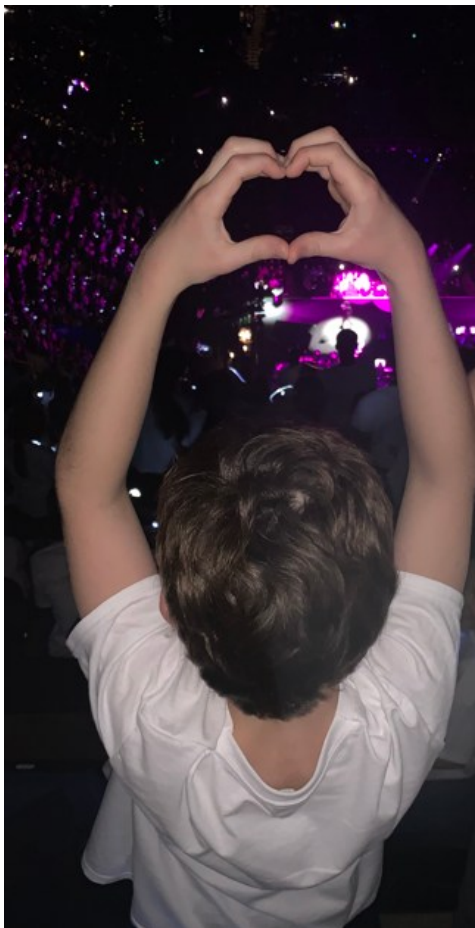


NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd January 2026



On Monday, **Year 5 took to the O2 stage** to perform as part of the world's largest choir. They started by taking part in rehearsals during the day to perfect their performances, before showcasing their months of dedication and hard work to learn the range of musical numbers and dance routines in the evening show to family and friends. It was an evening filled with exceptional singing and dancing from our pupils and memories that we hope they will cherish. Their behaviour was outstanding and we were very proud of them. Well done Year 5! Thank you also to all the staff responsible for organising the event, rehearsing the children and accompanying them on the day.



Having our green school trip hats was so helpful in spotting the children and managing their movement in such a busy venue. If you have one of these at home, either from this trip or a previous trip, please can we have it back.



KEY EVENTS next week

Tues 27th Jan	2.30pm for 2.40pm, Sycamore class Assembly
Wed 28th Jan	1pm—3pm Yr. 5/6 sports hall athletics

Bringing history to life



Year 1 had an unforgettable day stepping back in time to September 1666, when *History Off The Page* immersed us in life on an old London street near Pudding Lane. From the moment they arrived, the children were fully engrossed in a range of hands-on activities that brought history to life.

Throughout the morning, the children tried their hand at candle making, perfume blending, sewing and weaving, pottery making, making bread from salt dough, and visiting the doctors, where they learned about the extreme measure taken to treat illnesses like the plague. The excitement grew as news spread that the fire was approaching, and by lunchtime it was time to evacuate.

Later, the children returned to explore the aftermath, carefully examining the ashes and artefacts left behind. It was wonderful to see how engaged and enthusiastic they were throughout the day.

A huge thank you to all the families for making such a fantastic effort with costumes, and to the family members who generously gave up their time to help at each station. We couldn't have done the day without you!

Miss Verlander and Mrs Brazier



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



**PLEASE HELP US GET A
HEALTHY SCHOOLS
AWARD**

Snailerswift and Slimenem, the school snails, are very important members of our school community. The children decided to mark their 5th birthday with a little celebration. They made party hats and invitations and Florence even made a special snail cake out of vegetables. We think the snails felt very special!



The Healthy Schools Awards celebrate schools that support children's physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.

Across the years at Elsenham Primary School, we have worked hard to create an environment where every child can feel healthy, confident, and supported. This includes:

- A wide range of physical activity clubs and sports competitions
- Specialist sports coaches working with pupils to promote high-quality physical education
- National Fitness Day, where a range of professionals visited Elsenham to talk to pupils about health, fitness and future careers
- Forest School, giving pupils regular opportunities to be active, outdoors and connected with nature
- Leaders in Learning, where pupils share their voice about each subject and help shape school life
- Daily mindfulness and wellbeing practices
- Calm, spiritual and reflective spaces around the school
- A strong focus on emotional health, positive relationships and continually improving lunchtime experiences

If you feel these opportunities have made a positive difference to your child, we would be truly grateful if you would consider nominating Elsenham Primary School for a Healthy Schools Award.

Parents and carers can submit a nomination by emailing:

healthyschools@barnardos.org.uk

Please include the name of the school and a few words about how Elsenham has supported your child's health and wellbeing.

The deadline for nominations is 6th February 2026.

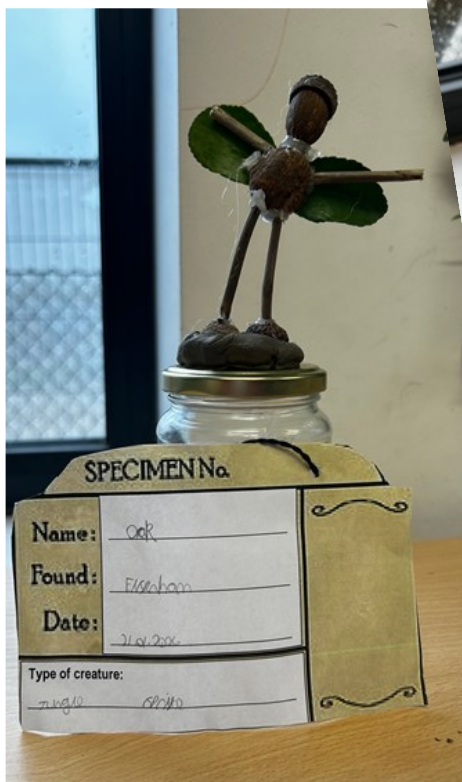
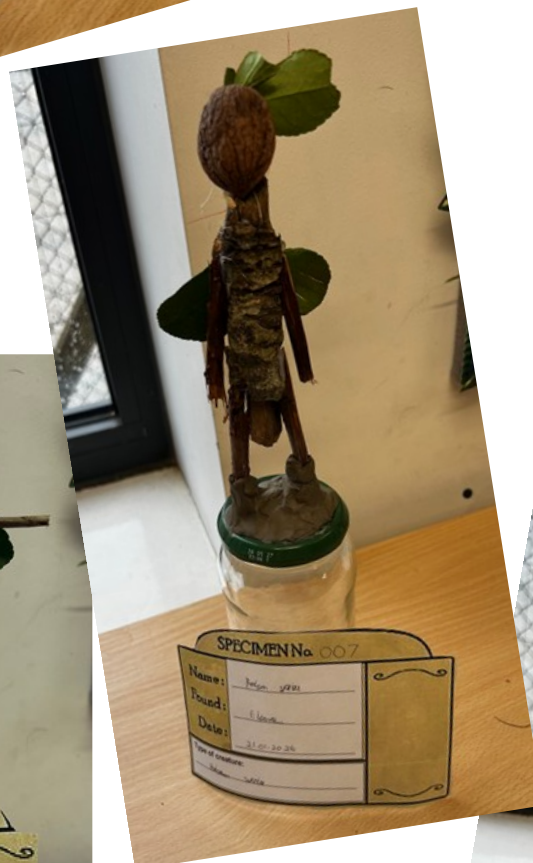
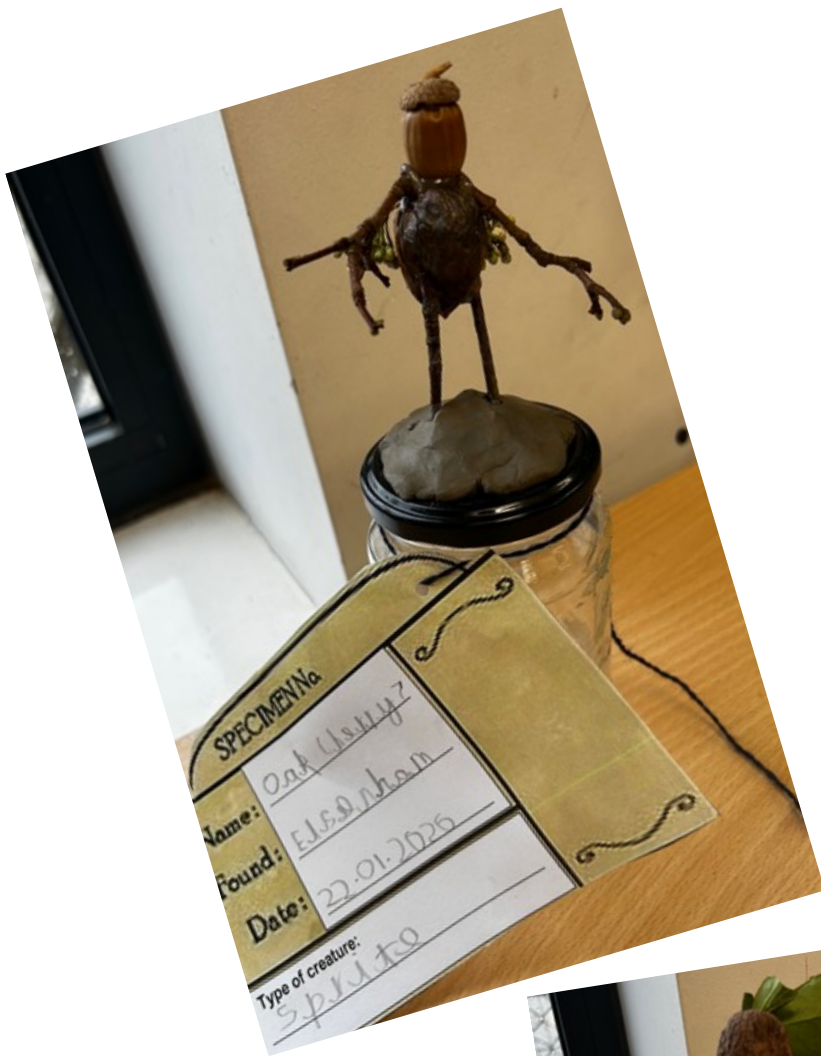
Thank you for your support.

Sycamore and Rowan classes have been exploring the “invisible world” and, during this week’s outdoor learning session, went on the hunt for forest folk, fairies, and sprites.

We imagined the creatures we might discover and used natural materials to create specimens that Arthur Spiderwick himself would be proud of!

The children even produced specimen labels so their creatures’ species could be researched and catalogued.

This unit of work has truly ignited Year 3’s imaginations, and they are now experts in the weird, wonderful, and fantastical world of Spiderwick.



From Eco Council



This year's RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch is from Friday 23rd January to Sunday 25th January. Using the link, sign up and then during these dates, please spend an hour watching the birds in your garden or local area, and note the number of birds that land. Then, record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time. Finally, submit your results via the Big Garden Watch Birdwatch website.

[It's Big Garden Birdwatch Weekend. Get counting!](#)

On Monday we led a special assembly to learn how to identify the different birds that we might see, listened to different bird-songs and encouraged everyone to take part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch before the February half-term break.

Happy bird-spotting!

Mrs Shanks and the Eco Committee



We are going to be on the telly!

On Wednesday a TV crew came to school to film us bird watching. We are very excited to share with you that you can see us on the TV!

The piece is due to broadcast tonight on ITV1 at 6pm and will be shown on ITV ANGLIA, CENTRAL, MERIDIAN, TYNE TEES, WEST COUNTRY and YORKSHIRE.

If you're not in any of these regions, you can watch it on ITVx catch up - it tends to be uploaded at around an hour after broadcast. It will be available for 24 hours: <https://www.itv.com/watch/categories/news>

It'll also be available on YouTube on the ITV News in Full page. Please select one of the regions playlists and select the Thumbnail with today's date. It will be available for 7 days: <https://www.youtube.com/@ITVNewsInFull>

celebrating success

The winner of the golden dustpan was Maple class



Jack played a match away against St Albans, last weekend and he got player of the match for his team at Bishops Stortford. Amazing achievement Jack...well done. We are super proud of you!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Acorn	Finn
Cherry	Isla
Beech	Robin
Chestnut	Rayden
Silver Birch	Ella
Cedar	Chloe
Sycamore	Ivy
Rowan	Harry
Elm	Joycelyn
Ash	Sebastian
Willow	Scarlett
Pine	Dotty
Maple	Piper
Oak	Ava

CONGRATULATIONS!



Year 2 had an action-packed

Wednesday afternoon at Joyce Frankland Academy, attending the annual multi-skills event held by USSP.

From hula-hooping to hockey skills, the children excelled in their efforts and determination across all ten stations!

Year 10 sports leaders worked brilliantly with our younger pupils to motivate them and offer further challenges.

SEND Outreach Drop in sessions

Uttlesford Healthy Family Support Team would like to invite you to an informal SEND drop in session at your school or preschool.

We will be there to listen to any concerns you have and advise you of the SEND support our team can provide for you and your child. This support includes 1:1 home support for parents coping with a child with an additional need, providing strategies to support your child with behaviour, toileting, sleep and eating. We can also attend one plan and EHCP meetings with you at your school or preschool.

Our team can advise and support with signposting to other health services such as Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. We can provide support with referrals for Autism and ADHD.

We can also support with referrals or signposting to other support services such as Home Start and Families in Focus for an extended level of home support, should you request this.

w: essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

Commissioned by

Are you a dad of a child on the autism spectrum?

One of our parents, Des Curlewis, is in the process of setting up a Local Support Group for Dads who have Children on the Autism spectrum.

The aim is to come together, support each other, have open conversation and answer questions to ensure we can all be the men our children need us to be.

The link for those who may want to join is – <https://chat.whatsapp.com/EIH0BBKsUdiBT3gXyUnAMO>

DIARY DATES

JANUARY	
Tues 27th	Sycamore class Assembly—doors open 2.30pm for a 2.40pm start
FEBRUARY	
Tues 3rd	Pine class Assembly—doors open 2.30pm for a 2.40pm start
w/c 9th Feb	Children's mental health week
Tues 10 th	Safer Internet Day Cedar class Assembly—doors open 2.30pm for a 2.40pm start
Fri 13 th	Year 4 Tudor Day FOES valentine tuck shop after school
Mon 16th Feb – Fri 20th Feb - HALF TERM BREAK	
MARCH	
W/C 2nd	Literacy week
Tues 3rd	Willow class Assembly—doors open 2.30pm for a 2.40pm start
Thurs 5 th	House Poetry Competition Heats
Fri 6 th	World Book Day dress up day for Elsenham Primary
Sun 8 th	FOES Mothers' Day event
W/C 9 th	Science week
Fri 13 th	Relaxed dress rehearsal by Yr 4 to EYFS and KS1 at 1.30pm House Poetry Competition Final FOES disco night
Mon 16 th	Yr 4 Dress rehearsal to KS2 at 1.45pm
Tues 17 th	Pupil summit for future leaders at the cathedral- identity and diversity—selected pupils
Wed 18 th	Yr. 4 performance 1.45pm & 6pm
Wed 25 th	Parents evening – 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Thurs 26 th	Parents evening – 4.30pm – 7.30pm
Fri 27 th	End of term awards assembly / Church Easter service 9.30am Last day of term – finish at 1.30pm
Mon 30th March –Fri 11th April – EASTER HOLIDAYS	
APRIL	
Tues 21st	Chestnut class Assembly—doors open 2.30pm for a 2.40pm start
Tues 28 th	Yr4 HFL Maths challenge Beech class Assembly—doors open 2.30pm for a 2.40pm start
MAY	
Mon 4th	BANK HOLIDAY—school closed
W/B 11 th May	Yr 6 SATs week
Sat 16th May	FOES summer fayre
Mon 25th May – Fri 29th May – HALF TERM BREAK	

JUNE	
Wed 3 rd	Sports Day
W/C Mon 8 th	Phonics screening
Tues 9 th	Reserve sports day
Tues 9 th	Yr3 HFL Maths challenge
Tues 9 th	6pm Welcome talk to new Year R parents 2026/2027
Tues 24 th	Silver birch class Assembly 2.30pm for 2.40pm
JULY	
Wed 1 st	Open evening 4.30pm – 5.45pm
Fri 3 rd July	Relaxed dress rehearsal to KS1 of Yr. 6 play FOES frozen Friday
Tues 7 th	1.45pm Dress rehearsal to KS2
Wed 8 th	Yr. 6 performance 1.45pm & 6pm
Fri 10 th	FOES colour run
Tues 14 th July	Cherry class Assembly 2.30pm for 2.40pm
Thurs 16 th	HT awards assembly
Fri 17 th	Yr 6 Leavers Assembly
Fri 17 th	Last day of term—finish at 1.30pm

Please note that whilst we will do our best to keep to these dates, circumstances may require us to make a change

2026/2027 Term Dates	
Autumn Term:	Tuesday 1 September 2026 (NPD) – Friday 18 December 2026 <i>Half Term 26 October – 30 October</i>
Spring Term:	Monday 4 January 2027 (NPD) – Thursday 25 March 2027 <i>Half Term 15 February - 19 February</i>
Summer Term:	Monday 12 April 2027 – Wednesday 21 July 2027 <i>Half Term 31 May – 4 June, and May Bank Holiday - 3 May</i>