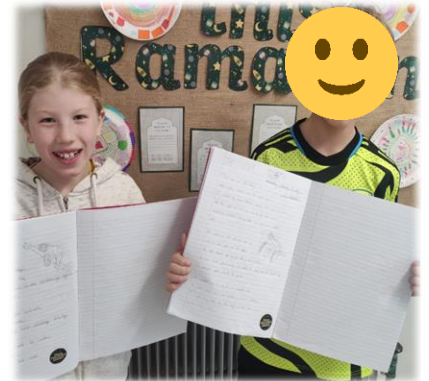
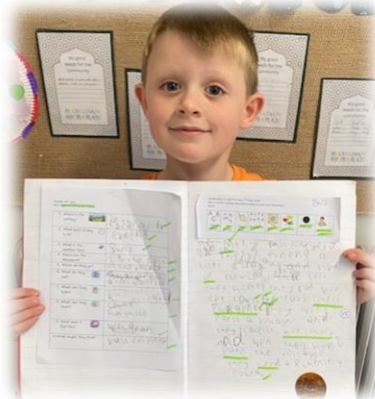
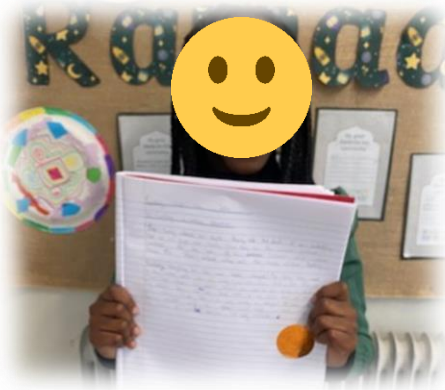


THE ELMS EXPRESS



Dear Parents and Carers,

I need to start this newsletter with a huge congratulations to our Year 6 children. This term, they have completed their Key Stage 2 SATs tests. The children showed our Elms values of resilience and aspiration. They have worked incredibly hard throughout the year and were so focused. They made the whole school so proud! Well done everyone – now time to enjoy the summer term.

It was also another action packed term with brilliant assemblies Year 3 and 4 assemblies, a lunchtime running club, Faringdon Learning Trust sports events and much much more.

As we approach some sunnier weather, please can you ensure that children come into school with a named water bottle and sun hat and please apply sun cream before they come into school.

Have a wonderful half term and I hope you enjoy this addition of The Elms Express!

Mr Jacques (Head of School)

THIS TERM'S ADDITION INCLUDES ...

- WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?
- ELMS EXCELLENCE
- CLASS UPDATES
- STARS OF THE TERM
- SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
- KEY DATES
- BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS
- OTHER INFORMATION AND MESSAGES



WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

Year 3 Assembly

Our Year 3 children shared their learning with their parents in a joyful assembly. They explained what they had been learning in maths.

One aspect they had been focusing on was their timestables. They have been learning them by singing remixes of popular songs including Taylor Swift's 'shake it off' and Adele's 'Rolling in the Deep'. They knew all the words and sang them brilliantly!



They also told us all about their Egyptian topic. They explained the different gods and the process of mummification – it did not sound very pleasant. This topic was supported by a brilliant experience of visiting the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

Finally, they displayed their fantastic artwork and shared their writing about The Iron Man.

A brilliant feel-good assembly! Well done Year 3.



FCC Competition

On Friday 26th April, 14 children from year 4-6 represented the school at a Netball tournament at FCC. Whilst they were there, the children were taught how to play netball and were given the chance to try some of the new skills they learnt in games against other schools from across the trust.

All the children took part enthusiastically and really enjoyed the opportunity to take part in this event and were an absolute credit to the school with their behaviour and respect towards others.



Faringdon site Naming Ceremony

In February, children in Years 5 and 6 were asked to name a new site for retirement housing. There were so many brilliant entries. The winners and runners up were:

6. Amelia
5. Susie
4. Freddie
3. Elizabeth
2. Ryan
- 1st Sophie



The winners and runners up were announced in an assembly, given their prizes and visited the site. Well done Sophie for winning the competition – you will always have a piece of Faringdon with you!

Year 4 Assembly

At the start of the term, Year 4 shared all of their learning to their parents. There was re-enactment, sharing of work and singing. The children have learnt so much over the year. They spoke so confidently and clearly. Well done Year 4!



Maypole and Country Dancing Club

The Maypole and Country Dancing Club have made excellent progress already! The children have perfected the 'Cobweb' maypole routine and 'The Twister'. We are also working on a group folk dance to a piece of music called 'Blaydon Races'. Next term, the club will continue on Mondays for existing members. Please contact the office if your child is interested in joining as we may be able to offer more places.



ELMS EXCELLENCE



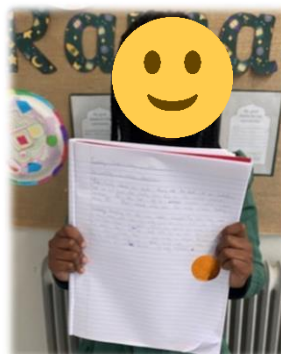
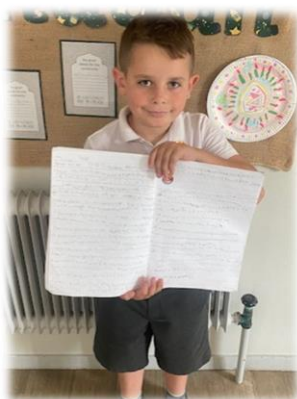
This term, we started our first ever British Sign Language club at lunchtime. Mrs Noakes has been teaching children how to sign their name, good morning and afternoon and other phrases. The children are loving it! They have also been signing happy birthday during our celebration assemblies.



Children have also been supporting our assemblies. Our school councillors shared their roles in our assembly about the British Value of democracy, children performed their poetry in celebration assembly and our forces children shared what is like to have parents in the forces to celebrate Military Month!



Please see some of our children's brilliant work they have come and shared with me. They all earned a Headteacher sticker and 3 Team Points.



CLASSES UPDATE

Blossom Class

Wow, what an amazing term we have had in Blossom Class. One of the highlights was when we invited Dinky Ponies to come and visit the children. We had so much fun grooming the ponies; putting bows and ribbons in their manes; and generally giving them cuddles. They were the most gorgeous, relaxed and tolerant animals and had a real calming effect on the children. We also



had the minibeast lady in who taught us lots about minibeasts and other small animals. We got to hold a snake, cockroach, giant African land snail, millipede and we saw a tarantula. We were all very brave and learnt that minibeasts have an exoskeleton.

Laurel Class

What an amazing term Year one has had! We have had so many special visitors. The dinky ponies were magical, and all the children loved decorating the pony's mane. Each child spent time brushing these beautiful calm creatures and learnt all about how to look after them.



We had a PCSO come in and read Year one a story called PC Ben. The children were very eager to ask her some great questions and we heard all about how the police are there to keep us all safe. We were lucky enough to be given the story of PC Ben to keep.



In History we have been learning about one of the greatest fossil hunters of all time, Mary Anning. The children have been captivated learning all about how she discovered the first Ichthyosaurus. They went on to write some amazing nonchronological reports all about her incredible life. I think

we will have some paleontologists in the making!

Sycamore Class

We have had a very productive term in Sycamore Class. In DT, we have been designing our own hand puppets inspired by our History topic 'People Who Have Stood Up For What They Believe In'. We are looking forward to using our sewing skills next term to make the finished product.



In PE, we have been working on our 'Striking and Fielding' skills for Cricket as well as 'Stance' and 'Dynamic Balance on a Line' for Real PE. Holding the sporting stance on a beam was very tricky!

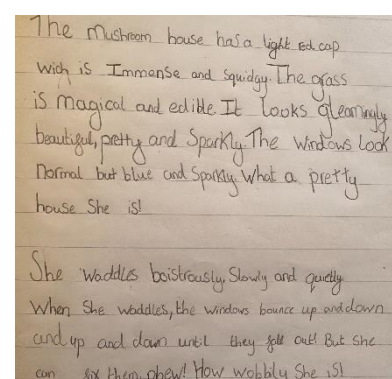


We have been looking at different relationships in Jigsaw. In our sessions, we talked about what to do if you fall out with a friend and how you could make up again. The children really enjoyed making our own friendship handshakes.

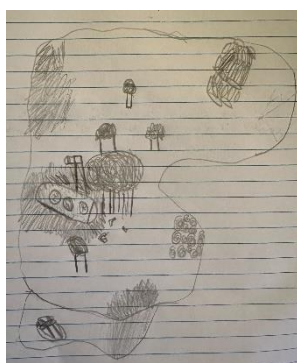


Ash Class

In English this term we have been focusing on writing object descriptions. Following a video featuring 2 houses, we learn that these two houses have lots of personality through their appearance and movements. The children have been focused on drawing and creating a description of their own imaginative houses. We have received some truly amazing writing!



The children have thoroughly enjoyed our class reading



book this term. We have been reading "Oliver and the Seawigs" by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre. The children have enjoyed learning about Oliver Crisp and the adventure he embarked upon, searching for his lost parents with his companions; a short-sighted mermaid Iris, A grumpy Albatross Mr. Culpeper and A wandering isle called Cliff.

Cedar Class

Cedar class have worked really hard this term in all subjects. In English we have been looking at describing fantasy houses and have recently moved onto looking at Michael Rosen poems.



In maths, we have been looking at mass, capacity, volume and distance as well as continuing to work on our times tables using the number rock songs. The children have also enjoyed learning about rivers, Joseph Turner and carrying on with their ukelele

lessons.



Do not forget that there is an open afternoon coming up, please bring your PE kit.

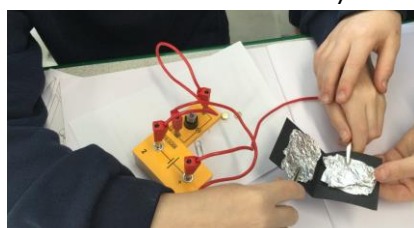
Birch Class

This term, Year 4 has journeyed through the vibrant world of Australian Aboriginal art, explored film analysis with "The Dream Giver," and honed descriptive writing skills. Our budding journalists have been scripting news reports, while in PE, we've tackled the basics of cricket. Geographically, we've traced the water cycle and river journeys, and in RE, we've delved into Jewish traditions and faith commitments. It's been a dynamic and enriching term, and we eagerly anticipate what the final term will bring. Well done, Year 4!



Alder Class

This term in DT, Alder have been revising their understanding of simple and parallel circuits with a view to designing their own lamp! They discussed how electricity works, including the health and safety around electric currents. After setting



up a variety of circuits, they investigated how they could create their own switches. Alder class showed fantastic perseverance, teamwork, problem solving and communication skills.



Hawthorn

Another busy term is speeding by, and we welcome this beautiful spring weather. We have developed our English skills further, moving away from the Raven, by Edgar Allen Poe and onto Michael Morpurgo's version of the classic narrative



poem by an unknown author, called Beowulf. In science we have been investigating materials, including insulation. Next term, we will be visiting FCC to have our annual "flight day" which all the children really enjoy. PE continues to be a subject the children love, and we have been looking at gymnastics, tennis and rounders. All the children are a really merry band who love listening to stories and performing anything – whenever they



can!

Hornbeam

This term, children in Hornbeam class have been very busy learning about The Raven – a narrative poem by Edgar Allen Poe. We've explored the symbolism of a raven and have used it as inspiration to create our own narrative poems about



strange and wonderful creatures. Our budding poets have been making and performing their poems.

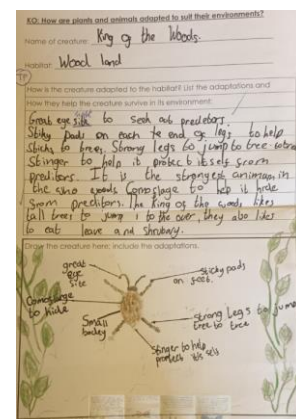
In PE, we've tackled the basics of cricket as well as performing some fun and complex movements in gymnastics. We've practiced some handstands,

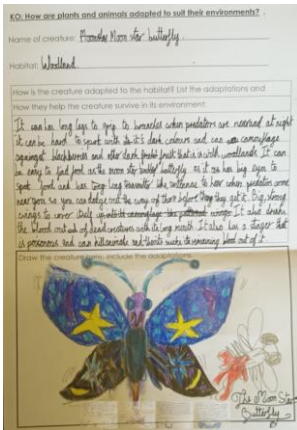


cartwheels, round offs, roll overs, jumps, leaps – you name it! It's been a fabulous term, and we cannot wait for our upcoming trip to Hill End in Term 6!

Beech Class

Beech Class have worked extremely hard over the past few weeks; even though I'm sure nobody wants them mentioned, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the huge effort that everyone put into their SATS, through the build-up and the week itself. Their attitude has been a credit to themselves and the school throughout the process and I hope they are all able to relax a little now, especially over half term.



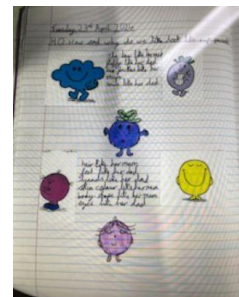


Our science topic has been adaptation and evolution. As part of this, we created new creatures and explained how they are adapted to a specific habitat; it was fascinating to see this mixture of creativity and scientific knowledge presented in the same piece of work. This will continue as we look at how living things are classified and learn about the scientists who pioneered this work.

Next term will be an exciting one, with the year 6 production, transition days and of course the residential trip to look forward to. I hope everyone has an amazing half term. Enjoy the break.

Oak Class

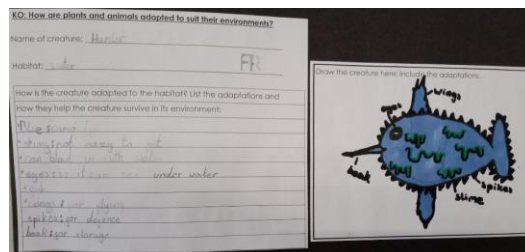
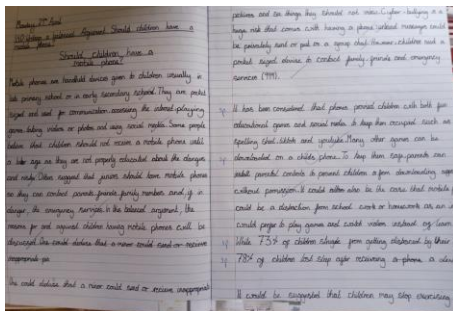
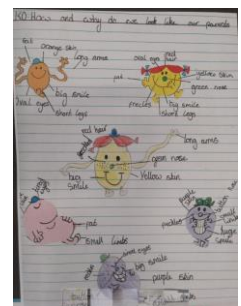
Oak class have been working incredibly hard this term towards their SATs. I am so proud of the way they all tackled these assessments, coming in every morning with a calm, positive attitude and being extremely focussed on doing their best. I have no doubt that they have absolutely smashed them! We have also started our Science topic on Evolution and Inheritance and had lots of comparing our characteristics to those of our parents and creating the children of different Men characters. A fantastic term for Oak class and I could not be more proud of my children!



fun
Mr

Poplar Class

This term in Poplar Class we have not only learnt a huge amount of maths, reading, grammar and spelling for our SATs, we have also enjoyed Just So Stories in English, written a balanced argument about mobile phones, studied evolution and inheritance in Science, excelled at tennis in PE and focused on relationships in PSHE. I am really proud of how the children approached the tests and they should feel very proud of themselves too.



STARS OF THE TERM



Amelia
Saplings



Luke
Blossom



Sophie
Laurel



Scarlett
Sycamore



Ieuan
Ash



Lily
Cedar



Finley
Birch



Kalan
Hornbeam



Billy
Hawthorn



Frankie
Alder



Epeli
Poplar



Freddie
Beech



Munashe
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.

Our 3 main priorities this year are: High quality of teaching and learning, reading/early reading and the Curriculum. In our The Elms Express Newsletters, I will keep you updated of the progress we have made towards improving these priorities.

Key priority 1: High quality teaching and learning every day

Learning Walks this term showed:

- ✓ One of our staff meetings, focused on flexible grouping. We discussed how teachers support children of different abilities in smaller focused groups.
- ✓ A recent learning walk showed our teachers are consistently scaffolding work for children, so all children access the same work. It was also evident that teachers are using the visualiser to help model the work using the 'I do-we do-you do' approach.

Key priority 2: Early reading/reading

- ✓ Phonics screening testing is happening next term, Mrs Howell met parents to discuss what this would entail.
- ✓ Mrs McIntosh has been supporting teachers to effectively use our new reading framework.
- ✓ We are already looking ahead to next year, refining our text spine which will be across reading and writing lessons.

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

- ✓ Mrs McIntosh our writing lead, attended training on a new approach to teach writing called the Hampshire Model. This is now being trialled in some year groups.
- ✓ A successful PHSE deep dive showed children are being taught well and understand a range of a different important issues.
- ✓ During a recent staff meeting, knowledge organisers were introduced. These will be in place for some foundations subjects showing the children the learning sequence and key vocabulary in the unit of work.

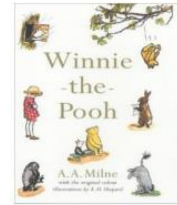
KEY DATES

Date	Event
End of Term	Friday 24 th May
INSET day (School Closed)	Monday 3 rd June
Open afternoon year 3	Tuesday 4 th June
Open afternoon Year 1 and 2	Tuesday 6 th June
Phonics Screening check	Monday 10 th June – 14 th June
Open afternoon Year 5	Tuesday 11 th June
Open afternoon Year 4	Wednesday 12 th June
Summer Fete	Friday 14 th June (3:15-5pm)
Year 4 Multiplication Check	Monday 17 th – 21 st June
Open afternoon year 6	Tuesday 18 th June
Year 6 Residential	Friday 28 th June – Monday 1 st July
Health and Sports Week	Monday 1 st July – Friday 5 th July
Sports days	Thursday 4 th July – Pre- School, Reception Year 1, 2 and 3 – Starting at 9:30am
	Friday 5 th July – Year 4, 5 and 6 starting from 9:30am
Year 6 transition days at FCC	Tuesday 9 th and Wednesday 10 th July
The Elms transition morning	Wednesday 10 th July
Reports sent to parents	Friday 12 th July
Year 6 Performance	Matinee – Tuesday 16 th July Evening performance – Wednesday 17 th July
Year 6 Leavers' Party	Tuesday 23 rd July 4:30-6pm
End of school year	Wednesday 24 th July at 13:15

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

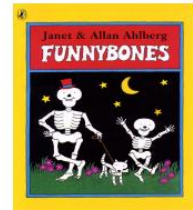
15 - The Winnie-The-Pooh Series by A A Milne

Winnie-the-Pooh may be a bear of very little brain, but thanks to his friends Piglet, Eeyore and, of course, Christopher Robin, he's never far from an adventure. In this story Pooh gets into a tight place, nearly catches a Woozle and heads off on an 'expedition' to the North Pole with the other animals.

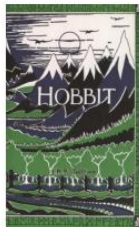


16 - Funny Bones by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

This children's classic centres on the adventures of a big skeleton, a little skeleton and a dog skeleton. They venture out from their dark dark cellar in the hope of finding someone to scare. However, since everyone is asleep in bed, they have to make do with scaring themselves. The results of which are hilarious!



=17 - The Hobbit by J R R Tolkien



The Hobbit is the unforgettable story of Bilbo, a peace-loving hobbit, who embarks on a strange and magical adventure. A timeless classic. Bilbo Baggins enjoys a quiet and contented life, with no desire to travel far from the comforts of home; then one day the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves arrive unexpectedly and enlist his services - as a burglar - on a dangerous expedition to raid the treasure-hoard of Smaug the dragon. Bilbo's life is never to be the same again. collage illustrations and it's deceptively simply, hopeful story. With its die-cut pages and finger-sized holes to explore, this is a richly satisfying book for children.

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.



You Move is an Oxfordshire initiative which provides low cost and free activities to families. Benefits include 50% off membership and pay as you play activities for the whole family.



"YouMove is here to provide free or low-cost activities for families living in Oxfordshire. If your child or children are in receipt of benefits related free school meals, then we have a fantastic range of activities to enjoy together, including during weekends and school holidays. In addition, YouMove is here for children in need of support; this includes refugee children, young carers and children in or on the edge of care." - YouMove: Vale of White Horse | GO Active (getoxfordshireactive.org)

PRELOVED UNIFORM SHOP

The Parents Association Preloved Uniform Shop is live and active:

<https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/the-elms-primary-school>

All items are in good condition and have been washed just before they've been listed. Items with the school logo embroidered on are £3 each, items without logos are £2 each.

You can shop on the website, adding items to your basket and then pay at the end. Your purchased items will be dropped to the school office soon after and you'll receive an email saying it's there and ready for you to collect from the office. If getting to the office in school hours isn't possible - we can arrange to hand the package to a nominated pupil so they can bring it home.

After the platform fees have been paid all money raised will go back into the school to support and enrich our children's learning.

Please contact the uniform shop with any questions on TEPS_uniform@hotmail.com

JOIN US FOR OUR
Summer Fair
FRIDAY 14TH JUNE
3.15PM - 5PM

FREE ENTRY

We'll have lots of fun including
our MEGA raffle • inflatable
slide • sponge the teacher •
tombola • human fruit machine
• coconut shy • sports activities
• fire engine • drinks, treats
and much much more!

50p and £1 stalls

THE ELMS PRIMARY MAIN FIELD
PARENTS, PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP: theelmspa@gmail.com

The Elms Primary
support ↗ at your
next Tesco shop
with your blue token

Please collect those blue tokens and place them in
The Elms Primary Parents Association box in Tesco
at Faringdon. April - June.

CrossFit TEENS & CrossFit Kids

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

Park Club
 For a healthier you

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)	TEENS (13-17 years)
Tuesdays and Thursdays 15:45 - 16:30pm	Tuesdays and Thursdays 16:45 - 17:30pm
Saturdays 9-9:45am	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.



STAGE COACH

STAGECOACH SHOW IN A WEEK
7 TO 16 YEAR OLDS

Monday 29th to Friday 2nd 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

WWW.STAGECOACH.CO.UK/FARINGDON

STAGE COACH

STAGECOACH 4.5 DAY TROLLS INSPIRED WORKSHOP
4 TO 6 YEAR OLDS

Mon 29th July to Fri 2nd 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

WWW.STAGECOACH.CO.UK/FARINGDON

pmg
schoolwear

**In Store
BY APPOINTMENT**

Appointments are now available to book online at www.pmg-schoolwear.co.uk

**Appointments are available until
AUGUST 12TH**

After this date, it's 'walk in' only and you may have to queue

**HOW TO BUY
SCHOOL UNIFORM
THIS SUMMER**

*BOOK EARLY
BUY EARLY
AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT*

**Online
AVAILABLE NOW**

Visit our website www.pmg-schoolwear.co.uk

**Order before
AUGUST 12TH**

After this date, uniform may not be with you in time for the new term

**BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT
OR BUY ONLINE
BEFORE AUGUST 12TH**

After that date uniform may not be with you in time for the new term

Contact: customerservices@pmgschoolwear.co.uk
Please refer to our website for store opening hours