ELM ACADEMY

Newsletter

Principal's Message

What a fantastic first half term we have had at Elm Academy! The children have settled brilliantly into the new school year, demonstrating our EPIC values every day and making us incredibly proud.

A special congratulations goes to Class 1TB, who became our first class this year to achieve 100% attendance for a whole week. This is a wonderful achievement and reflects the importance of coming to school every day ready to learn. Well done, 1TB!

Thank you for your continued support throughout what has been a very positive start to the year. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our Parent Consultation Meetings next week and sharing your children's successes and progress.

Finally, don't forget that our end-of-half-term discos and parties will take place next week. If you haven't already purchased your ticket, they are available on ParentPay until Monday. Have a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Upcoming Events

Monday 19th October - Thursday 22nd October - Year 6 Swimming

Tuesday 20th October
Parents Evening, 3.30 – 5.00 pm

Wednesday 21st October
End of term disco, 3.15 om – 4.30 pm

Thursday 22nd October
Parents Evening, 3.30 pm – 7.00 pm

Friday 23rd October School closed
INSET DAY
Monday 26th October -30th October
Half term

Monday 2nd November
Children back to school

Please see page 15 for more dates

Reminders

Don't forget we have our uniform donation and exchange area in the office

Please make sure all school uniform is clearly named.

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2nd October 2026

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Nursery



Over the past couple of weeks, our nursery children have been enjoying lots of learning linked to our Bears topic. They used simple shapes to create their own bear pictures, helping to develop their creativity and early understanding of shape. In our Bear Hunt small world tray, the children explored moving animals through the "sticky oozy" mud, using their imagination and developing their language skills through play. We have also been joining in with retelling the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', using actions and repeated phrases to help build confidence, listening skills and story recall.







As we begin exploring our new story, 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?', the children have been enjoying learning about different animals and colours. They had great fun taking part in a special Bear Hunt welly walk around the school grounds, looking for clues and exploring the outdoor environment together. The children have also been busy creating beautiful autumn artwork, using natural objects such as leaves, sticks and conkers to make pictures, including some wonderful hedgehogs. These activities have encouraged creativity, observation skills and lots of discussion around the changing season.



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Early years food choking hazards

Food Standards Agency
food.gov.uk

Below is a table of advice on key foods for care givers who are involved with preparing and serving food for babies and young children (under 5 years old)

Vegetable and fruits	Advice
Pips or stones in fruit	Always check beforehand and remove hard pips or stones from fruit.
Small fruits	Cut small round fruits like grapes, cherries, berries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, into small pieces: cut lengthways and then again cut them in halves (quarters).
Large fruits and firm fruits	Cut large fruits like melon and firm fruits like apple into slices instead of small chunks. For very young children, consider grating or mashing firm fruits, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Vegetables	Cut vegetables like carrots, cucumber and celery into narrow batons. For very young children consider grating or mashing firm vegetables and legumes like butter beans, chickpeas and tofu, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Skin on fruit and vegetables	Consider removing the skin from fruit and vegetables, especially for very young children. Peeled fruit and vegetables can be swallowed more easily.
Cooking fruit and vegetables	Consider softening firm fruit and vegetables (such as carrots, broccoli, yam and apples) by steaming or simmering until soft. Serve cut into slices or narrow batons.
Meat and fish	**Advice**
Sausages and hot dogs	Cut sausages and hot dogs into short strips. Cut them in half and then lengthways or as thinly as possible. Peeling the skin off the sausages helps them to be swallowed more easily.
Meat or fish	Remove bones from meat or fish. Cut meat into strips as thinly as possible. Remove skin and fat from meat and fish, it will help the food pass smoothly down the throat.
Cheese	**Advice**
Grate or cut cheese	Grate or cut cheese into short strips. Cut lumps of cheese as narrow as possible.
Nuts and seeds	**Advice**
Chop or flake whole nuts	Chop or flake whole nuts, peanuts and seeds. Whole nuts should not be given to children under five years old.
Bread	**Advice**
White bread and other breads	White bread can form a ball shape with a dough-like texture at the back of a child's throat, if not chewed properly. Brown bread or toasted white bread are good alternatives. Cut bread, chapatis, naan bread and other breads into narrow strips.
Snacks and other foods	**Advice**
Popcorn	Do not give babies and young children popcorn.
Chewing gum and marshmallows	Do not give babies and young children chewing gum or marshmallows.
Peanut butter	Do not give babies and young children peanut butter on its own, only use as a spread.
Jelly cubes	Do not give babies and young children raw jelly cubes.
Boiled sweets and ice cubes	Do not give babies and young children boiled, hard, gooey, sticky or cough sweets, or ice cubes.
Raisins and other dried fruits	Do not give babies under the age of 1 whole raisins or dried fruits. Cut them into small pieces.

Make sure food is prepared appropriately for children under 5 years old, see: https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning/

It is also advisable that care givers are familiar with how to respond to a choking incident, see: How to stop a child from choking: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-stop-a-child-from-choking/

and How to resuscitate a child: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-resuscitate-a-child/

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Reception









Over the last few weeks in Reception, we have had lots of fun learning all about families! We enjoyed reading the non-fiction book "All About Families" and loved sharing photographs of our own families with our friends. In literacy, we drew family portraits and worked hard to label the members of our families using our developing writing skills.

At the Creation Station, we made family collages and used lolly sticks to represent our houses, creating some wonderful and unique pieces of artwork.

We have also started taking part in a weekly WellComm session. These carpet-time activities are designed to support and develop our communication and language skills. Over the past few weeks, we have been exploring the concepts of many and few, as well as long and short, through a range of engaging games and discussions.

More recently, we moved on to reading "The Leaf Thief". We loved following the story of the squirrel and his missing leaf! Inspired by the book, we created our own missing posters to help the squirrel find his leaf. We had even more fun designing missing posters for items we have lost ourselves, using our imaginations and developing our speaking, listening, and writing skills.

We are so proud of all the hard work, creativity, and enthusiasm the children have shown over the last few weeks and can't wait for more exciting learning adventures ahead!

16th October 2026

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Year 1

Year 1 enjoyed a cross curricular trip to Kinson Common this week. They used their geographical skills to follow a map to get to Kinson Common and they also identified human and physical features. While on their journey they enjoyed further embedding their understanding of different types of trees that they had looked at in science. They also developed their climbing and balancing skills while using the play equipment!














GOOD TIMES

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Year 2



Year 2 celebrated Black History Month this week. They learned about the courageous Mary Seacole and what she did to help soldiers in the Crimean War. They learned about all the wonderful things she accomplished and created Jamican flags using collage.















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Year 3



Year 3 became scientists for the day as we headed outside to collect soil samples to investigate! Working brilliantly together, the children carefully gathered soil from different areas before returning to the classroom to explore their samples in a variety of ways. They investigated the properties of the soils, making observations and comparing their colour, texture and composition. The children showed great curiosity as they asked questions, shared their ideas and worked collaboratively to discover more about the soils around us. It was fantastic to see them developing their scientific enquiry skills and thinking like real scientists!













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Year 4

Year 4 have been finding out what cool and crazy ancient Greek inventions have impacted our lives in the modern world. We discovered that they invented the vending machine, which gave out Holy water in return for a coin. They also invented lighthouses, which used fire to signal to ships!
We have been working really hard on choosing and using more interesting vocabulary in our setting descriptions as we get ready to plan and write short stories based on our unit story "The Building Boy". We have also been practising our column addition skills. We have seen some very impressive mathematicians in class during this topic. We have added the final touches to our pumpkin sculptures. Look forward to seeing those come home soon.





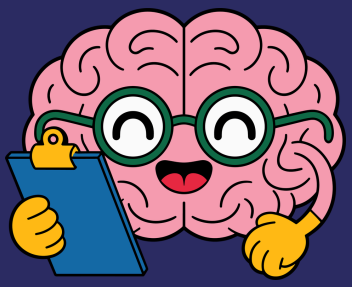
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Year 5



We have had an incredibly busy past few weeks.

In Maths, we have completed our work on addition and subtraction and have now begun exploring multiplication. Regular practise on Times Tables Rock Stars at home will really help to build confidence and fluency. In English, the children have enjoyed writing their own imaginative short narratives, while in Art we have shown great creativity by digitally designing avatars inspired by stories of their choice.







In Science, we have investigated how different mixtures can be separated, and in RE we have been learning about Hindu Dharma, focusing on visiting a mandir and the rituals associated with worship.

We are incredibly proud of the effort, creativity and positive attitudes the children have demonstrated throughout their learning!

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Year 6

Year 6 had a lovely day out at the Tank Museum this week. They enjoyed looking at the different tanks, completing workshops and enhancing their World War Two knowledge.







Reminders

- PE - Wednesday and Friday
- Swimming - week beginning 19th October - 23rd October
- -Children will need their kits each day
- PE kit can be worn all of next week.



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Earlier this year some of our Year 5 pupils helped artist and educator, Des Alner, to create a permanent sculpture to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Farms for City Children charity, founded by author Sir Michael Morpurgo and his wife Clare. We're pleased to share some photos with you of the finished sculpture.









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Friends of Elm



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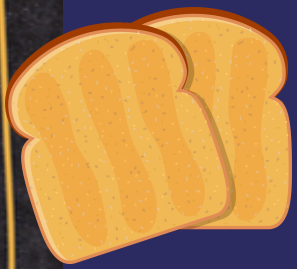
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A reminder that our free breakfast club doors open at 8.20 am and will close no later than 8.25 am.
All children must be accompanied by an adult to the doors.
If your child arrives after this time they will not be allowed in and you will have to wait until 8.40 am for the gates to open.
Please see below for our weekly menu

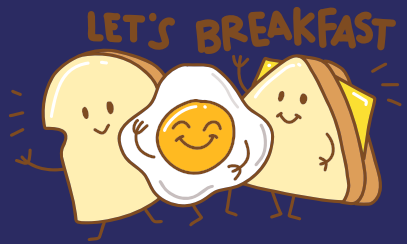














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Attendance

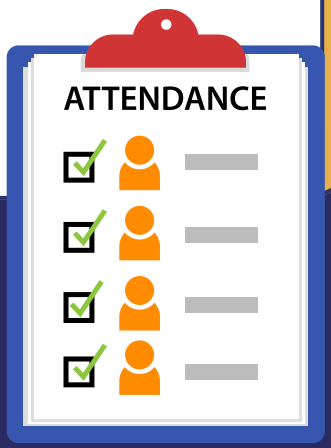




Attendance 02nd Oct - 15th Oct 2026

Dolphins - 87.23%
Turtle - 96.41%
1SG - 97.92%
1TB - 98.6%
2JC - 95.86%
3KW - 91.41%
4LL - 95.78%
4SL - 92.05%
5AH - 95.98%
5JD - 94.64%
6AC - 91.59%
6BH - 96.59%
6ET - 96.36%





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Please can we remind you that Elm Academy is a NUT FREE School.

We have multiple children at our school with severe nut allergies.

Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a serve, potentially life threating allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a serve reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties).

We can NOT have NUTs at Elm Academy in any form. So please check that your children have NO NUT products in their lunch boxes or brought into the school as a treat.

The following items should not be brought into Elm Academy:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (students allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nut

Please ensure you always check the packaging of any food items brought into school. If the packaging says the following words, these items should not be brought into Elm Academy:

- Not suitable for nut allergy sufferers
- This product contains nuts
- This product may contain traces of nuts

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

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Important Dates

Tuesday 20th October - Parents Evening, 3.30 – 5.00 pm
Wednesday 21st October - End of term disco, 3.15 om – 4.30 pm
Thursday 22nd October - Parents Evening, 3.30 pm – 7.00 pm

Friday 23rd October - School closed INSET DAY

Monday 26th October -30th October Half term

Monday 2nd November - Children back to school
Wednesday 11th November - Year 2 Care Home visit
Monday 23rd November - Sibling and Y5 photos
Wednesday 25th November - Elm Choir singing at the Bournemouth Pavilion
Wednesday 25th November -Year 4 at Winchester Science Museum

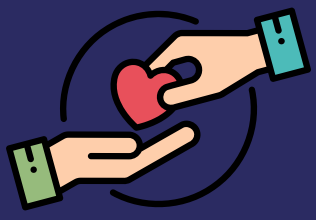
Thursday 3rd December - Enterprise Day
Friday 4th December - Pantomime production treat for all children
Friday 11th December - Flu vaccinations

Monday 14th December 9.30 am - Year 5 Christmas Show
Monday 14th December 2.00 pm - Year 1 Christmas Show
Tuesday 15th December 9.30 am - Years 2 and 3 Christmas Show
Tuesday 15th December 2.00 pm - Reception and Nursery Christmas Show
Wednesday 16th December 9.30 am - Year 4 Christmas Show
Wednesday 16th December 2.00 pm - Year 6 Christmas Show

Thursday 17th December - End of term disco, 3.15 pm – 4.30 pm
Friday 18th December - End of term prize draw and last day of term

School starts again on TUESDAY 5th JANUARY 2027

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Useful Information

MYTIME YOUNG CARERS

Is your child a Young Carer?

A young carer is a 'child under the age of 18 who helps to look after a member of their family or a friend who is ill, disabled or living with a Mental Health condition or who misuses substances'.

If your child is a Young Carer they could benefit from support in school, MYTIME Young Carers can

give young carers something to look forward to amidst challenging circumstances

Create much-needed breaks for young carers and safe spaces where they can be themselves

Offer social opportunities for young carers to connect with one another

Empower young carers with new skills, confidence and self-worth

Identify training opportunities and pathways to employment for young adult carers

Educate schools, local authorities and communities to increase support and understanding for young carers

Provide support to young carer parents, siblings and other family members

If you feel your child is a Young Carer please contact Miss Penzer and Miss Bridger through the Elm email for more information, .

HOPE FOR FOOD

Many people are struggling due to the current cost of living. If you require support with essential food items please contact Miss Penzer or Miss Bridger through the Elm email to request a Food Hamper . These are delivered to school weekly by Hope for Food.

Please See below link for the BCP Access to Food Map showing community Food Support in your area

Access to Food Map | Tableau Public

BCP Council

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JOIN US FOR 'WORRY MONSTER' MAKING





Arts and crafts session for children and families to create a monster that eats your worries

Wednesday 28th October 2026

Joy Cafe, Churchill Gardens, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH1 4ES

1.00pm - 2.30pm

Ages 4 - 14 years and their families

Free to attend



Hosted by Dorset CAMHS Gateway and MHST

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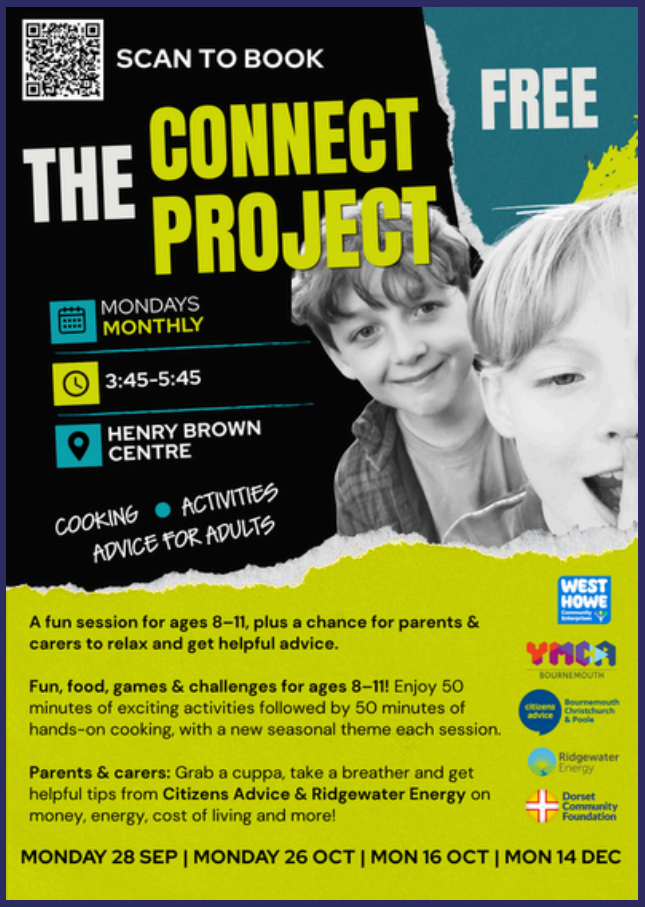


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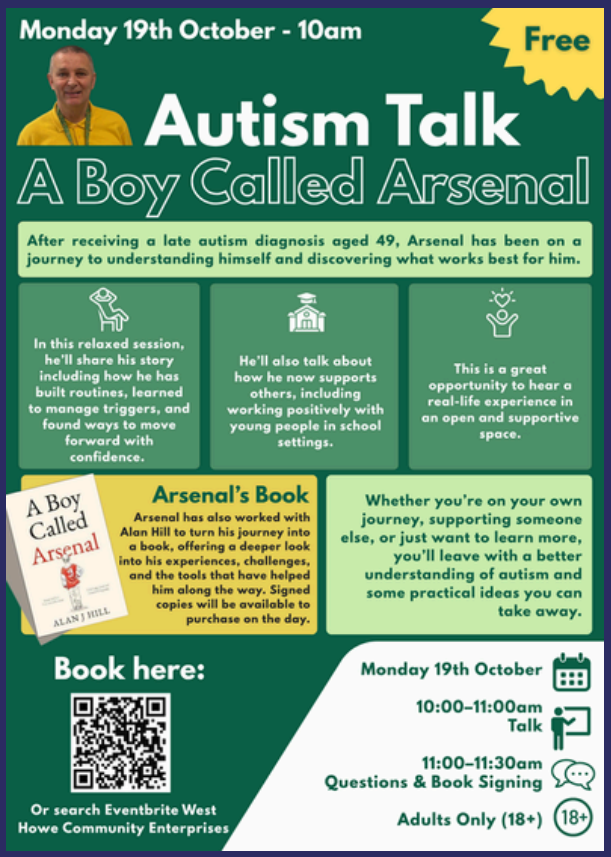
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Useful Information







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Useful Numbers

National Domestic Abuse Helpline- 0808 16 89 111
Citizens Advice- 0808 27 87 939
SHOUT Text Service (Mental Health Support)- Text 85258
KOOTH (Mental Health Support 11-18 years)- 08000 55 555
NSPCC Helpline- 0808 800 5000
NSPCC Helpline Under 18- 0800 1111

Information regarding Head lice

Head Lice:

- Can't fly, jump or swim
- Are very unlikely to be spread by objects such as hats, combs and pillows
- Don't have a preference for dirty, clean, short or long hair
- Only affect people and can't be caught from animals

Once detached from the hair, head lice will usually die within 12-24 hours.

Preventing head lice

It's very difficult to prevent Head Lice. You may want to consider regular detection combing on a weekly basis. Lotions and sprays don't prevent Head Lice and should only be used if a live louse has been found in your own, or your child's hair.Staying off work or school and washing clothing and bedding on a hot wash is unnecessary, as it's unlikely to help prevent the spread of Head Lice. It is also Ideal if your child has long hair to wear it up to lessen the chance the lice attach.