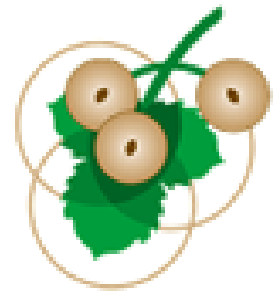


LOOSE ENDS



FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2020

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

Temporary 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

Our half term break is from Saturday 23rd May to Sunday 31st May.

The second half of our Summer Term begins on Monday 1st June.

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. We are constantly monitoring how this is working and updating parents and pupils of any changes relevant to them. Full details of how we are dealing with distance learning can be found on our website. Thank you to all parents and guardians who are actively helping children with this new way of learning.

Contingency Planning

Our co-ordination group continues to meet virtually to discuss contingency and continuity, including how we may potentially re-open the school in a safe manner, and 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. Your input through the surveys being distributed via ParentMail is greatly appreciated.

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

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, shares 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.

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

Folk Fortnight. Dear everyone, I'm sure we are all in need of a lift right now, and fortunately Folk Fortnight is coming up, and we are going to have some kind of a virtual version of it.

It will mostly be one enormous watch-party, and I'm absolutely thrilled that many of our former visiting musicians have offered to contribute. There will be YouTube clips, short videos on tunes and songs you can learn, and a wealth of info and further links for Will Pound, Dan Walsh, Matt Price, Beccy Hurst, Alasdair Paul, Jon Doran, Nath, Arian and Oisin. Plus, contributions from Jess, Rowan, Callum and several other newcomers that we had planned to invite this year. Fynn and Nick will send us something from Germany (so there are some advantages to the online version of Folk Fortnight!) and we're looking at a few possible collaborations, maybe involving our own staff, parents or pupils.

Some of these musicians have CDs you could buy to download, and it might be possible that as some of these musicians are teaching on line, they could offer a private on-line lesson, but this isn't yet confirmed - I'll send out a parent mail with more info on this when I know more. Tomorrow is the hand-in date for most of the musicians who are still at University, so we'll start our planning next week.

Let's see what happens - you could have a socially distanced sing-around in your sitting room, or a careful ceilidh in your kitchen! Caroline Price.

VACANCIES

We currently have the following vacancies:

Education Lead; School Bursar; Bookkeeper; Spanish Teacher – Upper School; Spanish Teacher – Lower School; Specialist Learning Support Teacher; Eurythmy Teacher; Members of the School's Council of Management (multiple opportunities).

Please visit the school's website for full information about the positions and how to apply.

ELMFIELD PTFA

Events. The PTFA is still organising events during this time, including their popular Quiz Night on Zoom - follow the PTFA on Facebook to find out more.



Fundraising through online shopping. If you shop online, please could you sign up to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to support Elmfield PTFA's Resilience Fund? It's a really easy way to raise money for us – you just use the *easyfundraising* site to shop online with thousands of retailers like Amazon, eBay, Tesco, John Lewis and Booking.com and when you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation. You can register to support us (don't worry, it's completely free!) at:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/elmfieldptfa/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=w4

Fundraising through crowdfunding. An online Crowdfunding platform has been set up by the PTFA as a resilience fund. This platform will assist with current fundraising efforts during the current Covid-19 situation allowing easy online donations to be made by anyone who would like to give some support, no matter how small. It would be a fantastic help to the fundraising efforts if you can consider sharing a message and the donation to your friends and family via social media, text, WhatsApp etc:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/elmfield-parents-teachers-friends-association>

If anyone would like to undertake any 'sponsored' activities as part of the initiative, drop us a note to ptfa@elmfield.com to let us know what this is. We can then add you a participant to the campaign and the link can then be used for people to make a donation for your efforts.

Questions and ideas. If you have any questions for the PTFA, any fundraising ideas, or would like to support in any way, please let them know by emailing ptfa@elmfield.com.

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the whole Elmfield community, may we continue to extend our thanks to all the keyworkers in all sectors, 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.

The Elysia Therapeutic Centre – Online. In line with current government guidelines, the Elysia Therapeutic Centre is currently closed for onsite therapeutic sessions. However, many of the Centre's Practitioners are now offering their services either online or via the telephone. This includes, Counselling & Psychotherapy for individuals, couples, families and children/young adults; Anthroposophic Medical Consultations, Rheumatology & Pain Clinic, Kinesiology, Naturopathy, Nutritional Therapy and the Connect Women's Circle. Please refer to our website for further information, for practitioner availability, or to sign up to our regular community newsletter for practitioner articles



on health and wellbeing and our latest news <https://elysiacentre.org/practitioners-new/>.

In addition, recognising that the current period of uncertainty can be overwhelming and stressful, some of the Centre's counsellors and psychotherapists have also volunteered their services to provide FREE telephone support at specific times to help individuals to manage any fears and anxiety via our 'Coronavirus – Managing Fear and Anxiety Support Line'. <https://elysiacentre.org/coronavirus-managing-fear-and-anxiety-support/>. If you need help and support please do take the opportunity to make use of this FREE service.

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 will be published on: 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

"Your smile is a reason
for many others to smile"

Winnie the Pooh