

Elsenham C of E Primary School



2025 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER: Oak Class

Miss Glynn-Fox

Welcome back to school!

It's been lovely to welcome back all of Maple Class this week! The children have returned with big smiles, full of energy and ready for the exciting year ahead. This is an important time for them, as they begin their final year at primary school—one filled with new challenges, responsibilities and preparations for secondary school. We'll be working hard this term, and we'll keep you updated through Parent Mail and the school newsletter, so please do keep an eye out for key dates and information.

Homework will be set every Friday on Atom, with one English and one maths activity to complete over the week—approximately 15-20 minutes should be spent on each. Weekly spellings will also be sent home to learn, ready to be tested in school the following week.

As always, your support makes a huge difference. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Mathematics

Our focus this term will be on securing core number knowledge, including place value, the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), fractions, and converting units of measure. These areas form the foundation for everything we do in maths, so a strong understanding is essential.

At home, it's vital that children continue to practise rapid recall of number facts—especially multiplication tables—as this underpins much of the learning in class. Times Table Rock Stars is a great way to do this in a fun and engaging way. Little and often makes a big difference!

Science

This term, our science topic is 'Animals Including Humans', and we'll be diving straight into the fascinating world of the circulatory system, exploring how the heart, lungs, and blood vessels work together to keep our bodies functioning—and we'll even be dissecting a real heart to see its structure up close!

And there's more!

In history this term, we'll be exploring WWII—a topic the children are already incredibly enthusiastic about! We're also looking forward to our trip to Duxford, where we'll see wartime aircraft and exhibits up close.

In geography, we'll be looking at the vital role of oceans, how we depend on them and the challenges they face.

In DT, pupils will get creative in the kitchen with our 'Come Dine with Me' project—expect some delicious results!

In R.E., we'll reflect on the big question: 'How and why does religion bring peace and conflict?'

Our first focus in computing will be E-Safety, helping children understand how to stay safe online, before moving onto AI.

For P.E., we'll be playing tag rugby outside on Thursday and dodgeball indoors on Tuesday. Please ensure your child has the correct kit and no jewellery on those days.

English

Our first writing unit will focus on historical fiction, using *War Horse* as our central text. We'll also explore poetry and a range of non-fiction writing styles. There will be a strong emphasis on proofreading skills and encouraging children to work with greater independence.

A quick note about reading: This year, we'll no longer be using traditional Reading Records in Year 6. Instead, we're introducing Padlet—a digital platform where children can log books, write reviews, and get inspired by what their classmates are reading. We'll also continue using Renaissance: once a book is finished, pupils complete a short quiz to check understanding and help ensure they're choosing books that both challenge and engage them.

Inside the old Reading Records, you'll still find the statutory Year 5/6 spellings attached to this newsletter as well as on the website. In class, we'll also be exploring spelling rules and strategies to help them decode unfamiliar words.

Grammar will be a key focus this year, and we've added helpful resources to the 'Parents' section of our school website to support learning at home.

