

Elsenham C of E Primary School



2026 SPRING NEWSLETTER FOR SILVER BIRCH Mrs Draper and Mrs Gunn

Happy new year and welcome back!

The children have come back to school filled with excitement and they have loved telling us all about their holidays. We hope that everyone was able to enjoy the break and spend time with loved ones. Thank you all for the Christmas cards and gifts; they were very much appreciated!

This term is proving to be a busy one already, full of engaging topic lessons and plenty of practical learning opportunities to ensure the children are enthused and keen to learn. It has been a chilly start to the new term- the children cheered with joy when the snow fell earlier this week and were so excited to rush outside and play in it! With the cold weather set to stay for a while, please ensure your child brings a named warm coat, hat and gloves-we go outside in all weathers!

If there is anything you wish to discuss, please talk to us after school, or contact us via the school office.

Mathematics

This term, our maths work will begin with a focus on symmetry and shape. This will be followed with recognising, counting, adding and subtracting amounts of money in pounds and pence. This is a great opportunity to practice with coins and notes at home, too! We will then move on to multiplication and division. Here we focus on learning the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables and their related division facts (e.g. $2 \times 5 = 10$ so 10 divided by 5 equals 2). After half term, we learn to measure length and height using a range of units (such as mm and cm) and equipment. Finally, we finish the term by measuring and comparing mass, capacity and temperature which links to our other areas of learning in design & technology, science and geography.

Science

We will start the term with a focus on 'Everyday materials' and children will be learning about the way things are made and the types of materials that are used and their properties. After half term we will begin to explore 'Animals Including Humans'. We are looking forward to making these units very practical and hands on so that the children can gain a good understanding of the world around them.

And there's more!

Our topic for this term is called 'What a Wonderful World!' which links very closely to our unit of work in geography. We will explore our knowledge of the UK's amazing features and landmarks; as well as our oceans and natural habitats. In history, we study 'women in history' where children learn about the lives of two significant figures, Rosa Parks and Emily Davison.

Dance and gymnastics will be the focus for indoor P.E. and for our outdoor lessons it will be tennis, led by Katie our tennis coach. **Children should come to school dressed in P.E. kit on a Tuesday and Friday.**

We will be focusing on drawing in art, with our artist study of Quentin Blake, and our food unit in D&T will have them learning about balanced diets where they will design a healthy wrap.

In computing we will be tackling spreadsheets in our digital literacy and data handling unit as well as creating pictures using multimedia techniques. Children will get to grips with the 2Calculate programme in Purple Mash which will help them to gather and record data and learn how to use a simple formula.

English

In our English lessons, we are going to be learning about the features of a non-chronological report and write our own based on the story of 'The Tear Thief'. We will be using our *talk for writing* techniques to help us retell the story and help us remember the key information including the tear thief's appearance, habitat and behaviour. Later in the term we will also write recounts and explore instructions and poetry.

This term, we are having a big push on the use of correct grammar and spelling in our writing. This includes correct use of *was/were*, *a/an*, as well as past tense forms such as *ran*, *swam*, *caught*, *drew*, *wrote*.

RWInc phonics groups restarted again this week and so reading books should now be coming home every Friday. Children have access to our class library on a daily basis so they should always have something to read in addition to books from home.

Weekly spellings will continue to be stuck into reading records on a Monday, and children's spelling knowledge will be checked every Friday. Thank you in advance for your continued involvement in practising spellings at home- it does wonders for the children's confidence and skills.

Religious Education

Our big question this term is 'How do Christians belong to their faith family?' It will allow us the opportunity to explore how Christians celebrate special events throughout the year.