

Elsenham C of E Primary School



2026 SPRING NEWSLETTER FOR CHESTNUT CLASS

Miss Verlander

Happy new year and welcome back!

The children have come back to school filled with excitement and have loved telling us all about their holidays. We hope that everyone was able to enjoy the break and spend time with loved ones. Thank you all for the Christmas cards and gifts; they were very much appreciated! This term is proving to be a busy one already, full of exciting topic lessons and plenty of practical learning opportunities to ensure the children are enthused and keen to learn. We have received so many wonderful Great Fire of London homework projects, and our role play area is looking fantastic!

As always, if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me via the office.

Mathematics

This term we will be covering a variety of topics within maths. We begin the term consolidating and mastering our knowledge of numbers to 20 and practising the operations of addition and subtraction. We then start to focus on place value, where we compare numbers and objects within 50. We will also explore measure where we concentrate on length and height. Towards the end of the term, we focus on weight and volume where we will compare different measurements.

Science

This term we will be focussing on 'Everyday materials'; the children will be learning about the way things are made and the types of materials that are used, including their properties. We are looking forward to making this unit very practical and hands on so children gain a good understanding of the world around them.

Forest School

The children have loved our weekly Forest School sessions, these will be continuing on a Wednesday; a fantastic addition to the curriculum. Please continue to send children in to school wearing comfortable outdoor clothing every Wednesday suitable for both forest school and P.E.

And there's more!

Our first topic of the term is 'The Great Fire of London' followed by 'Jungle' after February half term. This will enable us to think about historical events beyond living memory as well as the events that happened on that famous night! Our **geography** unit is perfect for this time of year too, we will be looking at weather and the seasons, hopefully incorporating lots of practical weather based activities to measure and observe. In **art**, we will be looking at the artists Bridget Riley and Zaria Forman and using their work to inspire us with our drawings.

In **computing**, we shall look at data and multimedia programing, using various online platforms to support us. We continue to have access to Purple Mash and there are activities on there to help support your child with many areas of the curriculum. They each have a login stuck in the front of their reading record.

P.E. lessons take place twice a week, on a **Wednesday** and **Friday**. We will be learning dance, gymnastics, football and tennis. Please ensure your child comes in in their P.E. kit on those days with long hair tied back and earrings removed.

English

This term we will be reading different contemporary stories, relating them to our own experiences. Our first story is 'The Last Noo—Noo' by Jill Murphy which we can't wait to start reading. We will be continuing to focus on capital letters, full stops, the use of conjunctions and writing short stories, with our 'Talk for Writing' approach taking centre stage.

We will continue to follow the Read Write Inc programme where children will consolidate their understanding of phonics, and grammar. Depending on your child's group, they will get a reading book to 'perform' to you at home, a book bag book to practise their phonics and a bedtime book to enjoy at night.

Our Reading Raffle will continue this term. Once a child has read, or read part of their reading book, they can write a sentence related to what they have read. They should bring this sentence into school and hand it in for a chance to win a small prize at the end of the week. On our school website, you will find the Year 1 spellings that the children should be practising at home.

Religious Education

Our big question this term is 'What do Jewish people remember on Shabbat?'

It will allow us the opportunity to explore the Jewish creation story, and consider how we show our appreciation for the beauty in our world.

And lastly...

Thank you all for your support. We were delighted to see so many families for our Christmas performance; it really means a lot to the children to know that teachers and parents work together as a team and celebrate their successes.

Also, thank you in advance to those parents who have volunteered to help us with our Great Fire of London day which we are looking forward to hosting on Thursday 22nd January 2026— please refer back to the letter sent by the office for all the information and let us know if you are now able to help.