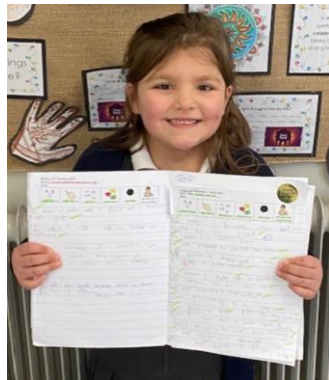
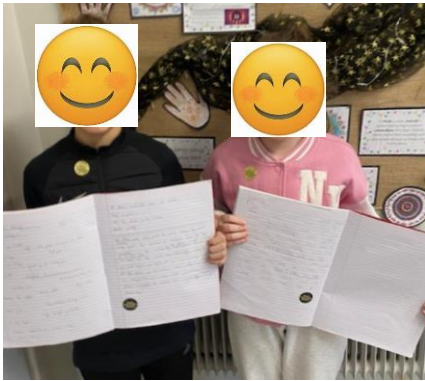


THE ELMS EXPRESS



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this year's, 4th edition of The Elms Express. This term has been jam-packed full of exciting events and things to celebrate.

It was wonderful to see so many parents attend our open afternoons and support their children's learning – thank you for coming. Many of you also attended our parent's evenings which we hope was a fantastic opportunity to hear all about your child's learning.

This term, Year 3 went on their second school trip to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford; World Book Day was celebrated by the Elms; and Year 5 and 2 did brilliant assemblies. The Elms Association has been hard at work again, supporting World Book Day and hiring an Explorer Dome to celebrate our Science Week.

Spring is springing into life, and I hope the weather continues to improve over the Easter break. Have a brilliant Easter and enjoy the chocolate!

Mr Jacques (Head of School)

THIS TERM'S ADDITION INCLUDES

- WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?
- OUR VALUE – COMMUNITY
- CLASS UPDATES
- UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT
- STARS OF THE TERM
- SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
- KEY DATES
- BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS
- OTHER INFORMATION AND MESSAGES



WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

Mrs Gardiner

This term, we say a fond farewell to one of our longest serving members of staff, Mrs Gardiner. Starting in 1995, Mrs G has worked across all year groups supporting our children to be the best they can be. She has not only been a fantastic teaching assistant, but she has supported many different aspects of school including, Play Leaders, lunchtimes, the library and PE to name a few.

After 29 years, Mrs Gardiner has decided to retire and have a well earned rest in her garden.

Thank you, Mrs G, for everything you have done over the years - The Elms will miss you more than you will ever know!

Year 2 assembly

Year 2 produced a brilliant assembly teaching us all about the Great Fire of London! There was singing, they showed of their hard work and performed some brilliant dancing (choreographed by Mrs Woodward)!



FCC Orchestra

Earlier, this term, we were pleased to welcome the FCC Concert Band to our school where they performed and talked about the different instruments. It was interesting to learn about them and hear the different sounds they made! It has inspired many of our pupils to learn an instrument.





World Book Day

World Book Day was celebrated at The Elms – what a fantastic day! Children came into school dressed as a word and we could see that children and parents had put in lots of effort to make their costumes – thank you for helping make the day so special!

The winners of the decorate a plate were announced and these along with other great plates are now displayed throughout the school. Mrs McIntosh had a hard time deciding on the winners!



Children were also treated to a range of different classroom activities to help celebrate the day!

The Performing Arts Festival

On Wednesday 20th March some of our school's most talented singers and dancers went to FCC to perform in the Trusts Performing Arts Festival. Our dancers were brilliant as they threw poses to Murder On The Dancefloor, while our choir sang



an incredible rendition of 'Beautiful'. A massive well done and thank you to all the children for working so hard - you were amazing and did our school proud! Thank you, Mr Moore, for practising with our children!



OUR VALUE THIS TERM - COMMUNITY



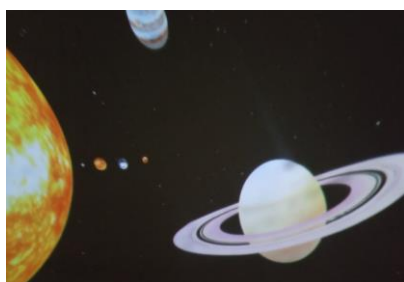
Last term, we launched our 6 new values which were created through input from staff, children, Governors and parents.

1. Belonging
2. Kindness
3. Resilience
4. Community
5. Integrity
6. Aspiration

Each term, we will celebrate and focus on one of our values – this term was community.

Our Parent Association have been working extremely hard to help celebrate World Book Day and Science week. For World book Day, they invited two authors to visit our Reception and Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2 children.

The day started off with an assembly and each year group had a workshop which showed them how to write and illustrate books!



They also helped The Elms to celebrate our Science Week by arranging an Explorer Dome. Each class visited and were shown the galaxy and viewed the Earth from space.

And finally, by working with Faringdon United Charity our hall projector screen is now fixed! The grand unveiling was on Wednesday 27th March. Our assemblies and singing

assemblies will now be even better!

Thank you for everything you have done for our community this term!

Open Afternoons

Thank you to all parents, who came in and supported our open afternoons. It was fantastic to see so many of you attend. We hope you enjoyed seeing their classroom environments and helping them with their learning! This will be happening more frequently, and



we look forward to welcoming you all back!



CLASSES UPDATE

Blossom Class

What a fun (and educational) time we have had in Blossom Class this term. We have been learning all about the very special people who help us. We started the topic by visiting Faringdon Fire Station and we all had a great time learning about the fire engine and the protective clothes the firefighter's wear. We even saw a car being cut apart, sat in the fire engine and squirted the hose. We had so much fun!



We also learnt all about going to the dentist and how to clean our teeth properly. We all brought our toothbrushes into school and followed instructions carefully to make sure we cleaned all our teeth really well. We also know that our baby teeth will fall out when our adult teeth grow. We are looking forward to the tooth fairy making an appearance!

Laurel Class

What a term it has been for Laurel class! We have had World Book Day, an Author visit, Big Science Week, The Wonder Dome, Pyjama Day and an Easter egg hunt! In Geography this term we have been learning about the seven continents. Year one has enjoyed learning about the different physical and human features, which animals live there and what the climate is like in each of the continents. We can now find each continent on a globe! You may have heard them singing the seven continents song, sorry!!



In Art we have looked at artists inspired by flora and fauna. The children have studied different Artists, including Eric Carle and Henri Rousseau. They have gone on to produce many amazing pieces of art including these minibeasts. We have many future Artists in Laurel class. I think they did a fantastic job!

Sycamore

What a busy term we have had in Sycamore Class. We began the term with a visit from the Faringdon Fire Service. Simon and his team brought along a fire engine for the children to see. They compared the modern-day fire equipment with what would have been used during the Great Fire of London in 1666. The children were so excited that they were allowed to use the fire hoses!



We also visited Folly View School on Wednesday 20th March for an Indian Dance Workshop. The children dressed up in vibrant costumes and had bells around their wrists. The instructor, Anna, led us in a series of dance moves mixing traditional with modern Indian dance. The children enjoyed their session and made links with other dance and PE sessions that we have had in school.



Ash Class

This term, Ash class have been learning all about the Iron Man. Following the book by Ted Hughes, the children have been investigating iron parts found in the playground of The Elms, to then writing up our findings and the interview from Farmers within the book, into our own newspapers. The children have really enjoyed learning about the Iron Man and ending the term with the Iron Giant movie.

There has been lots of excitement this term with our Parents' afternoon, our church trip and our trip to the Ashmolean Museum. On our Parents' Afternoon, we all had great fun building bridges while using junk modelling items. The parents and children had to collaboratively build a bridge strong enough to support the weight of 3 different weights. For every weight the bridges withstood, the children would gain team points, a great reward.

Finally, we went to the Ashmolean Museum last Monday. During our day here, we were able to explore all of the rooms which contained many artifacts from times around the world while waiting for our turn to listen and participate in a group activity in the Egyptian section. The children have loved our Egyptian topic this term. Especially the facts on the process of mummification. Ask the children how some of the vital organs (like the brain) were removed, they will know the answer!



Cedar Class

This term has been a really busy one for the children in Cedar class. Some of the highlights include investigating strange metal objects that appeared in the school playground; learning about fractions and measuring objects in maths; having the opportunity to visit the local church to learn about Easter; and go to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to learn more about the Ancient Egyptians. The children were really



well behaved on both trips and really enjoyed themselves. Thank you, Mrs Gristwood, Mrs Stringer and Mrs Hulme, for supporting us on this trip.

We were also lucky enough to welcome some of the parents into the class and everyone took part in a bridge building competition. I think the parents were more competitive than the children.

I hope you all have a restful Easter break; the children really deserve it after all the hard work they have done.

Birch Class

Another incredibly busy term in Birch class. An exciting thread through the whole term has been The Ancient Greeks. We have loved getting to grips with the gods and how their myths helped the Greeks to explain how the world around them worked. We have enjoyed retelling the story of Theseus and unlocking the mystery of missing Persephone in our newspaper reports.



In other news, we are all continuing to make excellent progress in swimming and will continue this after Easter. A highlight of the term was understanding the problem of poor water supply in Africa and trying to design and make water filters to clean dirty water, with varying degrees of success.



Alder Class

Alder have been developing their netball skills this term and they have been amazing! Two of our class are off after Easter to represent The Elms at the FCC Netball Tournament and I



am full of confidence after the learning they have done this half term. The whole class have practised their footwork, evasion, defending and passing. Their teamwork and communication skills have also noticeably improved since September. Great effort Alder!



Hawthorn Class

We have just launched into our new book for this term, Freedom for Bron. This story races along a timeline linked to our history topic, post-Roman, pre-Viking, a world of clashing cultures and ambitious bids for kingship. We'll be creating newspaper reports from it when we consider the next step of the colonisation of England, but this time, by the Vikings. Our Anglo-Saxon visitor answered many of our questions, but, digging further, we find as we go, so many more.



Our big science had us designing and creating floating gardens to be used in monsoon areas of the world, like Bangladesh. Two of the best posters to explain the design and campaign will be put forwards into a competition. In PE, we have just about finished our science-themed dance, namely Jai Ho, and the children have thrown themselves (some literally) into learning this routine. All in all, a lovely term, interspersed with plenty of quiet reading, emotional well-being and friendship. Well done, year five!

Hornbeam Class

In February, the vibrant atmosphere of Hornbeam class was filled with the spirit of celebration as we embraced Ramadan, fostering a sense of community and discussing the multitude of good deeds we could undertake to enrich our surroundings. Our Physical Education sessions were bustling with activity, where we delved into the intricacies of dance and honed our skills in netball, mastering essential techniques like catching,



pivoting, and passing. Meanwhile, in Design Technology, we embarked on an intriguing journey into the world of Saxon runes, crafting personalized bags to house our newfound knowledge. Additionally, we were thrilled to have a visit from an actual Anglo-Saxon, enriching our understanding of history.



Poplar Class



This term in Poplar Class, we have continued to enjoy reading 'The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe' which has inspired some great writing in the form of newspapers. We have been working hard in maths towards our SATs with work on shape, angles and algebra. Our grammar knowledge has

extended to include identifying pronouns,



prepositions, tense and conjunction and we are now applying a number spelling rules and patterns to improve our spelling accuracy. We have enjoyed netball, designing roller coasters and dancing to hip hop, as well as exploring the faith of Islam in RE. It's been a busy yet fun term of learning!

Beech Class

This term in Beech class, we have been reading "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe". We have loved our journey into Narnia, and have written letters, newspaper articles and diaries about the mysterious wardrobe and the incredible fantasy world on the other side.

Perhaps the most exciting subject, however, has been science. For our "Big Science" project, we were tasked with creating a rollercoaster to transport a ping pong ball 180cm, using our knowledge of forces to design our 'coasters. As you can see from the pictures, there were some spectacular creations all of which managed to transport the ball the majority of the distance. As a result, some representatives of the class will be discussing our project at a science day; if they are as enthusiastic there as they were for the project in class, they will do us proud.



Oak Class

This term, Oak class have been extremely busy. We have built rollercoasters for Big Science week, celebrated British Sign Language Week and were inspired by children's author and illustrator Steve Anthony. We have also learnt a hip hop dance in PE and written newspaper articles about a strange world that has been discovered inside a wardrobe. Everyone in Oak class has worked extremely hard this term and I am so proud of them. Bring on term 5!



STARS OF THE TERM



Isabelle
Saplings



William M
Blossom



Harry W
Laurel



Daisy
Sycamore



Lyla
Ash



Alayah
Cedar



Josie
Birch



Livi
Hornbeam



Esther
Hawthorn



Oleksii
Alder



Amiee
Poplar



Sophie H
Beech



Elizabeth
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 what progress has been made towards improving these priorities.

Key priority 1: High quality teaching and learning every day

- ✓ One of our CPD sessions focused on Explicit instruction. Staff were shown different strategies to ensure their explanations are succinct.
- ✓ Some staff attended training on the Hampshire Writing Model which will be implemented in the coming terms.
- ✓ Pupil voice is showing that children are knowing more and remembering more.

Key priority 2: Early reading/reading

- ✓ A review of 20% of our Reading Folders showed that children are being listened to read 3-5 times a week.
- ✓ A new reading framework has been developed which gives teachers a clear plan for their weekly lessons.
- ✓ A review of children's books showed that teachers are using the new framework and showing a clearer learning journey.

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

- ✓ A review of Maths books showed that teachers are all using the White Rose Scheme and children are being scaffolded well.
- ✓ A Science staff meeting focused on using Explorify to help support our approach of thinking-talking-doing.
- ✓ Mr Moore and Mr Jacques met to discuss the curriculum and next steps. It was good to reflect on the progress made so far and how we can continue to improve the curriculum. One way will be knowledge organisers coming soon!

KEY DATES

Year 4 Assembly – 9:15 – 9:45 on Thursday 25th April

Year 3 Assembly – 9:15 – 9:45 on Thursday 9th May

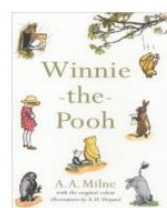
SATs week – Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May

There may be more that come up through the term so please always check parent pay!

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

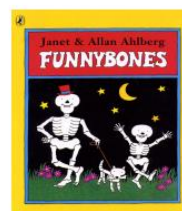
15 - The Winnie-The-Pooh Series by A A Milne

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.

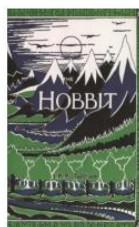


16 - Funny Bones by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

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

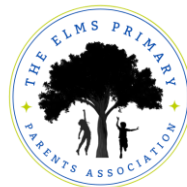
Our office staff are continuing to work hard to obtain updated child information. We are hoping to set up The Elms on social media and need to know if you give consent for your child's pictures to be used. Please contact the office on office@tep.faringdonlearningtrust.org.



You Move is an Oxfordshire initiative which provides low cost and free activities to families. Benefits include 50% of 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)



We are delighted to share that The Elms Primary Parents Association has been chosen to benefit from Tesco Faringdon's Stronger Starts blue token scheme! From early April to the end of June, every token you drop into our collection box will support our goal of fostering a love of music in our school community.

Money raised will help support our music offer which includes investing in new instruments and equipment. In doing so, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to explore their musical interests.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT?

Please encourage all your family and friends to place their blue token into "The Elms Primary Parents Association" box in Tesco at Faringdon.

Together, we can make music accessible to all. Thank you for your votes!



*Please come and join us for
coffee and cake to celebrate our
wonderful Service Children during
the
Month of the Military Child*

Wednesday 24th April

9:15 - 11am

Jubilee Centre, Watchfield



Mandy Milburn
mjmilburn@faringdonlearningtrust.org



Suzie Davies
skdavies@faringdonlearningtrust.org