

Elsenham C of E Primary School



2026 SPRING NEWSLETTER: Elm Class Mrs Sipple and Mrs McCraith

Happy New Year, Elm Class!

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the break with family and friends. We have a busy term ahead with swimming, Tudor day and the production! Keep an eye out for Parentmail messages and Mrs Todd's newsletter for key information and dates.

Please continue to: practise spellings, times tables and read at home everyday. This aids our learning in class and helps children to develop their confidence with the basics. We would also like ATOM Learning to take priority this term to strengthen and revisit concepts taught in class. A homework club is available on a Wednesday lunch time, where children will have access to iPads, particularly for those who may struggle to access at home. Your support with home learning is very much appreciated.

In the first half term, P.E. will be outdoors on a Tuesday with the tennis coach, Katie. After half term, it will be netball on a Wednesday. Throughout the Spring term, our indoor P.E. will be swimming lessons every Thursday morning. Please refer to your previous Parentmail messages for the kit needed.

We are excited to tell you that Year 4 will be performing a show towards the end of March (dates/times TBC). Parts were allocated before the Christmas break and we will send out information regarding costumes in a few weeks. Please support your child in learning their lines and song words; this really does help us tremendously!

If there is anything you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to make contact via the school office or catch us in the playground at the end of the day.

Mathematics

Spring term in maths will focus on multiplication and division, length and perimeter alongside fractions and decimals. To begin with, we will be cementing our understanding of addition, subtraction and multiplication using column method. It is crucial that your child is 'click quick' with their times tables recall. Not only will it help them during lessons, but will massively contribute to their confidence and therefore happiness in lessons.

Our fractions topic will involve finding equivalent fractions, converting mixed numbers to improper fractions and adding and subtracting fractions. Again, knowing times tables will greatly support this unit.

Science

In science, we will learn all about sound and electricity. Our topic sound will involve investigating how sound travels, its pitch, volume and distance. Our electricity topic will cover circuits and electrical conductors where there will be some very interesting practical lessons involving group work and problem solving skills.

There's more!

We are very excited to be introducing a new unit into history, The Tudors. We will be studying Henry VIII and the reformation as well as Elizabeth I with lots of exciting activities to go alongside it.

In D&T, we will be joined by local chefs to teach the children chopping techniques, tastings as well as baking! This is sure to be a memorable time!

Computing sees us delve deeper into the world of coding. Fixing bugs and free code opportunities will be the highlight of this unit.

In our R.E. lessons, we will learn how religious groups contribute to society and culture and discuss this in the context of the local area and beyond.

English

English promises to be exciting as we will be reading a graphic novel, Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd Stanton. Through exploring this text, we will be writing and performing short stories, creating diary entries and moving on to persuasive letters. Using excellent vocabulary choices and considering sentence structure are two important elements of our English learning this term. In Year 4, we are also aiming for improved handwriting and presentation; there are lots of pen licenses still to be earned and we very much look forward to awarding these in the near future. Keeping a diary, writing stories or fact files are great ways to support extra writing at home.

Reading

Reading will continue to be a key focus throughout Year 4 and the Accelerated Reading system will be running again soon. We will continue reading 'James and the Giant Peach' by Roald Dahl as our class text and discussing it so the children become confident at answering and posing questions about what they have read. At home, it would be helpful for you to encourage your child to read a variety of different genres and ask them to discuss with you what they have read.

We will be focussing on building up our comprehension skills by answering a range of questions about texts in written form independently. Additionally, children will continue to bring home books from the library which are tailored to them individually through the Accelerated Reader scheme. When books are completed, children take a short reading quiz in school before choosing a new book. The class have access to the library and quizzes everyday so please remind them if they have finished a book.

Spellings

Weekly spellings will be given out on a Tuesday to learn for the week. They will consist of words from the statutory spellings list and spelling principles which have been taught that week. Please note that it is your child's responsibility to ask for new spellings if they have lost their list or were absent when they were given out. It is wonderful to see their confidence during the weekly test when they have spent some time practising these.