

26 March 2020



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**ELMGREEN**

Dominic Bergin BA(Hons) NPQH  
Headteacher

Dear Families

A briefing from my Teaching Union used a quote from Vladimir Lenin this week of “There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen.” I think we can all identify with that in the last seven days. I hope that all families are keeping well and that you have managed to retain as much normality as possible whilst still adhering to the Government guidance on distance and essential journeys.

### **On Site Provision**

We have retained our provision all this week but it is good to see that nearly all families where possible have followed the ever more specific advice on social distancing and staying at home. We have followed our own social distancing with our small cohort still at school by following the rule that if you are not the distance of our very tallest teachers Mr McIntosh or Mr Pogson away then you are too close.

### **Off Site Learning**

We hope that you are able to access the learning from Show My Homework or Google Classrooms in the last week. All families will be contacted on a year group rotation in the next few weeks to ensure that this is the case and that everything else is also going well at home. If you have any specific concerns before that point then please contact [admin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk](mailto:admin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk). As I have already said we will develop the provision as time goes on but all young people should have more than enough to get on with across all the subjects. It is so important that everybody is doing something every day. I know in the first week there inevitably will have been a settling in period but we should now be getting in to the swing of the daily learning programme which has been sent out.

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## Students Eligible for Free School Meals

We are now also shifting our provision to ensure that all students who are eligible for Free School Meals have one whether they are on site or not. If your child or children are entitled to a free school meal you should have or will shortly receive an email or text on the school's behalf from Wonde or Wonde.Com asking you for your preferred supermarket e.g. Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda etc. You will then be sent an e-voucher for your chosen supermarket. They are currently worth £2.35 per child per day. The vouchers will be in five day blocks. Unfortunately, they cannot be used on-line yet, but only in store. If there are any queries please contact [admin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk](mailto:admin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk)

## Useful Sites

One thing I will try and do each week is share any sites that we have been made aware of that might be useful educationally. This week's selection are from the library.

## Library Recommendations

The audiobook platform Audible has announced that anyone can listen to a vast selection of titles for free, for as long as schools remain closed. Just visit <https://stories.audible.com/discovery> to begin. Logins and bank details are not required.

You will find a wide variety of education, entertainment and general-interest titles available, from Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*. Other titles include *White Fang*, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and *The Wind in the Willows*. Readers include Rachel McAdams, Scarlett Johansson and Peter Dennis.

The National Literacy Trust has launched an [online zone](#) for parents looking for ideas and activities whilst their children are home due to school closures. It includes reading and writing activities, book lists, videos, competitions and reading challenges.

With your library card you can access online public library services at [www.lambeth.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/libraries) e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and e-comics are available via the [RBDigital app](#) or <http://lambeth.rbdigitalglobal.com/>. If you do not have a library membership call 020 7926 0750 or email [libraries@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@lambeth.gov.uk)



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Keeping up with the news, daily papers and magazines from around the world can be found at <https://www.pressreader.com/>

### Finally

I would just like to thank all families who have contacted the school to offer support or to thank us for the work we have done over the last couple of weeks. The feeling of an Elmgreen community has been palpable even though we are not all in one place. Over the coming weeks I have encouraged staff to set up a series of virtual clubs so that we can keep our own staff community interacting and reaching out to each other. We have Film, Book, Prayer, Music, Football, Research groups meeting virtually and I would encourage the networks that exist between families and students to do the same. There are lots of things out there already of course but there is no substitute for friends interacting with each other.

A final reminder that if you have any concerns about the safety of our young people to email [safeguarding@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk).

Stay safe and I will update you next week.

Yours faithfully

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