ELM ACADEMY

Newsletter

Principal's Message

What a fabulous two weeks we have had! Three classes achieved 100% attendance last week — well done 5JD and 6ET. A special mention must go to 6BH, who are now on their fourth consecutive week of 100% attendance. This is an outstanding achievement — well done to all pupils and parents for your commitment.

Our Year 5–6 girls' football team were absolutely outstanding in their semi-final match, winning 7–0. They achieved this despite a string of injuries: AB had to leave the game with a thumb injury, DE followed shortly after with a leg injury, and with all our subs already used, RM then took a ball straight to the face — we genuinely thought we might have to send Bailey on! It was an epic performance, full of resilience and teamwork, and we wish them all the very best in the upcoming Shield Cup Final. Go girls!

I am incredibly proud of all the children in Year 6, who have shown such dedication to their schoolwork. Next week they will sit their formal SATs in a very supportive environment, and we wish them every success — they could not have worked harder. I am very much looking forward to having breakfast with them each morning next week.

Please note the changes to the Sports Day dates towards the back of the newsletter, and remember these may need to change again if the weather isn't on our side.

Upcoming Events

Friday 15th May - Year 2 dress up day for International Nurses Day

Monday 18th May - Year 6 Reward Trip

Monday 25th - Friday 29th May 2026 Half term

2nd June - Year 3 Trip

3rd June - Years 5 &6 Rockley Buddens Residential

Tuesday 23rd June, 9.30 am – Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 Sports Day

Wednesday 24th June, 9.30 am – Year 4, Year 5 Sports Day

Wednesday 24th June, 2.00 pm - Year 6 Sports Day

Thursday 25th June 9.30 am – Reception and Nursery Sports Day

Reminders

Water Bottles: Please ensure all children bring to school a labelled refillable water bottle.

Jumpers: With the weather hopefully improving please ensure jumpers are clearly named.

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8th May 2026

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Nursery





Over the past two weeks, we have been exploring the story of Little Red Riding Hood. The children have thoroughly enjoyed retelling the story and were excited to spot some familiar characters from a previous focus text, The Three Little Pigs!

We got creative by making our own baskets for Red Riding Hood to take treats to Grandma. The children practised weaving colourful ribbons over and under their basket templates, and the finished creations looked absolutely beautiful.

As part of our storytelling work, we explored the journey to Grandma's house. Working in groups, the children created their own maps, carefully thinking about what Red Riding Hood might see along the way. We included details such as trees, flowers, and of course, the big bad wolf!





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Early years food choking hazards

Food Standards Agency
food.gov.uk

Below is a table of advice on key foods for care givers who are involved with preparing and serving food for babies and young children (under 5 years old)

Vegetable and fruits	Advice
Pips or stones in fruit	Always check beforehand and remove hard pips or stones from fruit.
Small fruits	Cut small round fruits like grapes, cherries, berries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, into small pieces: cut lengthways and then again cut them in halves (quarters).
Large fruits and firm fruits	Cut large fruits like melon and firm fruits like apple into slices instead of small chunks. For very young children, consider grating or mashing firm fruits, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Vegetables	Cut vegetables like carrots, cucumber and celery into narrow batons. For very young children consider grating or mashing firm vegetables and legumes like butter beans, chickpeas and tofu, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Skin on fruit and vegetables	Consider removing the skin from fruit and vegetables, especially for very young children. Peeled fruit and vegetables can be swallowed more easily.
Cooking fruit and vegetables	Consider softening firm fruit and vegetables (such as carrots, broccoli, yam and apples) by steaming or simmering until soft. Serve cut into slices or narrow batons.
Meat and fish	**Advice**
Sausages and hot dogs	Cut sausages and hot dogs into short strips. Cut them in half and then lengthways or as thinly as possible. Peeling the skin off the sausages helps them to be swallowed more easily.
Meat or fish	Remove bones from meat or fish. Cut meat into strips as thinly as possible. Remove skin and fat from meat and fish, it will help the food pass smoothly down the throat.
Cheese	**Advice**
Grate or cut cheese	Grate or cut cheese into short strips. Cut lumps of cheese as narrow as possible.
Nuts and seeds	**Advice**
Chop or flake whole nuts	Chop or flake whole nuts, peanuts and seeds. Whole nuts should not be given to children under five years old.
Bread	**Advice**
White bread and other breads	White bread can form a ball shape with a dough-like texture at the back of a child's throat, if not chewed properly. Brown bread or toasted white bread are good alternatives. Cut bread, chapatis, naan bread and other breads into narrow strips.
Snacks and other foods	**Advice**
Popcorn	Do not give babies and young children popcorn.
Chewing gum and marshmallows	Do not give babies and young children chewing gum or marshmallows.
Peanut butter	Do not give babies and young children peanut butter on its own, only use as a spread.
Jelly cubes	Do not give babies and young children raw jelly cubes.
Boiled sweets and ice cubes	Do not give babies and young children boiled, hard, gooey, sticky or cough sweets, or ice cubes.
Raisins and other dried fruits	Do not give babies under the age of 1 whole raisins or dried fruits. Cut them into small pieces.

Make sure food is prepared appropriately for children under 5 years old, see: https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning/

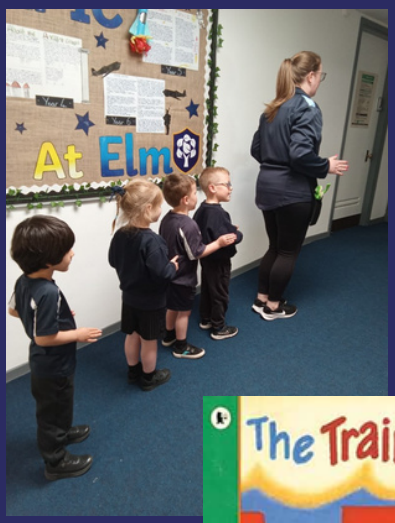
It is also advisable that care givers are familiar with how to respond to a choking incident, see: How to stop a child from choking: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-stop-a-child-from-choking/

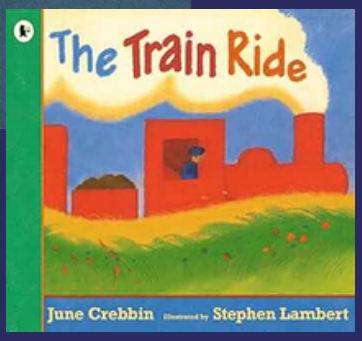
and How to resuscitate a child: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-resuscitate-a-child/

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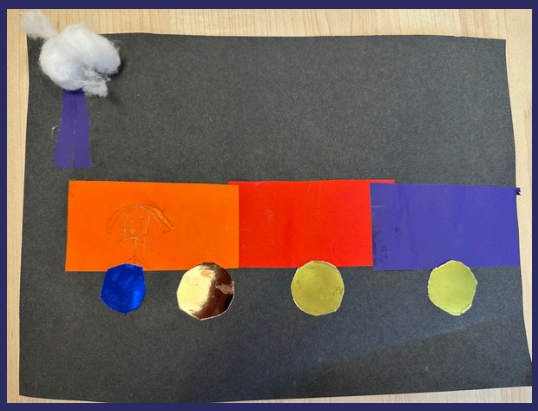
Reception

In Reception we have been reading and joining in with the story 'The Train Ride'. We created a class train and went on a train ride around our school and used our senses to see what we could hear, see, smell, feel and taste. We then used these ideas to write our own sentences about what we saw on our train ride.









During Play to Learn we have enjoyed creating trains using different materials in our construction and creative areas.



During our Special Jobs lessons, the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring a variety of instruments. They practiced playing in time with a beat and explored different ways that they could change the speed and volume that they played.





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Year 1

In science the Year 1 children had a fantastic time spotting decidious trees. They found an oak, acer, sycamore, silver birch and many more. The children know deciduous trees lose their leaves in Autumn.



















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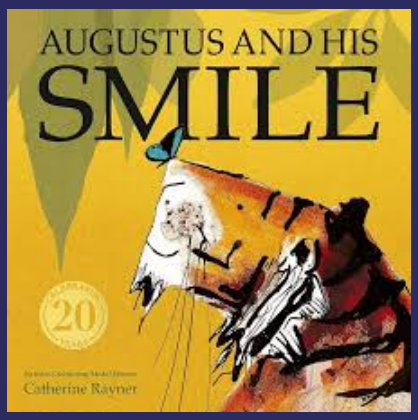
Year 2



Year 2 became bear detectives when Winnie the Bee went missing! The children searched around the school to help find him so he could be safely returned to Mrs Brennan and Year 1.

The exciting experience inspired some fantastic English recount writing. The children used lots of descriptive language to make their writing engaging for the reader and worked hard to sequence events chronologically to clearly retell the search for Winnie the Bear. Well done, Year 2!





The children in Year 2 have really enjoyed reading the story of Augustus and his smile over the last two weeks.





On Friday 15th May Year 2 have their DT day and would appreciate any shoe box size cardboard boxes. If you have any please drop them to the office.



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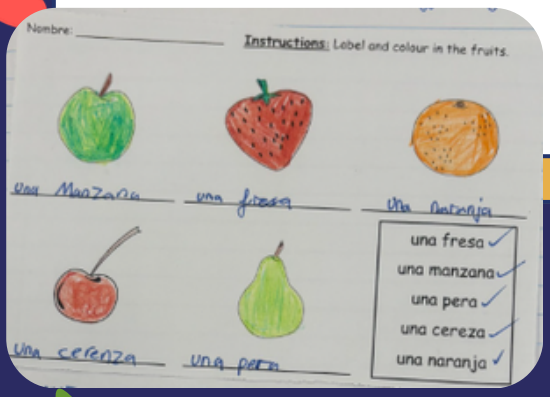


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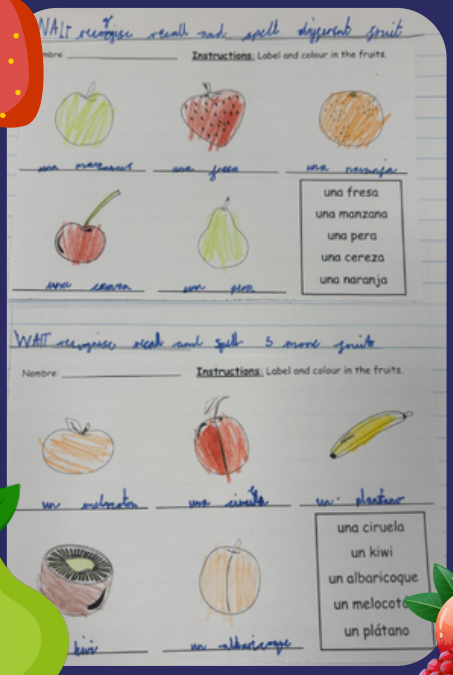
Year 3

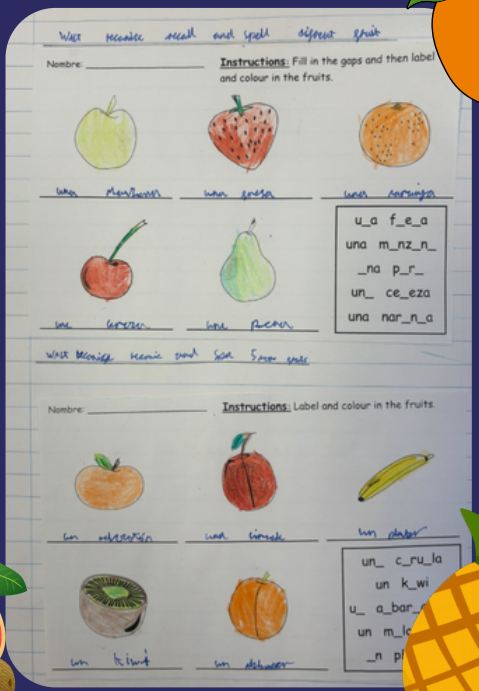
¡HOLA!

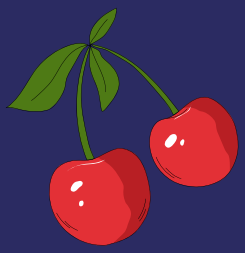
Year 3 have been incredibly excited to learn about fruits in Spanish this term. The children have enjoyed practising new vocabulary through songs, games, and fun classroom activities. They can now confidently name a variety of fruits and are becoming more enthusiastic about speaking Spanish every week. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and curiosity grow as they explore a new language.













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Year 4





Year 4 have been having some great experiences recently.

In Fresh Air Club, we have been learning how to make rope out of brambles and nettles and mapping the school grounds.

In science, we have been classifying trees by their leaves using a classification key and finding out which groups different animals belong to.

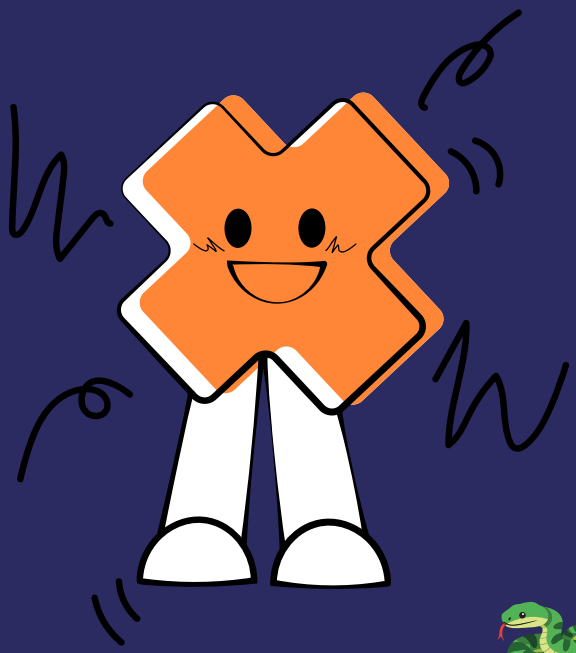
In history, we learned why the Romans left Britain and the reasons the Saxons and Vikings invaded. We have also been finding out about the 7 Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

Some of us had the super opportunity to attend cricket, "This girl can" and tennis festivals where we learned new sporting skills and teamwork.

And finally, we have been working hard practising our times tables and getting ready for the MTC in a few weeks time.















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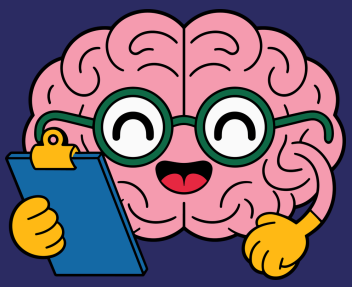
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Year 5

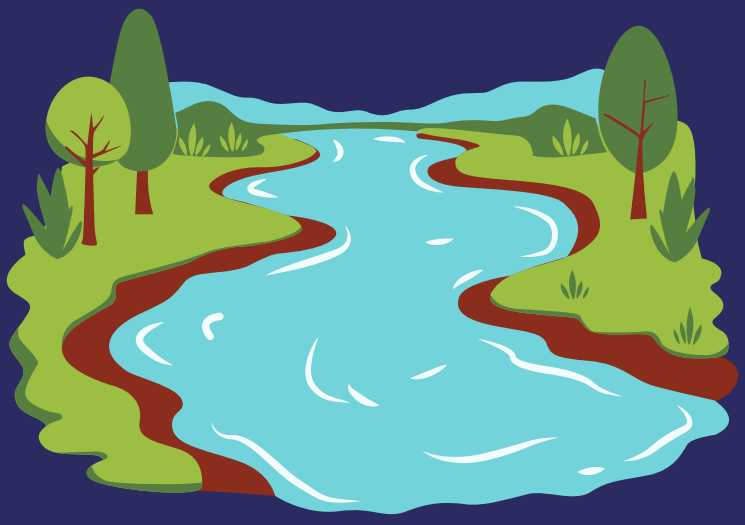


We have had another busy fortnight in Year 5!

In Maths, we have completed our learning on area and perimeter and are now starting a new focus on angles and shapes. The children are growing in confidence as they learn to recognise, name and classify shapes, developing their understanding and reasoning skills.

In English, the children are publishing their recounts inspired by the remarkable experiences of famous survivors, thoughtfully refining their writing to improve clarity, vocabulary and impact.

In Science, we are continuing our learning about gestation, enjoying comparisons of how different animals grow and develop before birth. In Geography, we are exploring the fascinating journey of a river, learning key vocabulary and discovering how rivers change from their source all the way to the mouth.



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Year 6





Best of luck to all of Year 6 with their SATs next week! You have worked incredibly hard and we are all very proud of you.
Keep up the good work - you will all smash it!





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Friends of Elm

















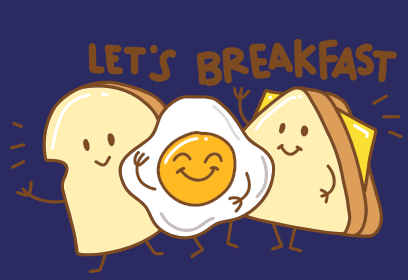
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A reminder that our free breakfast club doors open at 8.20 am and will close no later than 8.25 am.
All children must be accompanied by an adult to the doors.
If your child arrives after this time they will not be allowed in and you will have to wait until 8.40 am for the gates to open.
Please see below for our weekly menu





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Attendance

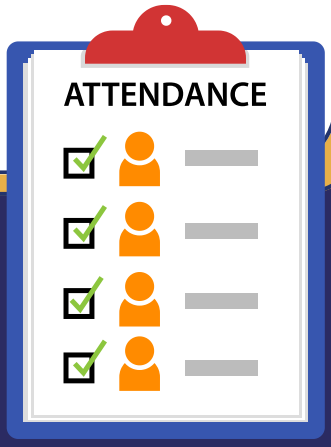




Attendance 27th Apr - 07th May 2026

Hedgehogs - 95.7%
Squirrels - 95.4%
1TB - 95.6%
2JC - 97.2%
3LS - 99%
3KW - 95.3%
4LL - 96.3%
4CJ - 95.3%
5JD - 97.3%
5AH - 96.5%
6AC - 93.8%
6BH - 100%
6ET - 97.4%





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Please can we remind you that Elm Academy is a NUT FREE School.

We have multiple children at our school with severe nut allergies.

Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a serve, potentially life threating allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a serve reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties).

We can NOT have NUTs at Elm Academy in any form. So please check that your children have NO NUT products in their lunch boxes or brought into the school as a treat.

The following items should not be brought into Elm Academy:

- **Packs of nuts**
- **Peanut butter sandwiches**
- **Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts**
- **Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts**
- **Sesame seed rolls (students allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)**
- **Cakes made with nut**

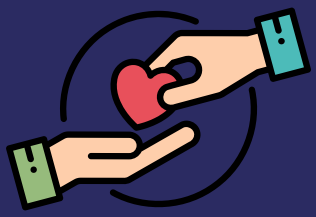
Please ensure you always check the packaging of any food items brought into school. If the packaging says the following words, these items should not be brought into Elm Academy:

- **Not suitable for nut allergy sufferers**
- **This product contains nuts**
- **This product may contain traces of nuts**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

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Useful Information

MYTIME YOUNG CARERS

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.

HOPE FOR FOOD

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 or complete the Microsoft Form below for a six week referral. These are delivered to school weekly by Hope for Food.

Request for Food Hamper from Hope for Food – Fill in form

Please See below link for the BCP Access to Food Map showing community Food Support in your area

Access to Food Map | Tableau Public

BCP Council

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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

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.