

Elsenham C of E Primary School



SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER: SILVER BIRCH

Mrs Draper and Mrs Gunn

Welcome back!

We hope you all had a lovely Easter break and were able to create some lasting family memories. Team Silver Birch are very happy to be back together, and we're looking forward to a term filled with fun and inspiring learning opportunities, including; time in forest school, a trip to Southend, our class assembly, sports day and much more! Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Please contact us, via the school office, should you need to get in touch.

Mathematics

We will be beginning the term looking at **fractions**. We will be learning to find half, quarter, three-quarters and a third of both shapes and numbers. Following on from this, we will begin our unit on **time**, where we will be learning how to tell the time past and to the hour, including quarter hours and to the nearest five minutes. We will end the term on **statistics**: learning to read different information from bar and tally charts. Additionally, we will be focusing on applying all the different strategies we have learnt to worded problems; being able to recognise basic facts such as number bonds to 10 and 20 are essential. Children will be relying on their multiplication knowledge, so please continue to help build up the speed of recall by helping your child learn the **multiplication** and division facts related to their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Follow the maths curriculum section on our school website to find more information regarding the White Rose units and how to support at home.

Science:

We will be continuing our science topic of '**Animals Including Humans**', this half term our focus will be on hygiene and how to keep our bodies healthy. We will be finishing the year off learning about '**Plants**' so we can understand what they need to grow and survive.

And there's more!

Our topic for this term is called '**Beachcombers**'. The children will learn about the history of our seaside, what it was like decades ago compared to what it is like now. This will link perfectly to our upcoming trip to the seaside and Sea Life Adventure. Subsequently, in geography, our big question is '**what it is like to live by the coast?**' We will think about what we know about the coasts, the features of them and what our local coasts are used for.

In art this half term we will be looking at '**Life in Colour**' as we develop our knowledge for painting and mixed media. Our artist study will be *Romare Bearden*. Following this we will begin our D&T textiles unit where we will create pouches.

In P.E., for our outdoor lessons we will begin **3 Tees cricket** before **athletics** in preparation for Sports Day. Our indoor sessions will be based around **gymnastics** and **multi-skills**.

English

In our English lessons, our focus will be on **story writing skills**, using our talk for writing techniques to retell and innovate stories such as *Mrs Armitage and the Big Wave*, and *Dolphin Boy*. We will also enjoy some creative writing using a fantastic picture book, *Flotsam*, as our inspiration. We always have time for poetry too - the perfect opportunity for us to continually build our vocabulary.

As a class we love reading, so are looking forward to our next guided reading book, *House Held Up By Trees*. This text is a lyrical narrative which explores the themes of change, loss, and the tendency of nature reclaiming abandoned spaces. This book will inform lots of learning in Forest School, supports our science learning, and will link to this term's homework project.

Please continue to read regularly at home and have discussions about what you're reading; good comprehension skills are essential to becoming a confident reader. Please let us know if you have any questions about phonics or reading.

Religious Education

We will start the term finishing our Human and Social Sciences unit with the focus on '**How Jewish people celebrate Passover?**'.

Our final big question of the year is '**Why do people have different views about the idea of God?**'. We will have the opportunity to focus on philosophy through the exploration of a multitude of faiths.