



ELMLEY NEWS

A little piece of heaven on Earth



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A note from the Head Teacher

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a brand new term, especially to our new families! What a fantastic week we've had together. A warm welcome to our new children, who have settled in beautifully, and to our new staff members, who have already infused our team with fresh energy and innovative ideas.

The positive vibes and strong sense of purpose around the school have been truly inspiring, and we are excited about the term ahead.

We have some exciting news... Miss Vine's is engaged! Congratulations Miss Vines.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Kindest Regards,

Mrs. Penney
Head Teacher



Don't forget to subscribe to our school podcast!
#ElmleyPodcast



COMMUNICATION AT ELMLEY



Communication is key to us at Elmley, and we're working hard to streamline our systems to be as efficient as possible. We understand that schools, like your own lives, are fast-paced and busy. Therefore, we aim to provide you with essential information in a way that allows us to focus on your children rather than on administration. We also recognise the importance of minimising excessive emails. As working parents or parents with busy commitments, we know that too many emails can lead to important details being missed, which we want to avoid.

As we start the school year, here's a reminder of how we'll communicate with you to ensure clear and efficient communication:

On the gate: A staff member will greet and dismiss your child. This is a great time to pass on any important information. Mrs Penney and Mrs Hay (our new office administrator) will be available too in case you need to ask questions or pass over any information.

Fortnightly Newsletters: These are sent every other Friday. These will include details of upcoming events, updates in school and will act a place to celebrate our children too. If anything urgent arises between newsletters, we'll send you a separate email. We frequently receive calls and emails requesting information already provided in our newsletter. Please take a moment to read it to stay informed.

Appointments: If you need a longer discussion with your child's teacher, please email office@elmleycastle.worcs.sch.uk, and the teacher will be happy to arrange a meeting or phone call.

Class Dojo: Your child will come home today with a login for Class Dojo. This tool allows us to share important learning moments through photos, videos, and updates. It also serves as a platform for class and school reminders.

Class Dojo is secure, and only those with a login can access the class page. If you prefer not to have your child's photo featured, please email the office, and we'll ensure their teacher is informed.

To support our teachers' work-life balance, the messaging feature on Class Dojo will be turned off. Please use the other communication methods mentioned above.

Guide to Class Dojo Access: (Click image above)
<https://youtu.be/gjS1U8wiH7A>

Thank you for your support!



READING AT ELMLEY

At Elmley Castle, reading remains a key focus across the school as we recognise its vital role in shaping success in the wider curriculum. Last term, we were delighted to see the enthusiasm and dedication to reading both at school and at home. We hope this excitement continues as we move forward into the new term!

To support our ongoing whole-school reading drive, here are some updates and reminders for our new starters and the wider Elmley Castle family:

Book Changes: Books will now be changed twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, for all classes. This may slightly differ for children who are free reading and are reading lengthy books. Due to reading assessments taking place, home reading books will be sent home on Tuesday.

Reading Levels: Each child will receive one book appropriate to their reading level. Your child's level will continue to be informed by regular phonics assessments and reading assessments with their class teacher.

Love for Reading: We encourage all children to develop a lifelong love of reading, so please continue to share books that are read for pleasure at home as well!

Reading Records: We will be checking reading records every Tuesday morning in all classes. To help us track how much reading is being done at home, please 'make a mark' in your child's reading record each time you listen to them read. This could be a simple signature or a brief comment. The expectation remains that all children read at least four times a week at home. This will be monitored by your child's class teacher on a Tuesday, and children who meet this goal will get the chance to receive a reward.

Book Bands: Book bands have recently been updated, so your child's reading band colour may have changed to reflect this. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

As always, please ensure that books and reading records are in school every day. Together, let's continue to nurture a love for reading that will benefit our children across the curriculum and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support!



Welcome back to the new school year, we hope you had a relaxing summer break. The PTA here at Elmley are dedicated to raising funds for our school by running exciting events throughout the year, be sure to make a note of what we already have planned.

For those of you who don't yet know us, the PTA committee is made up of 3 members. We are all parents but these are our official roles -

Liv McCarthy - chair

Kirstie Hay - staff representative

Anteney Cole-Buchanan - treasurer

We are always so grateful for support from parents, be that helping run events or simply by spending a few £'s with us. If you're interested in helping we have a WhatsApp group we'd love you to join, please see the office if you would like to be added.

We also have a Facebook group where we post all things PTA, please use this link if you would like to join - [Join our Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/954340609152166/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/954340609152166/)

Thank you again for all of your support, we are still thrilled that we raised £8500 last year! This year we are determined to raise even more for our wonderful school.

The Elmley PTA team



Vegetable Boxes

We are excited to announce that Styan Family Produce will be offering vegetable boxes for pick-up at Elmley Castle School. Thanks to the Styan Family, a portion of the proceeds will directly support our children's education.

To order, visit the Styan Family Produce Shop website. Under 'store pickup,' select Elmley Castle School.

www.styan-family-produce.myshopify.com

Please place your orders by midnight on Wednesday for Friday collection. Pick-up is available from 1pm at the Elmley Castle Car Park (next to the clothes recycling unit). Orders will be in crates labeled with the customer's name. Produce will be bagged inside the boxes along with a packing slip. (Please leave the crates behind.)

Football Boot Swap Shop

In the name of sustainability and the current cost of living crisis, we will be opening up our own Football Boot Swap Shop here at Elmley Castle. In order for us to get this started, could we initially ask for any donations of football boots (any size and in good condition). Once we have a good selection, we will begin to open up the shop.



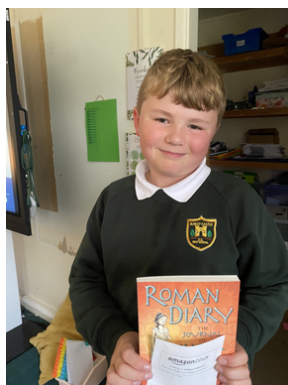
500 Words Writing Competition

Last term our very own Benji from Apple Class won a writing competition. We now have another famous competition for your child to enter.

There will be two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. All children need to do is write a story they would love to read in 500 Words or less. The competition opens on Tuesday 24th September and closing date for entries is Friday 8 November at 9pm.

We would love children of all abilities to enter; spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked - it's all about creativity!





WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT: Amazon Wish Lists

Thank you to the families who have already purchased books for our school. Don't forget to share links with family and friends... every book helps!

Our teachers have carefully selected wish list books which we know will greatly benefit and support the children's learning. Staff will continue to add items over the school year. If you would like to purchase a book for the school, please click the link below, which will take you to the wish list. If you find something you would like to purchase - just add it to your basket and follow the same process as if you were ordering something for yourself. The items will be delivered directly to our school - make sure you click the school address.

Don't forget to add your child's name so we can say 'thank you!' and hand deliver the parcel to them to open in class.

You can make a direct impact on the resources we need and enable staff and pupils to enjoy a wide range of learning experiences.

Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

Acorns: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1F5RDMCPT9Q5K?ref_=wl_share

Oak: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2LRV5B8TD7805?ref_=wl_share

Apple: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/39ZVNBXPK6IO3?ref_=wl_share

Elm: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2OTXNN3PM5NKZ?ref_=wl_share



DATES FOR THE FUTURE

Please take note of the calendar dates for the first term. We will always try our best to give us much notice as possible but sometimes there will be factors out of our control that mean we need to add or alter event dates.

September	
Extra Curricular Clubs start – your child will have received a slip home with clubs they have been signed up for	9.9.24
Swimming begins	9.9.24–20.9.24
Elm Class Worship – families welcome	13.9.24
New EYFS Phonics Meeting	25.9.24
Maisie Therapy Dog to Visit	25.9.24
Apple Class Worship families welcome	27.9.24
October	
PTA Quiz and Raffle Night – Pop the date in your diary and book a babysitter! More info to follow from the PTA.	3.10.24
Harvest Worship at Church @2pm	3.10.24
Oak Class Worship – families welcome	11.10.24
Open Day for new families – Please spread the word to friends and family	16.10.24
Pumpkin Festival after school from 3:30pm (all welcome)	17.10.24
Acorns Class Worship –families welcome	18.10.24
Spooky Disco – More info to follow	24.10.24
Last Day of Term	24.10.24
TED DAY (training day for school staff) School closed for children	25.10.24
HALF TERM 28.10.24–1.11.24	
November	
500 Words Competition Closes	8.11.24
Parents' Evening (info to follow)	13.11.24 and 14.11.24



PTA EVENTS 2024-2025

Please take note of the calendar dates PTA events We will always try our best to give us much notice as possible but sometimes there will be factors out of our control that mean we need to add or alter event dates.

Get the dates in your diary and book a babysitter!

Quiz and Raffle Night (adults only!)	3.10.24
Spooky Disco 3:15-5pm	24.10.24
Wine Tasting Event (adults only!)	15.11.24
Non Uniform Day for chocolate or a bottle donations	29.11.24
Christmas Bazaar (5pm-7pm)	6.12.24
Movie Night and Meal for children 3:15-5pm	9.1.25
Non Uniform Day (Break the Rules Day!)	24.1.25
End of Term Disco 3:15-5pm	13.2.25
Non Uniform Day (bring in eggs and chocolate)	4.4.25
Easter Bingo 3:15-5pm	11.4.25
Non Uniform Day (bring a bottle)	20.6.25
Summer Fayre	TBC

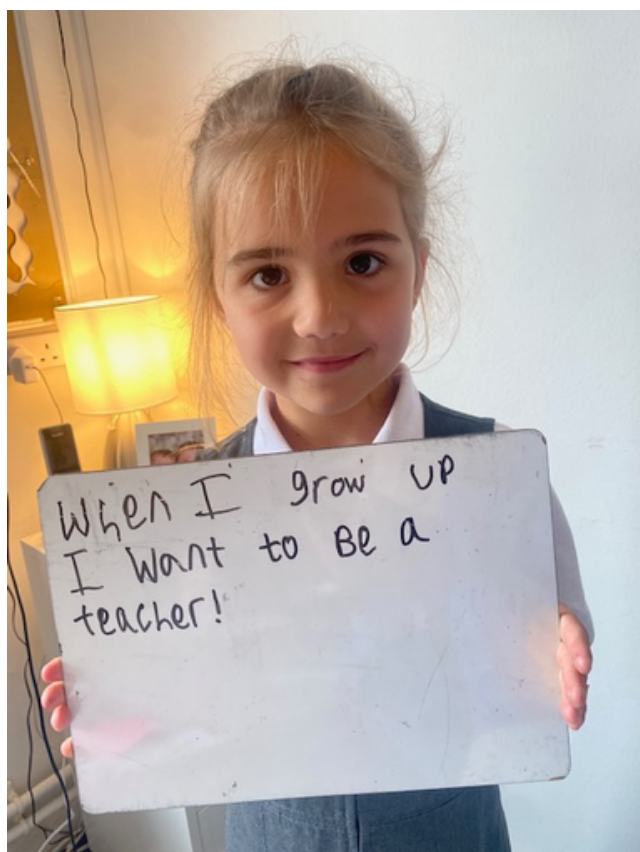


FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School

Below are the dates for your child's class to come to school wearing their Forest School clothes. Children will need to wear a long sleeved top, trousers and old trainers/wellies.

Acorns Class	Oak Class	Elm Class	Apple Class
Forest School every Tuesday	Thursday 5th September	Thursday 12th September	Tuesday 17th September
	Thursday 26th September	Thursday 3rd October	Tuesday 8th October
	Thursday 17th October	Thursday 24th October	Tuesday 5th November
	Thursday 14th November	Thursday 21st November	Tuesday 26th November
	Thursday 5th December	Thursday 12th December	Tuesday 17th December





TERM DATES



ELMLEY CASTLE TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

2024/25

SEPTEMBER						OCTOBER						NOVEMBER					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		4	11	18	25
Tues	3	10	17	24		Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		5	12	19	26
Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27
Thur	5	12	19	26		Thur	3	10	17	24	31	Thur		7	14	21	28
Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat		7	14	21	28	Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	3	10	17	24	
DECEMBER						JANUARY						FEBRUARY					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24	
Tues	3	10	17	24	31	Tues		7	14	21	28	Tues	4	11	18	25	
Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thur	5	12	19	26		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur	6	13	20	27	
Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat		7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	
MARCH						APRIL						MAY					
Mon	3	10	17	24	31	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		5	12	19	26
Tues	4	11	18	25		Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		6	13	20	27
Wed	5	12	19	26		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		7	14	21	28
Thur	6	13	20	27		Thur	3	10	17	24		Thur	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	7	14	21	28		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	4	11	18	25	
JUNE						JULY						AUGUST					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		4	11	18	25
Tues	3	10	17	24		Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		5	12	19	26
Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27
Thur	5	12	19	26		Thur	3	10	17	24	31	Thur		7	14	21	28
Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat		7	14	21	28	Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	3	10	17	24	31

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday		ED DAY	

Term 1: Mon 2 nd Sept – Fri 25 th Oct 2024	40 days
Term 2: Mon 4 th Nov – Fri 20 th Dec 2024	35 days
Term 3: Mon 6 th Jan - Fri 14 th Feb 2025	30 days
Term 4: Mon 24 th Feb – Fri 11 th Apr 2025	35 days
Term 5: Mon 28 th April – Fri 23 rd May 2025	19 days
Term 6: Mon 2 nd June – Mon 21 st July 2025	36 days
Total	195 days*

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 th December 2024
	26 th December 2024
New Year Bank Holiday	1 st January 2025
Good Friday	18 th April 2025
Easter Monday	21 st April 2025
Early May Bank Holiday	5 th May 2025
Spring Bank Holiday	26 th May 2025
Summer Bank Holiday	25 th August 2025

*195 days are defined as "School days". In the school year 2024/25 pupils must attend for 190 days. Schools may decide individually or collectively which 5 days in the year are INSET or non-contact days (days pupils do not need to attend).



COMMUNITY PAGE



Elmley Castle C of E First School



OPEN DAY

WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER

A Little Piece of Heaven on Earth



✓ An inclusive and nurturing school

✓ A values and faith based school

✓ An inspirational staff team who really love what they do

✓ Forward thinking and innovative

Pop in between 9:00–3pm
and see the magic in action!

Call Us
01386 710279



For More Information
<https://elmleycastle.worcs.sch.uk/>



Please share with friends and family.



COMMUNITY PAGE









THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

STARS OF THE WEEK



 X Acorns	 X Oak
 X Apple	 X Elm

Generosity Value Awards go to: (Elm) (Apple)
(Oak) (Acorns)