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Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Before looking ahead to the exciting weeks ahead, I would like to thank all parents and carers who attended our recent Parents' Evenings. The new format was extremely successful and has been very positively received by both families and staff. As with any new initiative, there are a few minor adjustments we will make for future events, but overall it was a great success and we are grateful for your support and feedback.

A huge thank you must also go to Mrs Chant and all the staff and volunteers for organising the end-of-term discos. The children had a fantastic time and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces enjoying themselves. We are already looking forward to the next disco in the final week of this term.

One of the highlights of the first half term has undoubtedly been our on-site swimming pool. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their sessions and the pool has been incredibly busy and well used. It has been fantastic to see so many children developing their confidence and skills in the water.

As always, it promises to be another busy and exciting few weeks at school. We have lots to look forward to, including Children in Need next Friday, our Enterprise Day, our annual visiting pantomime performance, and, of course, the much-anticipated Christmas performances, which are always a highlight of the festive season.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing many more memorable experiences with our children and families over the coming weeks.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 11th November - Year 2 Care Home visit

Friday 13th November - Children in Need

Monday 16th - Friday 20th November - Anti Bullying Week

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

Please see page 15 for more dates

Reminders

As the weather is getting colder please send your children to school with a coat that is clearly named

Please name all school uniform

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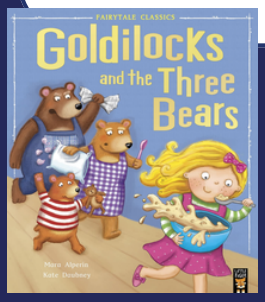
Nursery





The children in Nursery have had a brilliant start to the term and have settled back into school wonderfully. Our new Story of the Week has been Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed bringing the story to life by role-playing the different characters in our home corner. We have also been learning about Bonfire Night and how people celebrate it safely. The children had great fun using glue and glitter to create their own colourful firework pictures and were especially excited to make chocolate breadstick sparklers during snack time. It has been a busy and enjoyable start to the term, with lots of learning through play and creativity!









We also enjoyed making our own natural firework poppers to take on our Welly Walk around the school grounds. The children collected a variety of fallen leaves and then used them to create “leaf fireworks”. Taking turns, they watched as their leaves popped into the air and scattered and floated back down, just like fireworks bursting in the sky. The children loved exploring the outdoors, working together, and talking about the different colours, shapes and textures of the leaves they found. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Bonfire Night through nature and have lots of fun outside!

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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/

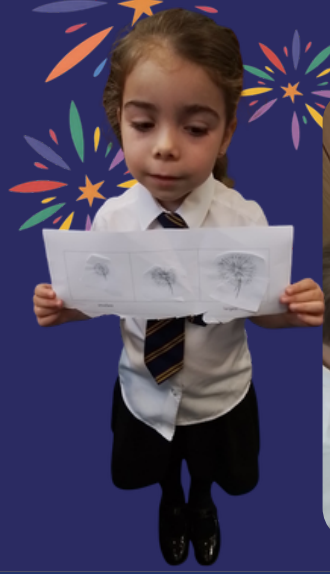
It is also advisable that care givers are familiar with how to respond to a choking incident, see: How to stop a child from choking: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-stop-a-child-from-choking/

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











We have had a wonderful week in Reception learning all about the story Clean Up! This lovely book tells the story of a little girl who goes on holiday to a beach that is covered in litter. Throughout the story, people work together as a team to clean up the beach and make it safe and beautiful for everyone to enjoy. The children thoroughly enjoyed discussing the importance of looking after our environment and working together to help others.

In Literacy, we created colourful posters to encourage people to help keep our school clean and tidy. The children thought of lots of fantastic ideas about how we can all do our part to care for our school environment.

In Maths, we have been learning about finding one more and one less than a given number. We used cubes to help us investigate numbers and noticed how our towers grew taller as we added one more cube. The children enjoyed exploring number patterns through practical activities.

At the Playdough Station, we had lots of fun creating our own spectacular firework displays using colourful pipe cleaners. The children showed great creativity and imagination as they designed their fireworks.

We have also been enjoying our Pen Disco sessions. This week, we practised drawing different shapes and used them to create fantastic firework pictures. The children worked hard on their pencil control while producing some beautiful artwork.

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Year 1

Year 1 have created some fantastic abstract artwork inspired by the work of artists Paul Klee and Piet Mondrian. They explored shapes, lines and colours to produce their own wonderful, unique pieces of art!

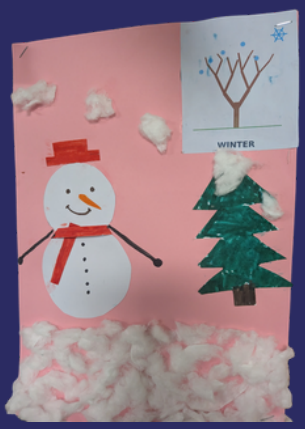


Over half term Year 1 have made some lovely home learning projects linked to their new science learning about seasons.





















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WELL DONE

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Year 2

Year 2 have had a busy few weeks. They enjoyed their trip to St Andrews church in Kinson for their RE unit about what religions in the local area do for our community. The children found out about the food bank the church run, how people are remembered and how births are celebrated.







Year 2 have also been chosen to take part in a National Literacy Trust project - Reading for the planet. The project involves the opportunity to get to know a local care home. The children will be visiting the care home to read with the residents and the residents will also visit Elm. At each of the events the children are all able to choose their own book to keep forever! The children loved choosing their first book at the launch event.



Books

So many BOOKS, so little TIME

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Year 3

Year 3 had a fantastic and very busy final week of the half term! We enjoyed a wonderful range of exciting, hands-on learning experiences, giving the children plenty of opportunities to get creative, explore and put their practical skills to the test.

During our DT Day, the children worked hard to design and create a fantastic range of projects, including chocolate boxes, hedgehog homes and sturdy bridges. They showed great creativity, problem-solving skills and determination throughout the day.

We also had our exciting Stone Age Wow Day, where the children stepped back in time and took part in a range of engaging activities. One of the highlights was creating their own Stone Age-inspired jewellery using clay, alongside lots of other exciting activities that brought our history learning to life.

All of the children worked exceptionally well throughout both days, showing fantastic enthusiasm, teamwork and resilience. It was wonderful to see them so engaged and enjoying such practical, hands-on learning.

What a brilliant way to finish the half term! We are so proud of all their hard work and the enthusiasm they have shown.

















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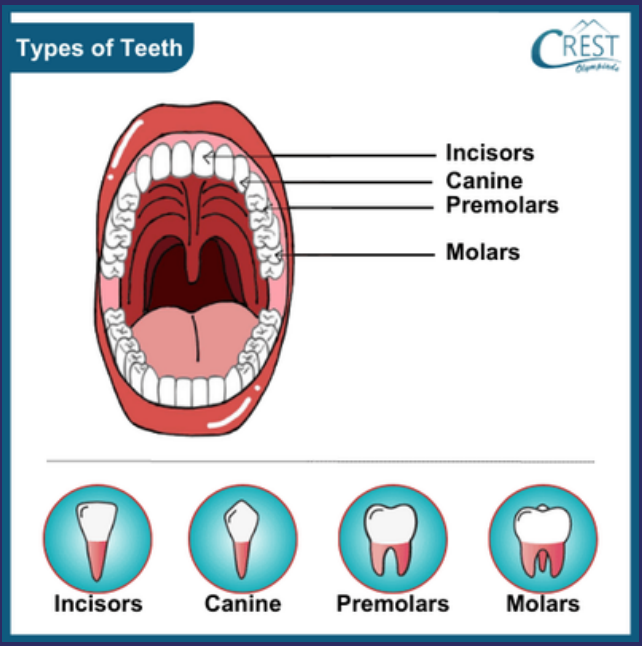
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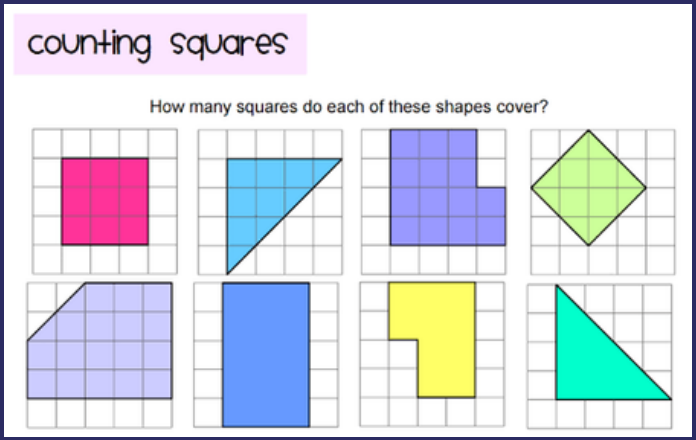
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Year 4

Year 4 have come back after half term with an excellent attitude towards their learning and we have been working really hard in all of our lessons. We can explain how to find the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares and have, as usual, been busy with our times table. This half term we are looking forward to animation workshops from Bournemouth University and our first school trip!

We have been working on writing stories and will be publishing these to make them their best, next week. We have started to learn about our family in Spanish and different types of teeth and their functions in science.



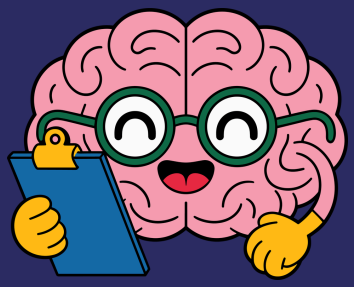


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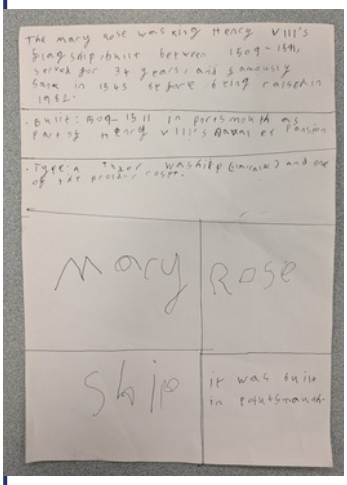
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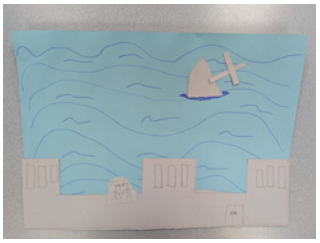


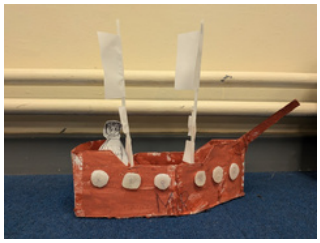


Year 5

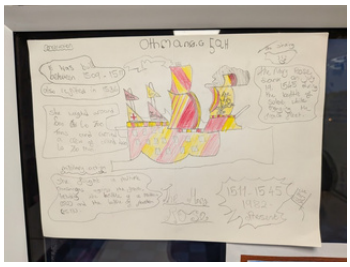
Over the last two weeks, Year 5 have been busy exploring equivalent fractions in Maths and developing their short division skills through regular arithmetic practice. In English, we have been analysing the features and layout of information texts in preparation for writing our own. Our new Science topic on Transfer of Energy has sparked lots of curiosity, while in History we have begun learning about the Tudor period by exploring the events of the Wars of the Roses. We have also started rehearsing for our upcoming concert and are enjoying learning the songs for the performance. Please continue to support your child by practising weekly spellings and arithmetic skills at home.















Year 5 have produced some fantastic Tudor-themed projects, showcasing their creativity, research skills and historical understanding. We are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm that has gone into their work.

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Year 6



Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their new whole class reading book – Holes. They have been introduced to the main character (Stanley Yelnats) who has been accused of a crime he says he didn't commit. Stanley was given the choice between Camp Green Lake or jail. He chose Camp Green Lake but we have since discovered, there isn't a lake, nor is there any greenery. It is an old, barren wasteland where they are made to dig 5 foot deep and 5 foot wide holes every day to 'build character'.

The children are looking forward to writing their own chapter for the book. So far this week, they have been looking at various punctuation, adding description to create images in the readers minds and cohesion in preparation.
We cannot wait to read them!



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Friends of Elm



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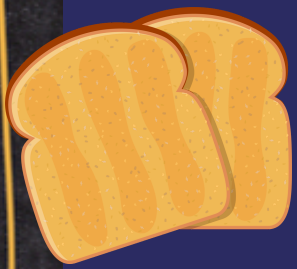
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A reminder that our free breakfast club doors open at 8.20 am and will close no later than 8.25 am.
All children must be accompanied by an adult to the doors.
If your child arrives after this time they will not be allowed in and you will have to wait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

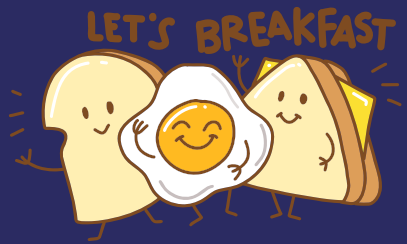


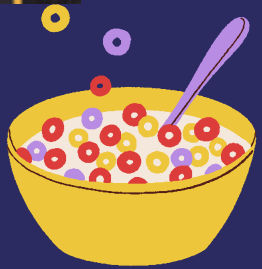












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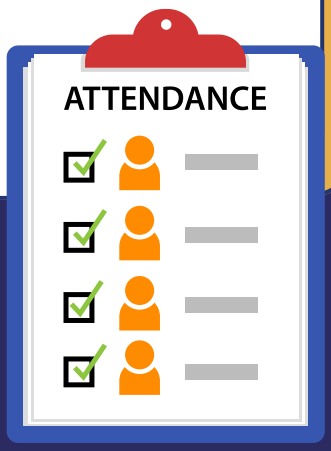
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Attendance

Attendance 26th - 6th Nov 2026

Dolphins - 89.46%
Turtle - 98.63%
1SG - 98.33%
1TB - 98.34%
2JC - 96.18%
3KW - 98.57%
4LL - 95.19%
4SL - 92.14%
5AH - 91%
5JD - 96.79%
6AC - 98%
6BH - 97.5%
6ET - 91%





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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

Wednesday 11th November - Year 2 Care Home visit
Friday 13th November - Children In Need
Monday 16th November - Friday 20th November - Anti Bullying Week
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

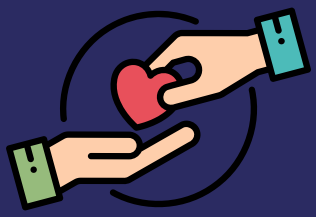
School starts again on TUESDAY 5th JANUARY 2027

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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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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.