

Elsenham C of E Primary School



2025 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER: Elm Class Mrs Sipple and Mrs McCraith

Welcome to Elm Class! The children have made a fantastic start to the new term and have already impressed us with their enthusiasm and positive attitude towards learning. They've settled into the routines of Year 4 brilliantly and are showing great independence in their new classroom.

This term, homework will include daily reading, times tables practice, weekly spellings and Atom. Spelling lists will be sent home weekly on Tuesdays.

Our P.E. sessions will take place on Mondays (outdoor) and Thursdays (indoor). Please ensure your child has the correct P.E. kit, which is ideally kept in school during the week in case of any timetable changes. As always, your support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch via the school office.

Mathematics

This half term, we will begin by deepening our understanding of place value by focusing on recognising the value of digits in four-digit numbers. Developing both mental and written strategies for addition and subtraction, will be our next step. Later in the term, we'll explore measurement, using our estimation skills before learning how to convert between different units of measure.

A key focus throughout the year will be on times tables. Regular practice and quick recall will be essential, as we prepare for the Year 4 Multiplication Check in the summer term. Thank you for your support in encouraging your child to practise regularly at home.

Science

Our science topic this term is Animals Including Humans. We'll be learning about the digestive system, teeth and food chains. The children will name and identify different types of teeth and explore what can happen if we don't brush them regularly. We'll also investigate the various parts of the digestive system and understand the role each part plays in our bodies. Finally, we'll look at food chains and classify organisms as producers, predators, or prey.

There's more!

In **history**, we'll be exploring the fascinating world of the Anglo-Saxons by learning about their invasion and settlement in Britain. We're also looking forward to an exciting trip to an Anglo-Saxon village in October to bring our learning to life! In **geography**, our focus will be on developing map skills, including how to read, use and create maps using grid references. In **R.E.**, we will be learning about Christianity, guided by our big question: "Where do Christian beliefs come from?" Our **art** lessons will be inspired by the work of Henri Matisse. We'll explore tone, shading and mixed media techniques and turn our artwork into eye-catching prints. In **D&T**, we'll be learning about mechanical systems, designing and creating an in-school project with moving parts- a great opportunity to get creative and hands-on. This term in **computing**, our focus is on E-Safety, a vital part of keeping ourselves safe and well online. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging safe and responsible use of technology at home.

English

This term, we are enjoying a rich and varied English curriculum. We began with a focus on poetry, using *Overheard on a Salt Marsh* by Harold Monro and *A Small Dragon* by Brian Patten. The children will explore how poets use imagery, figurative language and precise vocabulary to create mood and atmosphere. They will use these techniques to write their own poems by carefully crafting stanzas using the techniques taught.

Then, we will move on to narrative writing based on the novel *Varjak Paw* by S.F. Said. The children will be writing short stories that include well-structured dialogue, as well as applying skills such as expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials to add detail and interest to their writing. They will also learn to edit and improve their work, making thoughtful vocabulary and grammar choices.

In guided reading, we are reading a variety of high-quality texts including *Varjak Paw*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *The Butterfly Lion*. Our focus will be on developing key reading comprehension skills through VIPERS (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval, and Summarising). These sessions help children become confident readers who can understand and talk about what they've read in depth.

Daily reading is essential to help your child make progress. Please encourage them to read a wide range of texts and discuss what they've read with you.