



THE ELMS EXPRESS



OCTOBER EDITION

Message from Mr Jacques

A brilliant but busy October at The Elms. It was great to see so many parents at our parents evenings. These are very important meetings, which tell you how your child is progressing. It is also a chance to meet their teacher's and to discuss how they are settling into their new class.

In Reception, we hosted stay and play phonics sessions. Parents were invited in to take part (alongside their child) in a phonics lesson. We hope you found this useful and help to support your child at home with their reading.

A huge well done to all our children who performed in their Year group assemblies. It was brilliant to see how much they had enjoyed their learning so far. Children danced, acted, sung and spoke with such confidence!

Finally, I hope you have all had a wonderful and relaxing half term.



School Values

Our school value last term was **belonging**....

Mr Rubba's assembly focused on our value of belonging. He discussed with children how he already has a sense of belonging at The Elms by children and staff being friendly and saying hello. He also told a story about a sword that was pulled out of the Tesco's wall in Faringdon. The sword has a special power of giving people a sense of belonging. That sword now lives in our office and several children have come to gain its power.

Children and the PTA have been supporting the school to keep it tidy. A workforce of children stayed on a Friday to help sweep leaves and pick up rubbish. It was clear they are proud of our school and want it to look great.

A huge thank you to our PTA, who have been helping to tidy different areas of the school on a Saturday. Everyone is so grateful for everything you do!



Our value for Autumn Term 2 is **Kindness!**

Sporting news

Last term, children represented the school in cross country and swimming. Competing against 9 other schools. Our Y3/4 girls came 4th, our Y3/4 boys came first and our Y5/6 girls and boys both came 3rd.

Congratulations, to our Y3/4 boys who qualify for the Vale finals!

Our swimmers, from Years 5 and 6, competed against 3 other schools. They represented the school brilliantly and came 2nd overall.

All of our children showed our school values, especially resilience and aspiration!



Head Pupils

As part of our new roles and responsibilities, three children became our first Head Pupils at The Elms. 27 children in Year 6 applied. We loved watching children's Powerpoints, videos and reading their letters. Mrs McIntosh and I spent a Friday evening trying to decide who should be interviewed. We selected seven children, who were then interviewed by myself and Mr Rubba. This was a real highlight, all of the children had thought deeply about the questions we asked and even had some tricky questions for us to answer as well. After another tough decision, we selected Billy, Esmee and Isla to be our Head Pupils. They have already been busy welcoming parents and carers at parents evening and giving a tour to some visitors.

We are so proud of each child who applied. To say thank you and well done they each received an Elms postcard and a pencil.



Elms Excellence

Throughout the week, children may receive an Elms Excellence sticker for showing our school values or going above and beyond. Children also visit me to show off their brilliant work and receive a Headteacher's sticker.

Year 2 showed me some of their brilliant writing, Ruby wrote a poem about The Elms and performed it in assembly with some friends and Year 2 showed off their fantastic artwork!



Healthy Snacks

As a school, we feel it is important for children to have a healthy snack at break times in order to fuel their learning. We would be grateful for your support with this and ask that you pack them a healthy snack for break time. Some ideas include: fruits and vegetables, cereal bars and crackers. Crisps and chocolate can be eaten at lunchtimes.

Children from pre-school to year 2 will receive a free piece of fruit every day.



Safeguarding

Last term, we were visited by our Local Community Support Service adviser, Anna Crockford. At times, families may need support from universal, targeted and specialist services. Early help can make the biggest difference. When needs are identified in a timely way, children and families can be supported before problems escalate. Working with a child and their family to address their needs early can reduce risk factors (needs) and increase protective factors (strengths).

- Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mr Calum Jacques.
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mrs Shelley McIntosh.