

Elsenham C of E Primary School



2026 SPRING NEWSLETTER: Oak Class

Miss Sperrin

Welcome back to school, Oak Class!

It has been wonderful getting to know the children and hearing all about their Christmas adventures—it certainly sounds like Santa had a very busy time! I am very much looking forward to joining the class and teaching at Elsenham. I have previously taught in Harlow for five years, and I am excited for this new role. I have a particular passion for English and History and I enjoy sharing these subjects in ways that inspire curiosity and confidence. Outside of school, one of my favourite hobbies is horse riding, which helps me stay active and balanced. I am eager to get to know the children and work closely with you to support their learning journey. I'm looking forward to an exciting and productive term ahead, with SATs approaching in May and important transition activities for secondary school on the horizon. Please continue to check ParentMail and the school newsletter regularly for the latest updates.

Weekly homework will continue to be set on ATOM. I kindly ask that your child keeps up regular reading and continues to practise their times tables and spellings. Spellings will be sent home each Monday and tested the following Monday in school.

Mathematics

This term, we will continue following the National Curriculum with a focus on fractions, decimals and percentages, ratio, angles, area and perimeter. Alongside these topics, we'll keep revisiting the four operations to strengthen fluency and reasoning skills.

At home, it's important for children to practise quick recall of number facts, especially multiplication tables. Times Table Rock Stars remains a great tool to support this.

Science

In the first half term, our focus will be on Evolution and Inheritance. The children will explore inherited traits versus adaptive traits, learn how adaptations arise from mutations and investigate fossil evidence that supports the theory of evolution. Following this, we will move on to Living Things and Their Habitats, deepening our understanding of the natural world.

And there's more!

This term in history, we'll be studying the Victorian era, looking at how they lived, the Industrial Revolution and inventions.

In geography, our question is "What is life like in the Alps?"—we'll study the region's location, tourism, and compare it with our local area.

In art, we'll dive into narratives and descriptive language, uncovering the stories behind paintings and encouraging personal interpretations.

Our big question in R.E. is: "What does it mean to be human? Is being happy the greatest purpose in life?"

In computing, we'll continue exploring the fascinating world of artificial intelligence.

For P.E., indoor sessions will be on Mondays with a focus on gymnastics, while outdoor sessions will continue on Thursdays and will centre around netball for the first half term and rounders for the second half term. Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct P.E. kit, suitable for all weather conditions.

English

This term, we will be reading extracts from Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone to inspire and explore a variety of fantasy writing styles. Our guided reading book will be Holes, providing plenty of opportunities for in-depth discussion and comprehension, as well as inspiring extended writing tasks.

Reading for pleasure remains a key focus this year, so please encourage your child to spend time each day relaxing with a good book. The more they read, the more their love for reading will grow!

Attached are the spellings the children should be revisiting and revising at home—it's essential they learn these not only for their SATs but to build strong, confident writing skills. In school, we will also be exploring spelling principles to help them tackle unfamiliar words with greater ease.

Grammar continues to be a major focus this year. To support you, we've added helpful resources to the 'Parents' section of our website covering grammar and other literacy areas.

Breakfast Clubs

Wednesday 8-8:30am

Friday 8-8:30am

These start on Wednesday 21st January. A separate letter and Google form has been sent out to make this run smoothly.