off in the top playground before school. Mr Massey will announce the winner at 3.20pm.

£1 to enter

Cake sale
All cakes 50p

Hot Chocolate Club

Friday 10th October

- Rona from Beech
- Grace from Birch
- Flora from Baobab
- Connie from Bonsai
- Lev from Holly
- Yuki from Horse Chestnut
- Jake from Cedar
- Nemo from Cypress
- Adanna from Redwood
- Ruby M from Rowan
- Charlie from Elder
- Victoire from Oak



OUT OF THE BOX HALLOWEEN WORKSHOPS

JUNK PUMPKINS Mon 27th 10-1pm £18

CREEPY WIRE AND MOD ROC SCULPTURES
Weds 29th 10-3pm £30

MAGICAL POTIONS Thurs 30th 10-1pm £18

Elm Grove Primary
Ages 5-11

Bookings: outoftheboxcreativearts@gmail.com
Facebook/Instagram Out of the Box Creative Arts

Home-School Communication

At Elm Grove, we endeavour to have an open-door policy where parents and carers can communicate quickly and effectively with the school. School staff are always at the school entrances or in the playground at the start and end of each day and are happy to answer any questions you might have.



If you wish to contact a member of staff, please email: admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk with 'Attention: teacher name' in the subject bar and they will ensure the appropriate staff member/s receives the email.

Other contacts:

General enquiries:

admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Inclusion team:

inclusionTeam@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk

SEND/CO:

carlakemp@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Chair of Governors:

chrisadams@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk

School Business Manager:

seancopping@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Headteacher:

benmassey@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk

REMINDER: We have several children in school with nut allergies that are also airborne. Please do not send any foods / packed lunches which contain nuts into school.



Prospective Parent Visits:

Please let your friends and neighbours know that if their child is due to start school in September 2026 they can visit Elm Grove for a school tour.

For more information on applying for a Primary school place please go to: [Important dates for infant, junior and primary school applications \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](https://brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Date
Thursday 6th November @ 2pm
Wednesday 12th November @ 10am & 6pm
Monday 17th November @ 10am
Monday 24th November @ 10am
Monday 1st December @ 10am
Wednesday 7th January @ 10am

Our City, Our World

We are very proud to be part of the Brighton & Hove Our City, Our World project to celebrate our planet and raise awareness of the challenges facing our climate.

This term we have been learning all about biodiversity and looking at ways to support the plants and animals in all of our ecosystems.



Let the Hall!

Are you or anyone you know interested in letting our school hall on a regular basis?

We have hall space free from 6pm on Mondays, and Fridays. Any interested party can contact Sean Copping (School Business Manager): seancopping@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk



Parent/Carer WhatsApp Groups

Every year group at Elm Grove has a parent WhatsApp group. These are parent-run group chats used by many parents to communicate information about social events. They are a chance to get to know the other parents and be involved in activities run by the PTA. Groups are created by a member of the PTA with a child in that year. These year group reps are there ensure that all families are welcomed.

We ask that Parents and Carers please adhere

to the following guidelines when using class WhatsApp groups:

- The group should be used keeping in mind mutual respect and cultural sensitivity between all its members.
- The group is not a political platform for airing opinions on current affairs.
- The group should not be used for private conversations with anyone else using the group.

If you would like to join your child/ren's group chat, you can email:

admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk with your mobile number and we will pass this along to your child/ren's year group rep.

Large-print versions of the newsletter are available by request at the school office.

Road Safety

Please park carefully when dropping children off at school, and DO NOT move any safety signs.



Secondary School Applications

The closing date for Year 6 applications to transfer to secondary school in September 2026 is the **31st October 2024**.

Guidance on the application process is available on the council website:

[Starting secondary school](#)

B&H recommend that parents apply online as this means they will receive an automatic confirmation of their application. It also means they will receive an offer by email on 1st March 2026.

Please contact the Inclusion Team if you need any support with this.



ALLERGEN UPDATE

Please contact the school office (admin@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk) if your child develops a new allergy/intolerance, or if any details the school needs to be aware of change.

Mr Waring's Sports News

We took 10 children from Y5/6 to a girls' tag rugby festival recently. They represented the school really well, picking up the fundamentals of the sport really quickly, and they seemed to have a lot of fun in the process!

Well done to: Dulcie, Ella, Momo (Oak); Ripley, Mei (Elder); Annabelle, Luna (Rowan); Adanna, Anderson, Zuzia (Redwood)



Our footballers did really well at a recent tournament, reaching the semi-finals and only losing on a penalty shoot-out. Well done to: Sami, Kieran, Arthur, Jahmari, Riley, Louis, Freddie (Elder); Truman, Isaac (Redwood).





CHOMP
A ONE * THING

Great **food**, creative **play**, and supportive **community** for families facing food insecurity during school holidays.

Chomps happen all over Brighton & Hove!

Find out more and book on at

chompbrighton.co.uk



Chomp is a project run by One Church Brighton and partners across Brighton & Hove. Registered Charity no. 1142607. www.onechurchbrighton.org

PYO PUMPKINS

Dates:
4th 5th 11th 12th 18th &
19th of October 2025

Halloween at Spookfold Farm

Half Term:- 25th October - 2nd November 2025

FANCY DRESS WELCOME!

ADD PUMPKIN CARVING FOR JUST £6.50 EXTRA PER PERSON

Book your tickets today!

SHARNFOLD FARM