

The Elton Times

Newsletter No 70— 15 September 2020



Welcome back to all our students!

Congratulations to our 2020 Year 11 cohort for their fantastic results!

Early term notices and updates!

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With the students now having been back at school for more than a week, we have been delighted with their response to our updated ways of working. They have followed the new processes of break and lunchtime without any issues, while there has been a really calm, purposeful atmosphere around the school site. This could not have been achieved without the support of parents/carers and we really do appreciate the way that you have 'primed' the students in the correct manner. There is no doubt that the coming weeks and months will bring further challenges, but we wanted a smooth, settled start to the new school year and that has been achieved with minimal fuss.

I have included some further reminders in this newsletter about how to respond to various Covid-related scenarios or questions (see page 3), while the following points below address the main issues that have developed over the early days of the new term.

Face Coverings

As Bury remains in a localised lockdown, it is mandatory for schoolchildren to wear face coverings around the school site. The students have been fantastic in their response to this requirement and can you please continue to ensure that they [bring an appropriate face covering to school on a daily basis](#). It will also be really helpful if they have their own hand sanitiser for use throughout the day - while there are plenty of sanitiser stations around the school, having their own will reduce the possibility of crowding around the key points in the building and also ensure there is a smooth flow as they arrive to their teaching areas.

Transport

Again, it is mandatory for students to wear face coverings on transport and to also sit apart from other year groups on the buses. Our staff are continuing to ensure that this requirement is enforced, but a reminder to your child would be really helpful.

Access to School Building – 08:40am

With the school building now opening from this time only, ideally the students need to be arriving to the school site from around 8.30 onwards. Lessons still start at 8.45am, so they need to time their arrival so as to avoid standing around for too long outside,

while being able to get into the building for the start of the first lesson.

As you will know from the letters sent on Friday and Monday, we have had two positive Covid tests in year 11 and a specified number of students in that year group have been required to self-isolate. Our response was based on clear guidance from the Bury Infection Team and Public Health England. Based on the increasing infection rates across the country and the local area, there will probably be further positive cases within school and you have our word that we will follow the exact guidance/advice that is provided by the relevant health authorities. Our focus in this new term remains constant - minimising the risk to students and staff while providing a strong, enjoyable educational offering on a daily basis.

Thanks again for your support during these early stages of the new term and I hope that you find this new issue of the newsletter informative and engaging. As always, if you have any queries or concerns about any element of our school, do not hesitate to contact me directly via email at wiltonj@eltonhigh.bury.sch.uk.

Parent / Carer Contact Details

In the current COVID pandemic it has become ever more apparent that we need to be able to contact parents directly and immediately to keep everyone safe. If you already subscribe to the sims app we would ask you to check carefully to make sure that the phone contact details and email addresses are correct. If you do not already have the app, you may choose to follow the guidance to set this up with your contact information.

We are also giving your child a data contact sheet to bring home. If any changes are required, please amend the sheet and ask your child to bring it back to reception by Monday September 21st.

Covid-19 Related Pupil Absence

A quick reference guide for parents

What to do if	Action Needed	Return to school when.....
<p>My Child has Covid-19 symptoms; HIGH TEMPERATURE – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back. A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH- this means coughing a lot more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24hrs . A LOSS OR CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE.- this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything.</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school to inform us. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Get a test. INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULT</p>	<p>.....The test comes back negative</p>
<p>My Child tests positive for covid-19.....</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school to inform us Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 10 days. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Bubble isolates/remote learning.</p>	<p>.....They feel better. They can return after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of taste/smell. These symptoms can last for several weeks.</p>
<p>My Child tests negative</p>	<p>CONTACT THE SCHOOL Discuss when your child can come back to school (same day/next day)</p>	<p>.....The test comes back negative.</p>
<p>Someone in my household has covid-19 symptoms</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. Contact school. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Household members to get tested. INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULTS</p>	<p>.....The test comes back negative.</p>
<p>Someone in my household tests positive for covid-19</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. Contact school Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 14 days</p>	<p>.....The child has completed 14 days of isolation</p>
<p>NHS test & trace has identified my child has been in close contact of someone with symptoms of confirmed covid-19</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. CONTACT SCHOOL Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 14 days</p>	<p>.....The child has completed 14 days of isolation</p>
<p>We/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as a period of quarantine.</p>	<p>Do not take unauthorised leave in term time. Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed. Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 14 days from return date. Self-isolate the whole household.</p>	<p>.....The quarantine period of 14 days has been completed</p>
<p>We have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL CONTACT SCHOOL Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again.</p>	<p>.....School inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school.</p>

Celebrating our GCSE Results

Our recent cohort of Year 11 students ended a difficult summer of exam uncertainty by celebrating a superb set of GCSE results.

More than 76 per cent of students achieved grades 4 or above in both English and Maths, with half of all students celebrating a "good" pass with grade 5 or above in both subjects. These results placed us substantially above local and national averages and reconfirmed our position as one of the most successful schools in the wider area.

Our staff were immensely proud of this cohort. Despite school closures, exams cancellations and a stressful run-up to results day, they remained upbeat and focused.

The results were the outcome of five years of commitment and hard work by the students, with the guidance and high expectations of a talented team of teachers and the care and support of their families.

We know that they will go on to achieve every success because as well as having excellent results, they also leave our school with the resilience and confidence

that are the hallmarks of an Elton education.

One student, Mia Williams, gained grade 9 in every subject, which ranks her among the top one per cent of students in Britain.

Mia Williams (16) - "I am incredibly excited and really happy with my results. I'm pleased to now go to college in September and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of my great teachers."

Isabel Whitham (15) - "I am ecstatic with my results and so excited to go on to college. I couldn't have done it without the teachers here at Elton."

Iona Hanson (16) - "Wow! I cannot believe it - hard work does pay off!"

Maddie Derbyshire (16) - "I'm completely ecstatic about my results. I cannot wait to start college in September and I have loved my five years at Elton."

Joe Livesy (16) - "I am delighted with my results and feel well set for the future now!"



Year 8 Noticeboard

Hello and welcome back to all of our Year 8 students. It is brilliant to have you all back in school, engaging in your learning once again. The Year 8 students have made an excellent start to the new school year and have settled in really well to the day-to-day 'new' routines of school life.

We are looking forward to the coming weeks and months and the culture of reward will continue to be central to our practice.

Students will be recognised during the Learning Coordinator assemblies for their academic achievements; quality homework; best form attendance/punctuality; service to the school and students can even recommend other students for being supportive and helping each other, which they have already demonstrated so well since our return.

The Year 8 team would like to express how proud we are of the students' attitude and resilience. We look forward to immersing ourselves in our learning and supporting each other within our school community. Welcome back Year 8.

Mrs Turbill, Mrs Rooks and the Year 8 Team.



TicTok Safeguarding Concern

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we have been made aware of a video on social media, which is alleged to be disturbing in its content. There have been a number of warnings issued via the media and whilst it is still unclear whether this is an elaborate hoax, we feel it is right to warn parents so that you have the opportunity to monitor your child's internet use over the coming days. The video is allegedly circulating on TikTok and is reported to show a very graphic recording of a man taking his own life. This video may also be accessible on other popular social media platforms.

The following link provides a short video that demonstrates how children and parents can manage the settings in TikTok:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>

This link will take you to the NSPCC online safety page and provides lots of useful advice on how you can keep your child safe whilst using social media.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

If you are worried that your child has seen this video or you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact school.



Tik Tok

English Department Update

Well done to all the students who took part in this summer's reading competition. The winners of this competition are below.

Awesome Friendly Adventure by Jeff Kinney

I found this book interesting because at the start there next door neighbour was hypnotized to tell Rowely that Rowely's mother was trapped in an ice kingdom. Michael Kilpatrick (WINNER OF CINEMA VOUCHER FOR MOST BOOKS READ)

Fing by David Walliams

I really enjoyed it because there was a girl called myrtle meek who would boss her parents around and when she got something she would say "more more more", the funny thing was that whenever she asked for something her parents would be scared with what she would ask for. I think the book is aimed for 7-13 year olds. Overall I would rate the book a 9/10 because it was really fun to read but to me every book could be improved just a little bit. Blake Jones

Twilight Series by Stephanie Meyer

I have been reading through the twilight series by Stephanie Meyer and i love them because, the plot is very intriguing, it's about a girl who moves cities and meets someone called Edward Cullen and starts to become curious about what or who he was. Aimee Brooks (Winner of a book)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

I like this book because you can read this book cat any age. This book is super funny and made me giggle. It has book series so many episodes, the time is worth it! I would also suggest this book because there is a movie, after reading this book you can then watch the amazing movie. Alex Pheasey (Winner of a book)

What can I do to help my child develop a love of reading?

"The National Literacy Trust has noted that becoming a lifetime reader is based on developing a deep love of reading."

Please remind your child that they are still able to browse and reserve books on the ACCESSIT link on the school homepage. They can do this at school and from home. Students are then able to organise a click and collect. Mrs Barker will wrap student's books and ensure they are quarantined ready for collection and when they are returned. If your child has forgotten their password, ask them to email Mrs Barker or their English teacher using their school email account.

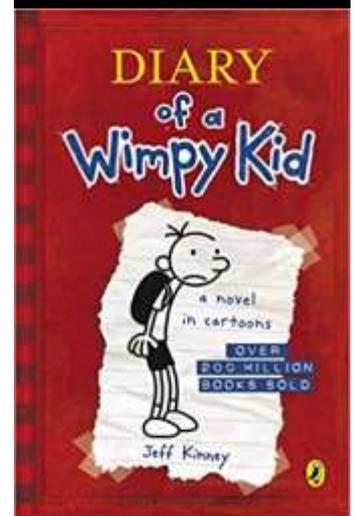
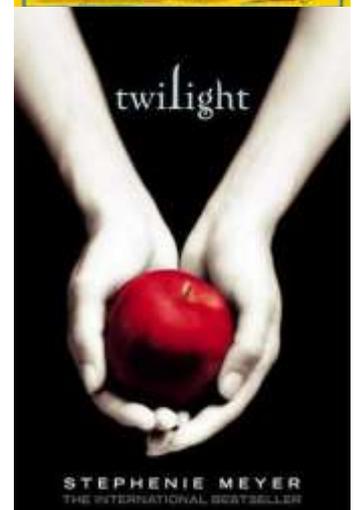
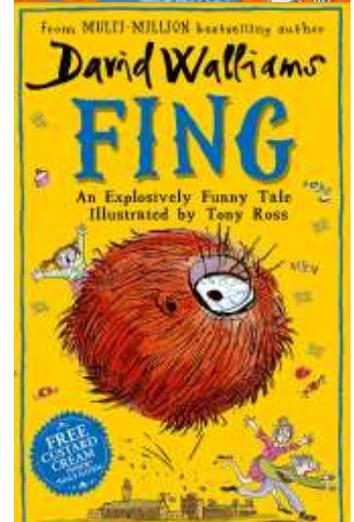
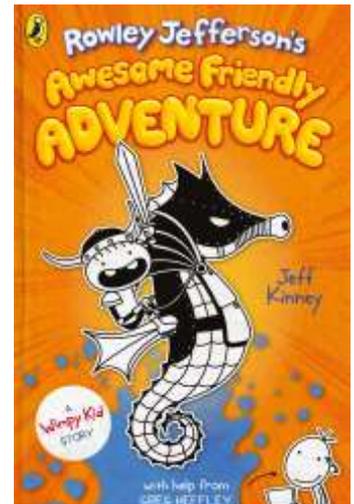
Also websites such as:

*lovereading4kids – has loads of fun and useful information for young people about new books

* www.whatshouldireadnext.com- this a brilliant resource for those of us who just can't find our next great read.

Please remember

For the first half term, students – in Year 7 and 8 will be able to pick their own reading books for their reading and spelling lessons.



Learning Resource Centre

We have had to make a number of changes to the way the LRC is used, in order to comply with Covid-19 regulations.

LRC Opening Times

Student access to the LRC is restricted to one session per week for each Year Group, which will take place during the lunch break. Numbers will be limited, so students are asked to come to the LRC for essential use only, such as printing out homework or doing work on the computer that they are unable to do at home.

Stationery

Stationery packs can be purchased from the LRC at lunchtimes. Each pack costs £1 and there is a choice of three different packs. Students are asked to pay with a £1 coin if possible.



Library Books

Students will not be able to come to the LRC to borrow books. Instead, we are offering a Click & Collect service, using Accessit. Students can browse the entire library catalogue from any

computer or mobile device and can place a reservation on a book. The book will then be delivered to their form room, or can be collected from the LRC. Students will be given their Accessit log-in details in the next week.

Overdue Library Books

There is still a large number of library books that were borrowed before lockdown and have not yet been returned. It is important that these books are returned to school as soon as possible so they can be quarantined and put back into circulation for other students to read. As an incentive, all students who return a library book before the end of September will be entered into a prize draw to win a £25 Amazon voucher, with a number of smaller prizes on offer too. It doesn't matter how long ago they borrowed the book.

Homework Club

This year Homework Club is open to Years 7, 8 and 9. It will take place every Monday to Thursday from 3pm and 4pm, separated in to Year Group bubbles. There will be a maximum of 18 students per year group and a booking system has been set up to ensure that students can be guaranteed a place. Students may book up to two sessions per week. To book a place in Homework Club please email Mrs Barker at barkerc@eltonhigh.bury.sch.uk, stating the date (s) you wish to attend for that week.

If you have any questions about the changes to the Learning Resource Centre, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Barker, LRC Manager,
Email barkerc@eltonhigh.bury.sch.uk.

Catering—Online Payments

Your questions answered

Will I be charged for using my credit/debit card?

There is no charge for using a debit card but there is a 1.3% charge when a credit card is used.

Is there a minimum or maximum payment I can make?

No. You can put on as much or as little as you like. The current balance can be checked at school at any revaluation machine.

I have more than one child attending the same school; can I pay for them both at the same time?

Yes. The UPN will identify each child individually for you to insert the amount you want pay. The total payment can then be made as a single card transaction.

Can I still pay for meals by cheque or cash?

Yes. High school pupils can also continue to credit their own accounts using cash in the revaluation units in school.

My child is entitled to free school meals; does this new service affect me?

Your child's account for school meals will be credited as usual. However, if your child is at high school you can put additional funds onto their account. You have the option to do this by credit or debit card either online or by phone.

Can I use the system to pay for other school payments?

This is available in some schools. You will be notified separately if other payments can be made on line.

How to contact Bury School Catering Service

Online:
www.bury.gov.uk/schoolcatering

Phone:
0161 253 5710

Write to:
Unit 34, Bradley Fold Trading Estate
Radcliffe Moor Road
Bolton
Lancashire
BL2 6RS

Bury School Catering Service

e-payments

A great new way to pay for school meals



www.bury.gov.uk/schoolcatering

Bury School Catering Service
Promoting healthy & active living



About e-payments

To help make it as easy as possible for you to pay for school meals we have introduced an e-payments system which allows you to pay for school meals over the internet or by phone.

If you prefer to continue to pay by cash or cheque, these options are still available.

Advantages to parents

- No cash to find or cheques to write.
- 24 hour service.
- Money available to spend within 15 minutes of transaction acceptance.
- Reduces the need to carry cash around.
- Straightforward and easy to use.
- Gives you greater control over your child's spending.

How to pay

All major debit or credit cards are accepted with the exception of American Express and Diners Card.

To pay online or over the telephone you will need the following details to hand.

- School name
- Pupil name
- Pupil number (provided by your school)
- 4-digit school DfE number (phone payments only)
- Your debit or credit card details

More information at:

www.bury.gov.uk/schoolcatering

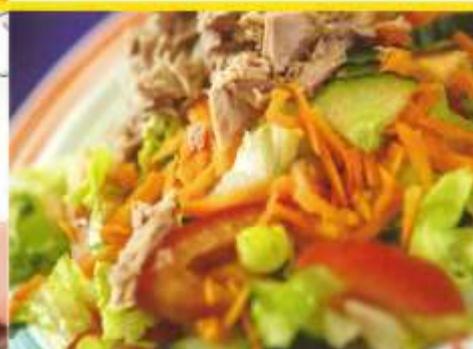
Pay online at:

www.bury.gov.uk/payfort

and select 'School payments'

Pay over the telephone:

phone: 0845 3052197



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