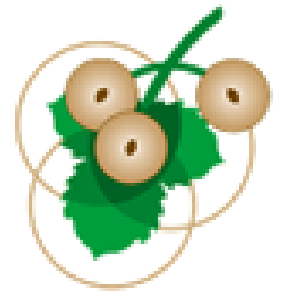


LOOSE ENDS



FRIDAY 1ST MAY 2020

For regular news from Elmfield, like and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ElmfieldRudolfSteinerSchool

Temporary school buildings closure

We would like to reassure you that Elmfield School is closely following the advice issued by the government and Public Health England about the coronavirus (COVID-19). The latest information can be found at www.gov.uk.

Any changes that may affect the school, pupils, staff, anyone else connected or any events will be communicated via ParentMail, Facebook, www.elmfield.com and all other appropriate means.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Any important dates will be communicated via ParentMail, Facebook, www.elmfield.com and all other appropriate means.

ELMFIELD NEWS & INFORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the latest information regarding the school's position during our temporary closure due to the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak. Any changes to this position will be communicated via ParentMail, Facebook, www.elmfield.com and all other appropriate means.

Continuing learning

Where possible, we are now holding lessons through virtual means, and all pupils and parents have been advised of how this works and how to access lessons. Full details of how we are dealing with distance learning can be found on our website.

Contingency planning

Our co-ordination group continues to meet virtually to discuss contingency and continuity, including support for pupils and staff. Please be assured that we are making every effort to ensure the well-being and safety of all members of our community.

Examinations

All affected pupils have been informed of the most up to date guidance regarding examinations which were due to be held this summer. Full information can be found on our website.

Emotional support

During this time, we are aware that some of our pupils may benefit from an extra level of support. Dudley Educational Psychology Team have opened a community support line. If your child is experiencing emotional difficulties, please contact the directly on 01384 814381 or epsupport@dudley.gov.uk: Mondays – Fridays*, 9am – 5pm, (*Thursdays, 9am – 1pm, an additional dedicated line for Carers, Social Workers and out of area schools with Dudley Children Looked After). Alternatively, email ruth.beachim@elmfield.com and we will contact them on your behalf.



Talking to Children about Coronavirus COVID-19

We are having to make compromises and find innovative ways to continue whilst supporting the children through a time that is causing them distress and anxiety. Our Early Years Lead, Rebecca Jenkins-Handy, shared her wisdom on this, saying:

"Emotional support is very important as there are lots of scared people. Children are jittery because all the adults around them are. With the little ones we must try and keep them as sheltered as possible. Even though it seems not so, remember to a young child 'the world is good' and they do need to know that, so they have some chance of developing in a healthy and resilient way ... our mantra is 'it's for the grown-ups to worry about' in relation to positivity and handwashing!"

Our children will grow up remembering our reactions to the pandemic, rather than the coronavirus itself. We need to show our children that we respond to stress and uncertainty with resilience rather than panic.

You can go to <https://phillywaldorf.com/talking-to-children-about-covid-19/> to find a blog post from the Waldorf School of Philadelphia. It addresses the topic of talking to children about COVID-19 and gives some advice which may be of interest, particularly if your child is hearing things that they don't understand, or if they are anxious about the virus.

Safeguarding Concerns

If you have a safeguarding or welfare concern during this period of social distancing and self-isolation, you should contact Ruth Beachim-Ratcliffe (Designated Safeguarding Lead) on 07731 856326 or Diana Ball (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) on 07528 046949.

EVENTS

Happy May Day everyone! It is a bit of a challenge to weave the maypole on your own, isn't it?! However, all the songs and tunes are there on Google Classroom for you if you would like them. As you know, it would shortly have been Folk Fortnight, but with things the way they are right now – it is *still* going to be folk fortnight! Except it will be a virtual, on-line version of it. It will be in mid-June. So, keep a look out, and I will post all the news on Google Classroom for school, and on the school's Facebook group too. Best wishes to you all! Caroline Price.

ELMFIELD PTFA

The PTFA Committee are busy planning some exciting events for the year ahead. More to follow at a later date! If you would like to ask any questions of the PTFA, have any fundraising ideas or would like to support in any way please let us know via our email ptfa@elmfield.com.

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the whole Elmfield community, may we extend our thanks to all the keyworkers, both paid and voluntary, who are keeping our world turning during these difficult times.

Our thoughts are with you. Thank you.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

GROUPS

Elmfield Alumni Group. Are you or do you know a former Elmfield pupil? This group is a great way to keep in touch with friends from school through our Facebook group and our soon to be released website. We would love to see



new school-leavers join the Alumni and to see it become a vibrant community. Our mission statement can be found on the website and explains to anyone wishing to join what we want to achieve, how to get involved and how the Alumni can benefit you. Opportunities are always in the making and we encourage you to be creative and make the Alumni what you want it to be. Feel free to join our Facebook group: Elmfield Alumni School Group.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Looking to take positive steps to strengthen your immunity? Look no further. Experienced and approachable Nutritional Therapist, offering immune support programmes including dietary, lifestyle and supplement advice. All consultations are carried out online and all clients currently receive a 15% discount on all programmes and consultations until further notice, in light of COVID-19. Contact Lara Seago, info@nutritionforvitality.org.uk or 07887 943037 for a FREE 15 minute discovery call for further information.

SERVICES

Fresh Local Milk. We are selling our milk and cream direct from the farm. Cheap and great service with no queues. Please support your local dairy at Horsepool Farm and help us survive; just bring your own clean tub. We have set up very safe distancing rules. Open from 8am till 11am, and 3pm till 7pm. Horsepool Farm, Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington. Any support would mean so much. Thank you.

Handyman / Gardener available for work. Anything considered, reasonable rates, references available. Contact Hans on 01384 830758.

Odd Jobs. For all kinds of odd jobs please contact Martin. Leave a message or text on 07442 162030.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LOOSE ENDS

The next edition: to be confirmed.

Please email any entries for future inclusion to loose-ends@elmfield.com. No attachments will be added to *Loose Ends*. We reserve the right to edit content. The editor's decision is final.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Elmfield School or its staff. Elmfield School cannot be held responsible for the quality of products or services offered in this newsletter.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST

"In the marvellous month of May
when all the buds were bursting,
then in my heart did love arise."

Heinrich Heine