



# ELSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

learning, sharing, achieving and respecting

December 2020

## NEWSLETTER

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At the end of this autumn term, I am filled with pride at the way our Elsley community has kept our children safe, happy, cared for, and learning, during these difficult times. Thank you to parents and carers for your support. I'm sure you will join me in thanking the dedicated Elsley staff. I'm pleased to be able to reassure you that our COVID-safety measures have meant there has been no onwards transmission at Elsley.

Despite the challenges, we continued to offer high quality learning, including enriching the curriculum, for example through online workshops and with our school farm. When year groups needed to self-isolate, our staff offered live online teaching, loaned laptops and provided learning packs. We also continued to mark special events, including children's birthdays, a nativity production and festive celebrations for Christmas and regular assemblies on a variety of themes, as well as much, much more.

I wish you all a happy holiday and Merry Christmas to all who celebrate.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Raphael Moss, Headteacher

**Attendance /Punctuality COVID-19** School attendance has been mandatory from September.

For parents and carers this means that the legal duty to send your child to school regularly applies. Elsley has put a number of measures in place to minimise the risk of transmission and ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing. Sometimes, some pupils will be unable to attend because they are self-isolating. Remember to contact the school if your child is unable to attend school for these reasons. Please email [absence@elsley.brent.sch.uk](mailto:absence@elsley.brent.sch.uk) Absences due to COVID-19 will not count against their attendance.

**Holidays during term time** are not permitted. In exceptional circumstances, leave may be permitted by submitting a form in advance. **The full attendance policy is on our website.**

### MRS PATEL RETIRES AFTER 37 INCREDIBLE YEARS

We came together over Zoom for a very special assembly to say thank you and farewell to Mrs Nita Patel. Mrs Patel has retired from Elsley Primary after 37 phenomenal years of service as a nursery nurse.



Mrs Patel was also a pupil at Elsley Primary in when it first opened in 1971 and both her children attended in the early 90's. She joined Elsley as a nursery nurse in 1983 as a maternity cover, before becoming fully employed the year after. Her passion has always been in Early Years which is where she has spent a large majority of her career. Mrs Patel says she *'always loves watching the transformation children make from their first day in Nursery (sometimes in tears) to being wonderful little people, ready for big school at the end of the year.'*

During the assembly, Mrs Patel was presented with cards, gifts and performances by children across the school. These included songs and children's memories of her.

We wish her all the best and will miss her support and the wonderful care she brought to Elsley.

### STAFF LEAVING AT XMAS

We all wish the best of luck to Coach Khateeb and Ms Pajman who works in the office. We thank them for their amazing commitment to



Elsley during their time here. Both started as apprentices and have had a huge impact in their roles on the PE team and as our Junior Clerical Assistant. We send them best wishes for their future careers.

### Keeping our children safe

Mr Moss is the designated lead for safeguarding. All of our assistant and deputy headteachers are trained to the same high standard as the designated lead. All our staff have regular safeguarding training and refreshers to ensure our children are safe and well-cared for. Please raise any concerns with a member of staff.

### DECEMBER 2020 - Reporting Student Covid-19 Positive Cases

As always, if your child develops symptoms of Covid-19, you must seek a test for your child, and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.

### Developing COVID within 2 days of being in school

If your child develops COVID symptoms on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>, Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, after seeking a test, inform us if the test result is positive.

Notify the school via email on [absence@elsley.brent.sch.uk](mailto:absence@elsley.brent.sch.uk) with the subject heading 'POSITIVE COVID CASE'

Full details are in the Track&Trace letter which was sent out to all parents and is available on our website.

### Dates for your Diary

#### January 2021

Mon 4th & Tues 5th - Staff INSET training days

Wed 6th - Start of Spring 1 term for pupils

#### February 2021

Mon 15th - Fri 19th - Half Term

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH DELIGHTS

We want to extend our huge thanks to our wonderful Chef Lucia and her fantastic Harrison's catering team for providing a delicious Christmas lunch for pupils and staff on 10th December.

The food was enjoyed by all with the mince pies and Christmas cake, a particular hit.



## SUPERHERO DAY

Year 2 had a fun day making masks & superhero puppets, playing games and partying, all dressed as superheroes, their curriculum theme for Autumn 2.



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Thursday 10th December, we invited children to wear their favourites Christmas jumpers to school. Thank you to all the children who took part and donated £1 towards the Elsley food bank which we are still running weekly. If you would still like to donate, our Crowdfunder link can be found on our website's home page. [www.elsley.brent.sch.uk](http://www.elsley.brent.sch.uk)



## ELSLEY FARM NEWS

School Food Matters have enabled us to plant a crop of new fruit trees in our orchard. Our Outdoor Learning helpers worked hard to get them in the ground. With the Christmas holidays approaching, we have said goodbye to our four sheep who will be returning to Nightingale



Farm. Our other farm residents will be spending the holiday with staff on our Farm team. New animals will move in, in January.



## YEAR 5 VIRTUAL GREEK WORKSHOP

Year 5 took part in a virtual workshop from The British Museum. The focus was on Greek Temples. Children took part in some research before designing their own.



**FREE**  
**Employability Workshops for Parents**  
**Online – on Zoom**  
**Various times and days, including Saturdays**

The workshop will cover:

- Personal assessment- your **skills, experience and personal qualities**
- Job Search
- Key facts about **job application**
- Tips for your **cover letter**
- Getting the most of your **CV**
- **Interview mastery** with a potential role play
- Key interview questions to expect and prepare for
- **Dress code and time keeping**

If you are interested in attending this free workshop which will be run by Brent Start, please contact the school office and ask for Mrs Elsway-Butt, our Family Support worker



**FREE ESOL for Beginners**  
**Starting in January 2021**  
**Online – on Zoom**  
**Tuesday or Thursdays 10-12am**  
**2 hours a week – 11 weeks**  
**Saturday and evening classes also available**

The course will help adults who are speakers of other languages who need to learn English for life and work in the UK. The course will help you improve the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills you will need for everyday life and to get a job.

Topics may include:

- Filling in a form
- Registering with the GP and booking an appointment
- Booking an appointment with the GP
- Using online services
- Looking for a job

The course will also help you develop the ability to use ICT for communication and further classes and boost confidence in speaking.

If you are interested in attending this course which will be run by Brent Start, please contact the school office and ask for Mrs Elsway-Butt, our Family support worker

**For more information on courses: visit [www.elsley.brent.sch.uk/information/family-support-work-news](http://www.elsley.brent.sch.uk/information/family-support-work-news) or call the office on 0208 902 8003 and ask for Mrs Elsway-Butt, our Family Support Worker.**

## \*\*\* ONLINE SAFETY TOP TIP \*\*\*

> Popular game 'Among Us' is suitable for ages 9+ due to it's Infrequent /mild horror and fantasy violence.

## Newsletter via email

If you would like the newsletter to be sent to you, in colour, via email, send a message to [parents@elsley.brent.sch.uk](mailto:parents@elsley.brent.sch.uk) with your name and the title 'newsletter.'