

# THE ELMS EXPRESS



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to the end of this academic year, I wanted to start by saying some thank you's. Firstly, to the children. They have all worked tremendously hard this year and shown our school values consistently. They have made me feel so proud watching them in their assemblies and showing me their amazing work. They never fail to put a smile on my face.

Secondly, thank you to all the parents and carers for being supportive towards the school and myself. I have loved getting to know you all and I am looking forward to what the new academic year will bring.

To our brilliant staff team, who constantly go above and beyond and always have the children's best interests at heart! They gain such positive relationships with all the children and are dedicated to ensuring they achieve the very best they can – thank you!

I must say a fond farewell to our Year 6 children. They have been brilliant role models to the rest of our school and the Year 6 performance just showed us what we will be missing next year.

Have a wonderful summer break and we will see you all in September.

Mr Jacques (Head of School)

## THIS TERMS EDITION INCLUDES ....

- WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?
- SPROTS DAY
- CLASS UPDATES
- STARS OF THE TERM
- SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
- NEW ACADEMIC YEAR INFORMATION
- BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS
- OTHER INFORMATION AND MESSAGES



# WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

## Year 1 assembly

At the start of the term, Year 1 taught us all about dinosaurs. Children articulated their learning sharing their poems, sharing information about dinosaurs and their beautifully written non-chronological reports.



There was also singing with actions and acting! Well done Year 1 - a great feel-good moment!



## Reception Assembly

In the Reception Assembly, we were all going on a summer holiday! They acted out a story they had been reading in class – Billy and the Bucket. They sang 'We're all Going on a Summer Holiday' and there was even time for some Seaside Zumba – parents/carers and myself to joined in! At the end, Mrs Howell shared photos from throughout the year. It was brilliant to see how much they have grown!



## Quad kids

Our children competed in the 'Quad Kids' competition at FCC against other primary schools. The children represented the school brilliantly!



# SPORTS DAY 2024

This year, our sports days took place over two days. One being Pre-School – Year 3 and the other Year 4 -6. They were attended brilliantly by parents and carers – thank you all for coming. The children showed our values, especially kindness and aspiration. Well done Mr Smith for organising two brilliant mornings. A highlight reel below!



# CLASSES UPDATE

## Blossom Class

Blossom class had a wonderful pirate day where we went

to pirate school to learn how to be a good pirate. We went on a treasure hunt, made hardtack biscuits and pirate hats. We talked about how pirates didn't have good oral hygiene and thought of ways that they could have saved their teeth from decaying.



## Laurel Class

Term six was very busy for Year One! We kicked off the term with a dinosaur-themed "wow" day. The children went on a dinosaur scavenger hunt, made their own fossils, and thoroughly enjoyed the dinosaur workshop in the afternoon. Afterwards, the children put together a fantastic class assembly. I was so proud of each of them!

It's been a very active term for Year One. First, we had some great Year 10 students from FCC come in to do some circuit activities with us. They had a blast completing all the activities, especially the parachute games. In PE, we've been practicing our athletic skills, which paid off at our fantastic sports day! We also participated in a dance workshop and a martial arts class, which was a lot of fun!



## Sycamore Class

Wow! What a busy term Year 2 have had! The children all participated fully in the Ultra Olympics over at FCC. The Sports Leaders created a variety of sports activities for the children to complete. Mrs Kenyon from FCC was very impressed with their cricket bowling skills. Thank you so much to our parent volunteers who came along and helped! You were all amazing!



A real highlight for the term was our Design Technology project. Sycamore Class worked hard on their joining skills to create their own puppets. They sewed the pieces together and decorated the clothing and faces to look like people who have stood up for what they believe in. Amazing effort! Thank you to Mrs Patyra and Mrs Dudzik for their input in this project.

## Ash Class



In English, we have used our previous class read; 'Oliver and the Seawigs' by Philip Reeve. We have been discussing the difference between the sea monkeys in the book and Sea Monkeys in reality.



They have explored the use of persuasive techniques by creating an argument on whether parents should have bought sea monkeys or not. These last few weeks, we have been focusing on writing a fact file on Sea Monkeys in the form of a non-chronological report.

A huge thank you to all the parents for coming to our ukelele concert. The children have worked tirelessly all year and have significantly improved their music and they have done a marvelous job. A big well done to them for this and for a wonderful year in Ash Class.

## Cedar Class

Cedar class have been working hard in all subjects this term. We have been looking at persuasive language in English, shapes and time in maths and plants in science. The children were amazing on sports day and in their ukelele concert. We also said goodbye to our reception class reading buddies by spending an afternoon playing and eating ice cream.



As I come to the end of my time with Cedar class and

the children move on to their new teachers and away from Grumpy Mr Smith, I just want to say how proud I am of all of the children for what they have achieved this year and that they ALL should be proud of what they have achieved. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer.



## Birch Class

Can you believe the final term of Year 4 is here already? Time really flies! We've been super busy with our learning, and we've loved every minute of it. In DT, we've been getting creative with pneumatics, making companions for our Ancient Greek mythological creature, Cindy the Cyclops. The creativity has been amazing to see. We've also learned to retell the story of Little Red Riding Hood in French—how cool is that?



In Geography, we've been exploring rivers like The Nile, The Thames, and the River Lechlade. We've had fun with Benjamin Zephaniah's poems, performing them all over the school! Our Science lessons have been all about what makes something a living thing, how we can group them, and the changes they face



in the environment. This has been a favourite topic for many of us! And now, we're off to Year 5!

### Alder Class

In DT this term, Alder have researched, planned, designed and evaluated a pizza designed for a Hindu, linking with our learning in RE this year. We discussed dietary needs and researched pizza toppings and bases before creating our own! The children worked fantastically in teams to follow instructions and adjust the recipe according to the number of people in their group.



They designed their own pizza boxes, with a slogan and a logo. Who knew learning could be so delicious!

### Hawthorn

Just when I think our children are the most amazing, stupendous people, they go and surprise me, again. Not only did they conduct themselves beautifully at our Flight STEM day at FCC, but they were the “best year group” our Viking John had ever hosted, at Hill End. We are finishing our term off, and I am already so sad at not having these lovely people in my class. Here are some delicious photos of their delicious pizza



(I even got one made to order thanks to Reid and Bobby!). I could not be more proud of all Hawthorn class. Go, year five!



### Hornbeam

We have had a lovely term in Hornbeam. In English, we have enjoyed books such as 'The Silence Seeker' by Ben Morley, 'The Island' by Armin Greder, 'The Journey' by Francesca Sanna, and 'The Culture of Clothes' by Giovanna Alessio and Chaaya Prabhat. We've also been reading 'The Land of Roar' by Jenny McLachlan as our class novel. We've written our own spooky stories based on the short film 'Alma'. We had a fun Viking Day at Hill



End and in Geography we have been learning about the features of a river. For DT, we have designed and made delicious pizzas and evaluated the process. We really enjoyed Health and Sports week, in which we learnt about water safety, sun safety and rail safety as well as some key first aid skills. Of course, Sports Day has been a highlight and we loved spending the morning showing off our skills!

### **Beech Class**

Beech Class have had a brilliant last term at The Elms. The residential showed how resilient and determined they are. They had to do a range of activities where some tested their metal! Every single child attempted challenges head on and succeeded! The end of year play 'Day of our Lives' was fantastic. Our children rehearsed with dedication and their talent shined through! So many brilliant memories with Beech Class this year – thank you and good luck!



### **Oak Class**

Oak class have had a very busy last term! We have been on residential where the children pushed themselves to experience new things and conquer their fears. We have rehearsed and performed our Leaver's Production of "Days of Our Lives" where every child shone and had lots of fun leaver's activities to do! We have designed a bakery, planned a holiday and budgeted for an entire theme park! I am so unbelievably proud of every child in Oak Class, and I wish them all the best next year, wherever that may be. It has been a pleasure to be your teacher.



### **Poplar Class**

This term, the whole class have worked with the rest of Year 6 on an amazing leavers' performance, 'Days Of Our Lives', rehearsing hard and practising - we are so proud of them! Well done to all the children who managed residential so well, and of course everyone for their transition days to secondary school! We wish them all the very best and they should be proud of their achievements this year.



## STARS OF THE TERM



Amelia  
Saplings



Violet  
Blossom



Esme  
Laurel



Eilidh  
Sycamore



Erin  
Ash



Alayah  
Cedar



Bev  
Birch



Elana  
Hornbeam



Billy  
Hawthorn



Daryna  
Alder



Tyler  
Poplar



Natalie  
Beech



Austin  
Oak

# SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

At the start of every academic year, the Senior Leadership Team sets out a school development plan (SDP). This is the school's action plan and focuses on the areas they would like to improve further. It is important to add, all schools are on a journey to improve the education for their children.

As we end the academic year, we use a document called the school evaluation form to assess how well we have achieved in our priority areas and look to set new priorities for the upcoming school year.

## **Key priority 1: High quality teaching and learning every day**

- ✓ Staff are now using the 5 a day approach more consistently, ensuring support for all learners in the classroom.
- ✓ New equipment has been ordered and now in use to ensure there is technology readily available to support children's learning.
- ✓ Staff meetings have provided valuable professional development and is now being seen in the classroom.

## **Key priority 2: Early reading/reading**

- ✓ Phonics results were strong and showed support from our phonics lead is having an impact.
- ✓ A new reading scheme has been developed and now being implemented consistently in all classes.
- ✓ We have continued to refine our text spine ready for the new academic year.

## **Key priority 3: Curriculum development: ensuring the effective implementation of a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum**

- ✓ We have analysed our long-term plans and tweaked where necessary to ensure a clearer learning journey in all subjects.
- ✓ Teachers have been allowed time to plan using a new writing format and have been supported individually by our writing lead.
- ✓ Knowledge organisers have been trialled and will now be in place for Science, History and Geography in September.

# NEW ACADEMIC YEAR INFORMATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we prepare to welcome the summer holidays, I am writing to inform you about some important updates ahead of September.

## School Start Times

- **Pre-School:** 9:00 AM – 12pm – 12-3pm
- **Reception and Year 1:** 8:40 am - 3:10 pm
- **Year 2 to Year 6:** 8:45 am - 3:15 pm

For ease of access, parents are welcome to use both school gates. However, for those with children in Year 1, we recommend using the Library Gardens gate for a smoother drop-off and pick-up experience.

Year 2 parents, for the first term, you will be able to walk your children up to their classroom to ease transition and help them to become confident to walk to their classroom by themselves by term 2.

## Uniform Policy

Please find the attached uniform policy for your reference. We kindly ask all parents to ensure their children adhere to the guidelines to maintain our school's standards and values. Where it is not adhered to, children may be given items from our school supply.

## Staffing update

As we end the school year, we will be bidding farewell to Mrs Woodward, Mrs Noakes, Mrs Roberts, and Ms Smith. Mrs Woodard has been an integral part of our transition to a primary school as well as leading maths and supporting teachers. Mrs Noakes has supported our hearing-impaired children brilliantly and created a culture of BSL in the school. Mrs Roberts has been one of our longest serving Teaching Assistants, supporting many children over the years with her kind, caring and supportive manner. Finally, Ms Smith our Executive Headteacher, has helped to set our school vision and values and been a fantastic support to all staff throughout the year.

I would like to thank them all for their dedication and contributions to our school community. They will be greatly missed.

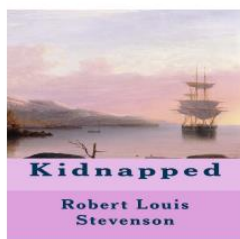
At the same time, we are pleased to welcome new teachers to our staff team: Miss Boakes and Miss Beszant. As they have both worked with us before, we are confident that they will bring fresh energy and new ideas to our school, and we look forward to the positive impact they will have on our students.

Thank you for your continued supported and we look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Have a wonderful summer.

Mr Jacques (Head of School)

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

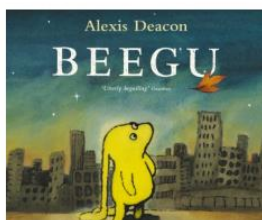
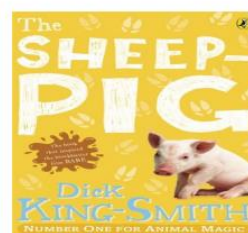


### =59 - Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stephenson

Kidnapped is an exciting historical fiction adventure novel by the Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson. Written as a "boys' novel" and first published in the magazine Young Folks from May to July 1886, the novel has attracted the praise and admiration of writers as diverse as Henry James, Jorge Luis Borges, and Seamus Heaney.

### =59 - The Sheep Pig by Dick King Smith

When Babe, the little orphaned piglet, is won at a fair by Farmer Hogget, he is adopted by Fly, the kind-hearted sheep-dog. Babe is determined to learn everything he can from Fly. He knows he can't be a sheep-dog. But maybe, just maybe, he might be a sheep-pig.



### =61 - Beegu by Alexis Deacon

Beegu is not supposed to be on Earth. She is lost. She is a friendly little creature, but the Earth People don't seem very welcoming at all. However, so far she has only met the BIG ones. The little ones are a different matter.

## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

One of our most significant responsibilities at school is to safeguard the children in our care. We have a strong culture of promoting the wellbeing of all our children and part of this is to have designated staff who support and manage safeguarding for our school. These are:

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mr Calum Jacques. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mrs Shelley McIntosh. Our school Safeguarding Policy can be found on our website under Key Information > Safeguarding or via this link: <https://www.theelmsprimary.co.uk/safeguarding/> Please note that if you have a concern about any child or family, you can make a referral directly to the Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). They can be contacted on 0345 050 76



# REMINDERS AND NOTICES

Our office staff are continuing to work hard to obtain updated child information. We are hoping to set up The Elms on social media and need to know if you give consent for your child's pictures to be used. Please contact the office on [office@tep.faringdonlearningtrust.org](mailto:office@tep.faringdonlearningtrust.org).



## THE ELMS PRIMARY PARENTS ASSOCIATION

**Summer Fair** - was a great success! Thank you to everyone who came despite the rain. The Parents Association made just over £1,800 profit and we'll see that being used for the children's extracurricular and enrichment activities next year. Huge thanks to everyone who helped!

**Forest School** - it's our joint aspiration to start a Forest School next year. The PA and Mr Jacques presented in a Dragon's Den style event to come away with a £700 donation to get us off the ground in our endeavours. Watch this space!

**Music provision** - another exciting project that's started is to enhance our music offering! The Parents Association have secured donations from 3 sources (Universal Music Sound Foundation UK, NADFAS and Tesco Stronger Starts)

**Tesco Blue Tokens** - looks like we won but we'll find out officially next month. Here's hoping!



# LOCAL ADVERTISEMENTS




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Registered

TA SPORT STARS



## Folly View Primary School Summer Sports & Activity Holiday Camp (Faringdon)

WEEK 1 Jul 29th-Aug 2nd		WEEK 2 Aug 5th-Aug 9th		WEEK 3 Aug 12th-Aug 16th		WEEK 4 Aug 19th-Aug 23rd		WEEK 5 Aug 27th-Aug 30th	
<b>Mon</b>	CAPTURE THE FLAG CONSTRUCTION GUARDIAN HANDBALL PROTECT THE HUTS SOFT ARCHERY TENNIS	<b>Mon</b>	DODGEBALL GAMES HIDEOUT GAMES HOCKEY JAIL BREAK POWER BALL ROUNDERS SOFT AXE THROWING	<b>Mon</b>	DANGER BALL ELIMINATOR LONGBALL NEW-QUIDDITCH POISON BALL ROLLER KARTING STAMP ROCKETS	<b>Mon</b>	4-SQUARE 4-WAY PROTECT THE HUTS BASKETBALL CRICKET DANGER BALL ROUNDERS TENNIS	<b>Tue</b>	<b>NERF TOURNAMENT</b> BATTLE ROYALE CAPTURE THE FLAG PROTECT THE COACH SEARCH AND SECURE TEAM OPERATION
<b>Tue</b>	DODGEBALL GAMES FACE OFF HIDEOUT GAMES LIGHTNING MYSTERY TAG ROLLER KARTING STEALTH	<b>Tue</b>	CAPTURE THE FLAG CRICKET HANDBALL HOME ALONE NEW-QUIDDITCH ROLLER KARTING TENNIS	<b>Tue</b>	<b>LASER TAG</b> + Multisports	<b>Tue</b>	<b>INFLATABLES</b> + Multisports	<b>Wed</b>	DODGEBALL GAMES FOOT-GOLF HIDEOUT GAMES HONEYCOMB HOOPS LONGBALL NEW-QUIDDITCH SOFT ARCHERY
<b>Wed</b>	4-SQUARE 4-WAY PROTECT THE HUTS BASKETBALL CRICKET GUARDIAN FOOTBALL FUN PARACHUTE GAMES	<b>Wed</b>	ATHLETICS BOCCIA FOOTBALL MATCHES GUARDIAN PROTECT THE CASTLE ROUNDERS STEALTH	<b>Wed</b>	DODGEBALL GAMES FACE OFF GAGA BALL GUARDIAN MYSTERY TAG SAFETY FIRST STRIKER BALL	<b>Wed</b>	4-WAY PROTECT THE HUTS 4-WAY CAPTURE THE FLAG AIR HOCKEY GUARDIAN HANDBALL HIDEOUT GAMES TENNIS	<b>Thu</b>	COACHES VS KIDS DIAMOND CRICKET GUARDIAN LIGHTNING SHUTTLE SCORING STEALTH SWAMP BALL
<b>Thu</b>	BOCCIA FOOTBALL MATCHES GUARDIAN PROTECT THE CASTLE PARACHUTE GAMES SOFT ARCHERY STEALTH	<b>Thu</b>	DODGEBALL GAMES ELIMINATOR HANDBALL LIGHTNING SWAMP BALL TENNIS OBSTACLE COURSE	<b>Thu</b>	BASKETBALL CRICKET FUTSAL GUARDIAN HIDEOUT GAMES LIGHTNING STEALTH	<b>Thu</b>	CRICKET HANDBALL LIGHTNING LONGBALL PROTECT THE HUTS THE GREAT ESCAPE TORNADO	<b>Fri</b>	<b>SOAK THE COACH!</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>TASS TOURNAMENT!</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>TASS TOURNAMENT!</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>TASS TOURNAMENT!</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>TASS TOURNAMENT!</b>	<b>BOOK NOW!</b>  <a href="http://www.fasportstars.co.uk">www.fasportstars.co.uk</a> SUMMER PROMO CODE: XB346 Expires June 28th 2024	

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**SUMMER**

A time for families to enjoy  
outdoor crafts and the  
nature in the churchyard

**11 August | 4-6pm**

Starting in All Saints' Church and  
finishing with hotdogs and games in  
the vicarage garden

Book your place:  
[josey@allsaintsfaringdon.co.uk](mailto:josey@allsaintsfaringdon.co.uk)



## **FARINGDON PLAY AND ACTIVITY DAY**



**FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2024 – 11AM TO 3PM**

**FREE ENTRANCE AND FREE ACTIVITIES – FUN  
FOR ALL THE FAMILY AND FOR ALL AGES**

**BUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH PLAY**

**\* Body Zorbing \* Muzo Academy II \* Giant Bubbles \* Junk Modelling with Art Avalanche \* DIY Face Painting \* Smoothie Bike \* Go Kart Party \* Ride on Time Toddler Vehicles \* Tots of Mess \* Climbing Wall \* Fabric Upcycling with Groovy Su \* OCC TYSS Youth Zone \* Spurgeons \* Arts & Crafts & Martial Arts and more!**

**FARINGDON TOWN FC, TUCKER PARK, PARK  
ROAD, FARINGDON, OXON. SN7 7BP**

**Please be advised that NO childcare is provided at this event and Parents are responsible for their Children at all times / This event will be filmed and photographed / There is Disabled parking only on site / Hot Food, Ice Cream and Refreshments will be available to be purchased or please do feel free to bring a picnic**

**Contact = 07436 270267 / [martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk](mailto:martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk) / [www.oxonplay.org.uk](http://www.oxonplay.org.uk)**



STAGE  
COACH

# STAGECOACH 3 DAY ONE STOP POP SHOP 4 TO 16 YEAR OLDS



**19TH TO 21ST AUGUST 2024**

**9:45AM TO 3:45PM**

**ELMS PRIMARY SCHOOL IN FARINGDON**

**WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS & TAX FREE CHILD CARE IN SOME  
CASES PARENTS ARE CLAIMING THEIR STAGECOACH FEES BACK  
THOUGH THEIR UNIVERSAL CREDIT PAYMENT PLANS ARE AVAILABLE**



**STAGE  
COACH**

# STAGECOACH 2 DAY TROLLS WORKSHOP 4 TO 6 YEAR OLDS



**ADDITIONAL TROLLS  
2 DAY WORKSHOP BY  
POPULAR DUMAND**



**Thurs 15th and Fri 16th August 2024**

**9:45am to 3:45pm**

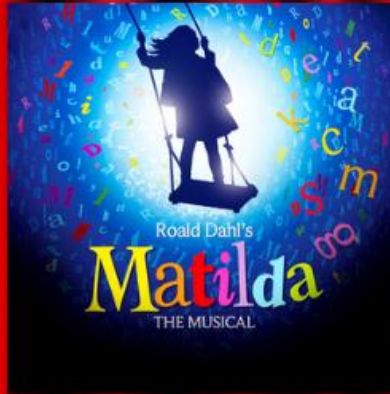
**Elms Primary School in Faringdon**

**We accept Childcare Vouchers and Tax Free Child Care In some cases parents are claiming their Stagecoach fees back though their Universal Credit Payment plans are available**



# MUSICAL THEATRE 2 DAY SUMMER CAMP 6 TO 16 YEAR OLDS

**JOIN US FOR A 2 DAY CELEBRATION OF SOME OF THE  
MOST POPULAR MUSICALS IN THE WEST END**



**THURS 15TH AND FRI 16TH AUGUST 2024**

**9:45AM TO 3:45PM**

- WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS AND TAX FREE CHILD CARE
- IN SOME CASES PARENTS ARE CLAIMING THEIR STAGECOACH FEES BACK THROUGH THEIR UNIVERSAL CREDIT
- PAYMENT PLANS ARE AVAILABLE





**Ruck 'n' Tuck**



**Every Tuesday and Thursday this summer holidays  
10am-4pm**

**Faringdon Rugby Club pitch kitchen will be  
OPEN!**

**Selling cold snacks, hot and cold drinks and ice poles, as well as a  
packed lunch from just £1.50!**

**Head out into the fresh air, enjoy the views and facilities at Folly  
Sports Ground, or maybe pop in on the way down from the Folly  
Tower.**

**Check out the Book Nook for our younger visitors too!  
OR**

**Enjoy outdoor games like badminton, scatch, big jenga, football or  
rugby with your family and friends!**

**Walkers, Families, Sports people, Sports fans... all welcome!**

**CrossFit**  
**TEENS**

**CrossFit**  
*kids*

**£7.50 PER SESSION**  
BOOKABLE OVER THE PHONE ON 01235  
206777 OR AT OUR FRONT DESK

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Club**  
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## WHAT IS IT?

CROSSFIT KIDS & TEENS PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN MOVEMENT PATTERNS FOR THE SQUAT, DEADLIFT, PRESS, AND MORE, THROUGH AGE-APPROPRIATE PROGRESSIONS AND GAMES

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

WITH THE RISE OF TECHNOLOGY, OUR YOUNGER GENERATION ARE SPENDING MORE TIME BEING SEDENTARY ON THEIR DEVICES RATHER THAN MOVING THEIR BODIES THROUGHOUT THE DAY. WITH THE INCREASE IN CONSUMPTION OF HIGHLY PROCESSED FOODS AND ADDED SUGARS, THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM HEALTH ISSUES IS RISING.

### **Kids (5-12 years)**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 15:45 - 16:30pm  
Saturdays 9-9:45am

### **TEENS (13-17 years)**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 16:45 - 17:30pm  
Saturdays 10-10:45am

THE PARK CLUB, 17 CROFT DRIVE, MILTON PARK, ABINGDON, OX14 4RP

# Digital Safety for Families



We would like to invite  
all parents and carers of children at The Elms  
Primary School to a presentation on  
'Keeping children safe online'

We will look at recognising risk and will give you  
tools and resources to help keep children safe  
online.

At: The Elms Primary School

On: 17th June

From: 1.30pm-3pm

Refreshments will be available.  
We look forward to seeing you there.

