Elm Academy News

18th December 2025



Principal's Message

A splendid week of singing and performing, thank you all so much for coming to support the children in their different performances. A lovely way to really begin the festive period.

Well done to Year 4 and 5 football teams who, despite the weather, played matches this week. Well done to the girls 5 and 6 football team for playing amazingly well at the finals last week. As always all the teams represented Elm incredibly.

We have really enjoyed this week from the hot chocolate on Monday, snow ball fight yesterday and today I enjoyed a special lunch with someone from each class. We hope you liked your festive photos too. We will do something similar at the end of the next term, so keep an eye out for that.

Thank you all for your continued support. I hope you all have a fabulous festive holiday and I wish you all health and happiness for a super 2026.

Take care, stay safe and enjoy the family time.

Exciting Curriculum

Nursery

We are having a wonderful wintery time in Nursery! We are learning all about the celebration of Christmas, and this week we learnt about the Christian Nativity story. We were excited to learn about the story, which our Nativity show is all about! We learnt about how Christians believe that Christmas is the time Baby Jesus was born. They believe that Jesus was born in a stable, in a manger.

At the creation station, we have been busy creating our own Nativity collages. We used lolly sticks to create the stable and then different shapes to create the manger and Baby Jesus.

In our topic lesson this week, we acted out the Nativity story. We each took on a role and retold the story. We particularly enjoyed pretending to ride the donkey and knock on all of the innkeeper's doors!

Outside, we have been embracing the changeable weather in our wellies and all-in-one rain suits! We have been counting fish at the water station and making muddy cupcakes at the mud kitchen.







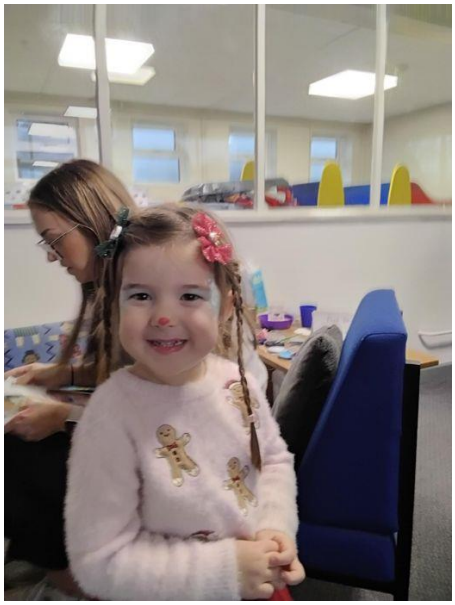
Exciting Curriculum

Nursery





A big thank you to all of the Nursery families, who attended our Nursery Christmas Craft Fayre. We had so much fun and raised a lot of money! Thank you for all of your continued support!





Exciting Curriculum

Reception

Squirrels and Hedgehogs were lucky enough to have some Health and Social Care students from Oak Academy come to visit us. They came with lots of creative activities for the children to try including making calendars and decorating Christmas baubles. The children had lots of fun and have lots of gifts to take home – thank you Oak!







Exciting Curriculum

Year 1

Year 1 enjoyed looking at the fossils we borrowed from Canford school





Exciting Curriculum

Year 3







Year 3 have been making seasonal stockings for our DT project this half term. They have enjoyed designing and making them throughout the day by using their excellent sewing skills!



Exciting Curriculum

Year 5

The past two weeks have been both busy and rewarding for Year 5. We had Enterprise Day, where pupils demonstrated creativity and teamwork by designing and selling a range of products, including items such as personalised keyrings and “Cloud Doh”. This event provided an excellent opportunity for the children to learn about planning, budgeting, and the principles of enterprise. We have also celebrated the festive season with our Christmas Concert. Year 5 performed beautifully for parents and carers, and it was wonderful to see their confidence and enthusiasm shine through.

In our lessons, we have been concluding several exciting units. In Maths, pupils have been working hard to complete their unit on fractions, developing strong problem-solving skills. In English, the children have written imaginative short stories from the perspective of a character during Tudor the period, combining historical understanding with creative writing. Finally, in Science, we have wrapped up our topic on forces, exploring how different types of forces, such as air and water resistance, affect objects in our everyday lives.

It has been a fantastic fortnight of learning and achievement, and we are very proud of the effort and progress Year 5 have made. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a fantastic New Year!



Exciting Curriculum

Year 6

Year 6 have been sewing this week – they have been learning different types of stitches to create a draw-string bag.







Boxing

At lunchtime, Miss West had a small group of children to start their Boxing Intervention Programme! They made a fantastic start and Miss West is excited to see their progress over the next few sessions



Christmas Shows

We have had some fabulous Christmas shows this week.

Here are some pictures from Nursery, year 2 and year 3











Sports



Blown away by these talented athletes! An afternoon filled with incredible running, throwing, and jumping. Huge well done to everyone involved!

A huge congratulations to our amazing Year 6 children who took part in the Tag Rugby event at Park School. You all played brilliantly, showed fantastic teamwork, and represented our school with pride.

We're thrilled to say they came away as winners of the Plate!

Well done to everyone involved





A huge well done to our Year 5 pupils and some of our Year 4 pupils who took part in football matches against Kingsleigh. They did us proud once again, scoring lots of goals and, most importantly, having lots of fun. We're already looking forward to many more fixtures and sporting events next year.

News

As a school we have signed up to Easy Fundraising! This raises money for the school via people shopping etc.

There is an app you can install on your phone and you can access it on the desktop too.

If you have it on your phone when you are shopping it recognises it's a company that donates and it pops up that you can get a donation for your cause.

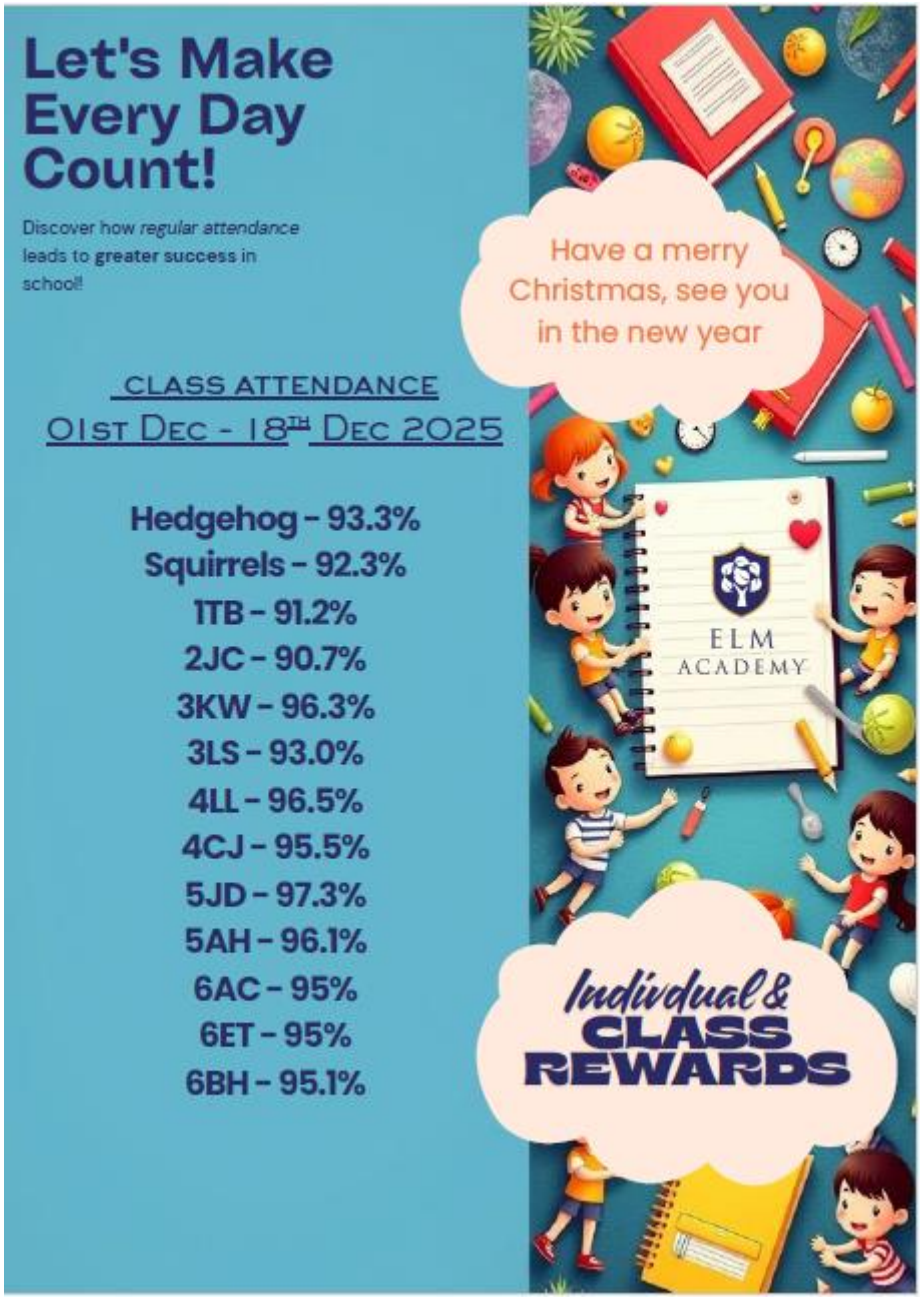
You can also add your bank cards for shops in store. For example, for every shop in Tesco over £70 the school get 50p.

Even just for registering the school get £1 after your first shop. We only have 13 supporters currently so we would really appreciate some more.

Here is a link if you would rather do it on a desktop.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=402339&invite=pbv01c&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_campaign=web-referral

Attendance



Please call the school office on 01202 574212 or email absence@elm-academy.org.uk if your child is going to be absent from school.

For all requests for leave of absence including for holidays during term time please ask the office for a 'Request for Leave of Absence' form. This needs to be completed and handed into school at least one week before your child is due to be absent. Mrs Wakeman will review each request and only requests for exceptional circumstances will be authorised.

Absence from school can lead to Fixed Penalty Notices or Prosecution.

Free Breakfast Club

A reminder that our free breakfast club doors open at 8.20 am and will close no later than 8.25 am.

All key stage one children must be accompanied by an adult to the doors.

If your child arrives after this time they will not be allowed in and you will have to wait until 8.40 am for the gates to open.

Please see below for our weekly menu



Useful information



ELM ACADEMY

Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Deadline for applications is January 15th 2026

If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply, even if your child attends a nursery attached to the school.



Apply online

https://www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/schools-an...

AUTHENTIC EDUCATION

Together we are ...

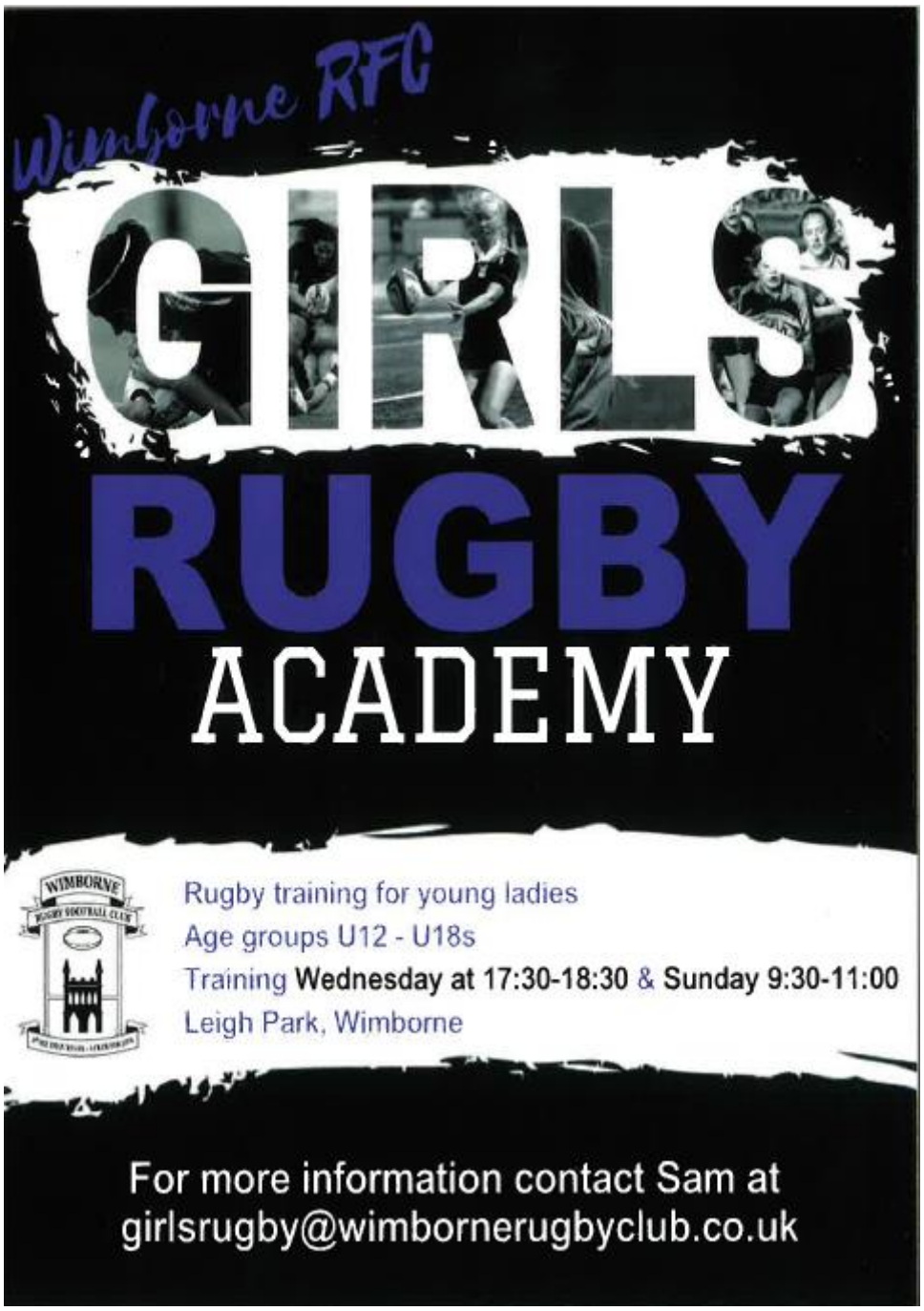
COURAGEOUS
INNOVATIVE
EXCELLENT

OUR VALUES

ENJOYMENT
POTENTIAL
INCLUSIVE
COMMUNITY

EPIC

Useful information



Useful information





Useful information

Calling All Parents And Guardians

Big Brush Club

AT HOME DENTAL

We Need Your Voice!

Welcome to our supervised toothbrushing programme!

We've launched a fun and healthy supervised toothbrushing programme within our setting to help children build great brushing habits and keep their smiles sparkling.

Please complete the parent and guardian survey online, it only takes 2 minutes and makes a BIG difference

Your answers are confidential; we will use them only to support your child's participation.

Why your survey matters?

- Helps us understand your child's needs
- Supports better oral health for all children
- NHS requires this to be done as a part of the programme
- To answer any oral health questions, you may have around your child



More resources can be found on our website **www.bigbrushclub.co.uk**

Useful information



Useful information

Dorset Mental Health Support Team in Schools

Neighbourhood Support Hub
Henry Brown Centre,
Monday, 12th January 12-2pm.

This event will focus on emotional wellbeing and mental health, alongside a wide range of other services including health, housing, and financial support.



The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) will have a dedicated stall at the event, offering lots of helpful resources for you to take away.
Our practitioners will be there to answer questions and provide information about the support available for children, young people, and families

We look forward to seeing you there!'

NHS
Dorset HealthCare University
NHS Foundation Trust

Useful information

WELLBEING BEAR newsletter



Buddy and Hope have had a wonderful time visiting schools this term and meeting so many of you! Thank you for giving them such a warm and welcoming reception — it truly made their visits special. If we haven't met you yet, we're excited to visit your school soon and can't wait to see you all in 2026!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Buddy & Hope's Top Calming Christmas Tips

Christmas can be an overwhelming time for lots of children, so here are Buddy and Hope's favourite ways to stay calm and enjoy the festive season:

Create a Cosy Calm Corner
Find a quiet space with blankets, cushions, and fairy lights to relax away from the noise.

Mindful Colouring
Colour Christmas-themed pages like snowflakes ❄️ and trees 🎄 to help focus and unwind.

Story Time
Read a gentle festive story or listen to an audiobook in a calm space.

Decorate a Kindness Tree
Draw or make a paper Christmas tree and add "kindness ornaments" with positive messages or compliments

Hot Chocolate Breathing

🎄Imagine you're holding a warm cup of hot chocolate. It smells delicious and cosy.
🎄Take a slow breath in through your nose as if you're smelling the yummy chocolate.
(Inhale for 4 seconds)
🎄Now blow out gently through your mouth to cool it down so you don't burn your tongue.
(Exhale for 4 seconds)
🎄Repeat 3–5 times until you feel calm and relaxed.





Watch the bear video's
https://bit.ly/3LmJvOY

Useful information

Action For Children- Online Parenting Support



Parent Talk - Support for Parents from Action For Children

Useful information

The Henry Brown Centre- Community Support





Useful information

Is your child a Young Carer?

A young carer is a 'child under the age of 18 who helps to look after a member of their family or a friend who is ill, disabled or living with a Mental Health condition or who misuses substances'.

If your child is a Young Carer they could benefit from support in school and MYTIME Young Carers can

- Give young carers something to look forward to amidst challenging circumstances
- Create much-needed breaks for young carers and safe spaces where they can be themselves
- Offer social opportunities for young carers to connect with one another
- Empower young carers with new skills, confidence and self-worth
- Identify training opportunities and pathways to employment for young adult carers
- Educate schools, local authorities and communities to increase support and understanding for young carers
- Provide support to young carer parents, siblings and other family members

If you feel your child is a Young Carer please contact Mrs Stevenson (Pastoral Support) for more information.

Many people are struggling due to the current cost of living. If you require support with essential food items please contact Mrs Stevenson in the Inclusion Team to request a Food Hamper. These are delivered to school weekly by Hope for Food.

Useful Numbers

National Domestic Abuse Helpline- **0808 16 89 111**

Citizens Advice- **0808 27 87 939**

SHOUT Text Service (Mental Health Support)- **Text 85258**

KOOTH (Mental Health Support 11-18 years)- **08000 55 555**

NSPCC Helpline- **0808 800 5000**

NSPCC Helpline Under 18- **0800 1111**

Dates and Reminders

Friday 19th December	End of term prize draw and last day of term

School starts again on **MONDAY 5th JANUARY 2026**

Monday 19th January	Year 4 & 5 Farm Residential
Thursday 19th January	Dance Live
Friday 13th February	Inset Day
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February	Half Term
Monday 23rd February	Return to school

Information regarding Head lice

Head Lice:

- Can't fly, jump or swim
- Are very unlikely to be spread by objects such as hats, combs and pillows
- Don't have a preference for dirty, clean, short or long hair
- Only affect people and can't be caught from animals

Once detached from the hair, head lice will usually die within 12-24 hours.

Preventing head lice

It's very difficult to prevent Head Lice. You may want to consider regular detection combing on a weekly basis. Lotions and sprays don't prevent Head Lice and should only be used if a live louse has been found in your own, or your child's hair. Staying off work or school and washing clothing and bedding on a hot wash is unnecessary, as it's unlikely to help prevent the spread of Head Lice. It is also Ideal if your child has long hair to wear it up to lessen the chance the lice attach.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook (Elm Events) and Twitter @ElmAcademyAAT

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