Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas Fair
A great big thank you to everyone who supported this event after school last Friday. Thank you to Mel Hacker and Ali Howell (co-chairs of the PTA) and all the other members of the PTA who organised it, the volunteers on the day and beforehand, those who gave their time to man the stalls, sell Christmas trees and everyone else for spending their money and joining in the festive spirit! We are so grateful to you all. The amount raised for the Junior School is over £2000 and is absolutely wonderful!! This has meant that we were able to purchase our new sound system for the Hall and so at the children’s Christmas performances their singing was enhanced by the new loud speakers and amplifier. (No longer will Alex need to hold his finger on the old amp' button to keep the backing tracks going during assembly! He will be relieved!). Thank you again!!!

Christmas Performances
We are truly in the swing of Christmas at Elmlea! The children have all enjoyed being involved in their Christmas performances. Their talents and confidence were particularly impressive! Year 3 performed “Super Star” with such confidence that it is hard to believe that they have only just joined the Junior School! Year 4’s performance of 'An Egyptian Nativity' was heart warming and a clever link to their topic this term! Many thanks go to all the staff and children who worked so hard. The ‘after-show charity collections’ are still being collected and counted —so thank-you to our generous audiences for your generous donations. Our Elmlea charity this year that we have chosen to support is ‘Meningitis Now’. This is a charity that funds vital research and supports the development of life-saving vaccines for this illness. This collection is in honour of former pupil, George Zographou. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

Elmlea School Choir and Elmlea Chamber Choir
Our school choirs have been inundated with requests to sing at various events this year, from the Baptist Church to Clifton Shopping Mall. On Saturday, our Chamber Choir and Boys’ Choir sung at Clifton Shopping Mall. At every event, the children sing so beautifully. Thank you so much to Theresa Roberts, Mr Coulson and to Mrs Wellband for inspiring our choirs.

Christmas Lunch
Thank you to all our wonderful cooks for today’s delicious Christmas lunch, to the play leaders for making the whole lunchtime so fun and festive, and the Governors who came into school to serve the food! A special ‘thank you’ to our new cook Mrs Helen Thomas, making such a positive impact on the quality of lunches served this term.

A fond Farewell to Mrs Winwood!
As many of you will know, Mrs Winwood who has been teaching a small maths group in Y3 for the last 8 years and who started at Elmlea, as a full-time teacher many moons ago, is leaving at Christmas. She is going to put her feet up and take a well earned break! We wish Mrs Winwood a fond farewell and we know that she will keep in touch with us all at Elmlea as her daughter is still in Year 6.

Mrs Winwood’s last day will be Thursday. We will miss Mrs Winwood as she has been an excellent teacher at Elmlea in her various different roles. From January 2018, Mrs Winwood is handing over her group of 8 children into the safe hands of Mrs Anna Cocchiara (pronounced Gok-ya-ra). Mrs Cocchiara will teach maths five days a week.

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Wilson, who has recently requested a slightly reduced week, will continue to teach Monday to Thursday and on Fridays Mrs Cocchiara will teach 3W for reading comprehension, handwriting and spellings. The children will continue to have Mrs Paterson for their PE lesson Friday afternoons, therefore the change is minimal. As Mrs Cocchiara will be teaching her maths group of 8 children on Fridays, Mrs Sloper and Mrs Bray will team teach the maths group currently taught by Mrs Wilson on Fridays. The bonus of having Mrs Wilson and Mrs Cocchiara both in school during the week means that the two teachers can liaise on Thursdays and make sure that the teaching is seamless between one teacher and the next. We have handled this type of transition many times before; all the teachers involved, including myself, will be working hard to make sure that the transition between teachers and the induction of Mrs Cocchiara works smoothly and in the best interests of the children.

Blue Planet and Glitter
We know that many of you have watched David Attenborough and the Blue Planet programme about plastics. Many of our children and families are keen to support the environment. In an endeavour to do our ‘Elmlea bit’ we are only going to use biodegradable glitter and will not be using the disposable plates for our Christmas lunch.

This has been a busy term since September with so much happening. I am so proud of the children and the staff team at Elmlea, who have boundless energy and keeps us all so motivated to give our best. Thank you also to all our supportive families and everything that you do to make Elmlea Junior School such a success and a pleasant place to work. Have a wonderful, peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year on the 3rd January. Don’t forget Tuesday 2nd January is an INSET day for staff —so no school for children until the Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

Happy New Year! Best wishes Clare Galliers
Dates
For all term dates, events and fixtures please refer to our new website page by clicking here

School Lunches with Aspens
We are thrilled that the children are enjoying the excellent quality of food provided by our new catering company Aspens. The online system is now ready with the new menu for parents pay/book meals for Term 3. The cost of school meals is £2.35 per day.

Please remember to pre order your child/children’s preferred menu choice in advance – these can be ordered as far as the loaded menus on the system allows (subject to payment to cover the cost) right up until 9.30am on the day that the meal is required. The new menu can be viewed on our website

Please cancel a lunch booked if your child is absent from school either for a school trip or through illness. Parents will be charged unless they cancel the meal.

If you feel you may be entitled to receive free school meals, please contact the School Office. If you are in receipt of financial support then you may be entitled to be registered for Free School Meals. Even if you do not intend for your child to have school dinners, we still do encourage you to register as the school receives extra funding to support your child. We treat everything confidentially under the Aspens scheme, parents whose children are registered for free school meals will book the meals online, the system will automatically apply the grant. Further details can be found via the following link: http://www.elmleaj.bristol.sch.uk/?page_id=8323

PTA news
Happy Christmas – enjoy the break!
We have thoroughly enjoyed this first term. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and their energy to make the Christmas Fair a success, and thank you to everyone who came along and spent their money on the night. A huge amount of work goes into these whole-school events, and there is no way they would happen without the whole school pulling together to make the magic come true. A special thank you to Mr Quinnell for his patience and help, and to the Chamber Choir with Mrs Roberts, the Boys Choir with Mr Coulson and the ever-fabulous Staff Choir. And now it’s time for everyone to take a well-deserved break for a few weeks! Happy Christmas.

Great Elmlea Bake Off
Thank you to everyone who made and bought cakes at The Great Elmlea Bake off. We raised £345, double the amount of a usual cake sale. It was thrilling to see the studio covered in bunting and the class tables heaving with incredible cake entries. Wow, were we all blown away by the effort, the colour, the designs and the imagination. If you’d like to see many of the cakes that entered, please visit our Elmlea Junior Community Facebook page. Ms Galliers and Lisa Cadd, The Fuss Free Foodie, had a very difficult task in choosing the Upper and Lower School winners, runners up and highly commended.

Upper School Winner: Aila Year 6 (Spag and meat balls)
Upper School Runner Up: Isabella Year 5 (bonfires)
Lower School Winner: Ariadna Year 3 (Elmlea core theme)
Lower School Runner Up: Amelia Year 4 (ice-cream cones)

A huge thank you to everyone involved:

The judges, Ms Galliers and Lisa Cadd, the Fuss Free Foodie
A word from one of the judges Lisa Cadd, The Fuss Free Foodie, "Well done to all who entered the GEBO. I was so impressed with your efforts and creativity. Don’t forget when baking, the best time to do lots of mixing is before you add the flour. Just fold this through at the end. Happy baking!"

The helpers, Mel Hacker, Ali Howell, Kate Matthews, Suzy Furse and everyone who sold the cakes at the afternoon sale
A special mention to our sponsors who created the beautiful winning apron and plate prizes: Lisa Cadd, the Fuss Free Foodie, and Jenny from Wot Pots.

Please support our local sponsors by following them on the FB Page. https://www.facebook.com/TheFussFreeFoodie/
http://www.fussfreefoodie.com/
https://www.facebook.com/wotpots/
https://www.wotpots.co.uk/
PTA dates for the diary
Thursday 1st February – Disco
Friday 2nd February – Yellow House Cake Sale
Friday 23rd March – Red House Cake Sale (Red Nose Day)

Year’s PTA meetings – always Wednesdays 7.30pm at the Black Swan
January 10
February 21
April 11
June 13

Classlist
We have 95% of parents connected through Classlist now. An amazing turn out! If you’re not on, you’re missing out. You can find parents by searching for a child, and you can contact your whole class very easily. Why not wish your class a happy holiday or arrange some Twixtmas play dates? https://parent.classlist.com/#/home

Easyfundraising – it’s easy!
Equally easy is raising money for the school by activating Easyfundraising whenever you shop online – Amazon, Trainline, eBay, lastminute.com, they’re all gagging to give us money, so register and start spending all that Christmas money you’re drowning in. As a school, we have raised over £2,660 – and our top donors this year are Gemma A, Mark S, Fiona H and Amanda P. Thank you ALL! Get on board here https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/elmleajnrspa/

Facebook
And finally, our Facebook group is now secret, so if you want to join our online community, drop us a line and we’ll invite you.
Reminders - Please Keep for Future Reference

Absence:
For your child’s safety, if (s)he is going to be late or absent please ring the school absence line 0117 962 2134. If we have not received a message by 9.15am it is the school’s policy to telephone the parent for reason of absence. It is therefore imperative that we have your up to date emergency contact details. Please call on each day of absence. On return to school the child must bring a note confirming the reason for, and period of absence. Emails are also accepted.
Please also remember to keep your child at home for 48 hours after the last symptoms of vomiting or diarrhoea.
Please inform us of any secondary school visits, medical and dental appointments etc in writing or via email in advance of the absence. Please try to make routine appointments for time slots after school or within the school holidays whenever possible.

After School
Children should not be left unsupervised in the school playground. Please remind your child that if they have not been collected by 3.30pm they should report to the School Office to enable us to contact their parent/carer. For the safety of all the children in the school, children are not allowed on the adventure play equipment or in the quad after school. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Clubs
We have a strict ‘missing child procedure’ that is followed when a child does not attend a club and we have not been informed they are not attending that session. It is therefore VITAL for safe guarding reasons that if your child is unable to attend a club, parents inform the School Office and the teacher running the club on the day, in order that your child can be marked as absent on the club register. This saves administration time, staff time and unnecessary calls to the Police.
Teacher run clubs start back the week commencing 8 January 2018.

Traffic Congestion and Voluntary One Way System
The safety of the children is our primary concern. Below is a reminder of the voluntary one way system in operation. To keep traffic chaos to a minimum, please would drivers respect the voluntary one way system between 8.30 - 9.00 am and 3.00 – 3.30 pm. UP BRAINSFIELD (FROM REEDLEY ROAD TO THE DELL) ALONG THE DELL AND ELMLEA AVENUE FROM BRAINSFIELD TOWARDS PARRY’S LANE AND NOT THE OTHER DIRECTION. Please do not park or stop to drop off children on the yellow zig zags. We work hard to liaise with the local residents and generally there is a good community spirit.
Please be considerate when parking cars on the roads and do not block the residents’ driveways. Please park legally.

Road Safety and the School Lane
If you witness dangerous driving or cars parked illegally then please report it to the police. Please be aware that the school lane is access for vehicles both residential as well as deliveries. Please ensure that your child does not run or scoot down the school lane in case of an oncoming vehicle.

Junior School Pedestrian Access and the Staff Car Park
To enable easier access at school drop off and collection times, an additional pedestrian access gate is opened. This is known as the “Top Gate” and is adjacent to the caretaker’s house. This gate is open from 8.30am to 9.15am and from 3.00pm until after school clubs finish. Please always use the pathway and never cut across the car park– as cars may be reversing.
At other school times the normal pedestrian access is through the main pedestrian gate only and all visitors must report to the Junior School Office. There is no through access across the Junior site to the Infants’ School during the school day.

Bicycles, Scooters and Skateboards
Bicycles, scooters and skateboards are not to be ridden in the Junior School grounds (including the drive way up to the school & playground) before or after school as this is a busy time of day. If you choose to leave a scooter in the scooter/bike park, it is left at the owner’s risk and the school cannot take responsibility for damage or theft. Please make sure scooters are locked and labelled clearly with your child’s name.

Dogs
Dogs (except Guide and Service Dogs) are not allowed onto the school site. Please do not bring your dog to school and do not tie them to the railings/school gates/wait on grass verge as we have had parental complaints and we are aware some children are becoming frightened by the increasing number of dogs outside the gates.
Email:
Please use info@elmleajunior.com to contact the School Office. If you receive an email from elmleajunior@scopay.com you can press reply and we will receive your email. However please be aware, if you send a new email to this address, it will not get through.

Communications:
A reminder that each teacher has a work email that if necessary you can contact your child’s class teacher directly. This email address can be used to query homework, reading books any question related to learning. The teachers are anxious that parents do not confuse having this e-mail address for daily communication. Our policy is that a teacher will not, during teaching time, be reading emails and therefore for emergencies or absences the usual School Office email should be used info@elmleajunior.com. Teachers may respond within five working days to emails from parents. If a parent resorts to using email to the class teacher too frequently and/or inappropriately this matter will be passed to the Headteacher.

Teaching staff email addresses:
Head: Clare Galliers clare.galliers@elmleajunior.com
Deputy Head: Jo Sloper jo.sloper@elmleajunior.com
PE: Hannah Paterson hannah.paterson@elmleajunior.com
French: Kathy Turvey kathy.turvey@elmleajunior.com
French: Lisa Johansson lisa.johansson@elmleajunior.com
3C: Emily Cullen emily.cullen@elmleajunior.com
3T: Tom Weller tom.weller@elmleajunior.com
3W: Sarah Wilson sarah.wilson@elmleajunior.com
4B: Erika Bjelica erika.bjelica@elmleajunior.com
4B: Sarah Bareau sarah.bareau@elmleajunior.com
4C: Helen Cooke helen.cooke@elmleajunior.com
4H: Will Hammond will.hammond@elmleajunior.com
5K: Ceri Knott ceri.knott@elmleajunior.com
5S: Robert Salisbury rob.salisbury@elmleajunior.com
5W: Alicia Wellband alicia.wellband@elmleajunior.com
6B: Daniel Beasley-Suffolk d.beasleysuffolk@elmleajunior.com
6G: Beth Greer beth.greer@elmleajunior.com
6L: Emma Long emma.long@elmleajunior.com

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium Funding
All pupils of parents receiving certain benefits are entitled to Free School Meals. Once a child is registered for Free School Meals they will be eligible for Pupil Premium Funding. The money – around £1320 per child – goes directly to the school and makes a really important difference to pupils, as the school can provide extra tuition, financial help with extra-curricular activities etc. Therefore it is important to register even if your child would prefer to take a packed lunch.

Is your child eligible? In order for the school to receive the Pupil Premium funding, a parent/carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:
• Income Support
• Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
• Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
• The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
• Child Tax Credit (as long as you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
• Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
• Universal Credit

If you think you may be eligible please visit the Bristol City Council website where an application can be made online.

Nut Allergies
We have a number of children in school who have nut allergies. Therefore we do not allow nuts including peanut butter/Nutella chocolate spread in packed lunches. Please be careful when including certain cereal bars in the lunch boxes. Also no sweets or fizzy drinks in lunch boxes.
Afterschool and Breakfast Club Elizabeth’s Breakfast and Afterschool club. Contact Lizzy or Chris at elasc.limited@btinternet.com or 07870366315.

Helen O’Grady Drama Academy holds creative drama classes for children of all ages each Wednesday afternoon at Elmlea Junior School. Call 0117 900 1602

Guitar club Learn to play James Bond, Skyfall, David Bowie. Contact hazel@hazelwinter.co.uk

Swimming lessons at Badminton Pool; with Atkinson’s Aqua Zone: Th, Fri from 5pm and Sat am. Ages 4—17 + adult classes. All abilities from beginner to squad: fins, diving, water polo. Contact judy@atkinson.uk.com Tel 0117 962 7972

Learn Blues & Boogie Piano and beat the January blues! Fun for children and adults. Classical and other styles too. Qualified, experienced piano teacher. Alison Vaughan BA (Hons) 0117 950 5842

Andrew Sutcliffe. Piano teacher who has vacancies for piano/keyboard now and throughout the year. Contact 0117 968 2050.

Piano lessons available - first lesson free, can come to your home. I am a former parent at Henleaze Junior school. rachelgalton@gmail.com

Mojo Active half Term Holiday Club
14th December – 22nd December, and 2nd – 3rd January
We have loads of varied days planned in addition to all the well-loved on-site activities at Mojo. 
Mojo and Airhop: 14th December and 3rd January
Mojo and Ice skating: 15th and 21st December
Multisport days at BGS: 18th December
Multisport days at BGS: 19th December
Mojo and Hollywood Bowling: 2nd January
Mojo and Laser Combat: 20th December
Minibus pick up from the Downs and BGS available. To book, please go to http://bookings.mojoactive.co.uk/ or call 01454 660075

Shine Festive Holiday Clubs
As we move closer and closer to the Festive season, now is the time to look at the range of Holiday Clubs for your children. Whether you need childcare whilst you work, or need to finish off your Christmas shopping, Shine Holiday Clubs are running from Monday 18th - Friday 22nd December for Primary School aged children at 3 great venues.
Shine Community Sports Hall in Henleaze, BS9 and Christ Church Primary in Clifton BS8
Football Workshops taking place at Brentry School in BS10 @ only £10 per day.
Running from 10:00-16:00, with wraparound care from 08:00-18:00 for parents who need additional childcare, (at an extra charge), do have a look and see what your child would love!