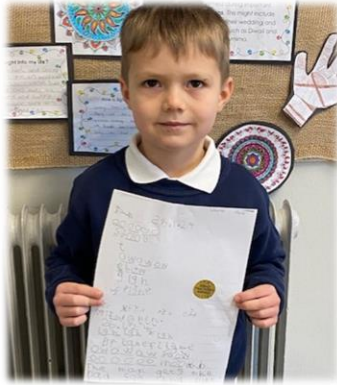


THE ELMS EXPRESS



Dear Parents and Carers,

Although it has only been a short term, it has been actioned packed!

We have launched our brand-new values to the children – Belonging, Kindness, Resilience, Community, Integrity, and Aspiration. We are testing children and staff to help them remember them! Please feel free to support this at home.

This term saw a brilliant Year 4 assembly, some of the Year 6 children (with the help of Mr Moore) started a Monday and Tuesday lunchtime running club, and a revamp of all classes' book corners – making them more inviting and ensuring high quality texts are available to all our children.

I would also like to at this opportunity to announce the arrival of my twin girls, who were born on Wednesday 17th January. Lila and Harper are doing really well, and my wife and I hope they will be out of hospital very shortly. So, at times you may see me looking more tired than usual! Thank you to everyone who has wished me congratulations – it has meant so much!

Have a wonderful half term and enjoy the days becoming longer.

Mr Jacques (Head of School)

THIS TERM'S ADDITION INCLUDES ...

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



WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

Year 4 Assembly

The assembly started with Zach playing the piano as all the parents entered the hall. The music didn't stop there with a brilliant rendition of 'Dance like a Roman' (with sign language) and the grand finale saw the children play Abba's Mamma Mia on the Glockenspiels – what a way to finish.



The children had been learning all about earthquakes and explained how to keep yourself safe, if you were in country that experienced them.



The children also showcased their learning in French (with some adult participation), read out their letters to the firework makers daughter, and explained how you times by 10 and 100.



Their assembly not only demonstrated how much they had learnt this year but also what confident and talented children we have in Year 4! Well done everybody.



Class Book Corners

This term our teachers have been working hard to make their book corners even more inviting. During our INSET, teachers were given time to create new and exciting corners as well as ensuring the books are high quality and linked to their topics. As you may know, we have had a big reorganisation of all our books and some children even took 2 or 3 books home! I want to say a huge thank you to Mrs McIntosh for organising this,



as well as our Year 6 children, who gave up some of their lunchtimes to help Mrs McIntosh! We learn to read so we can read to learn!



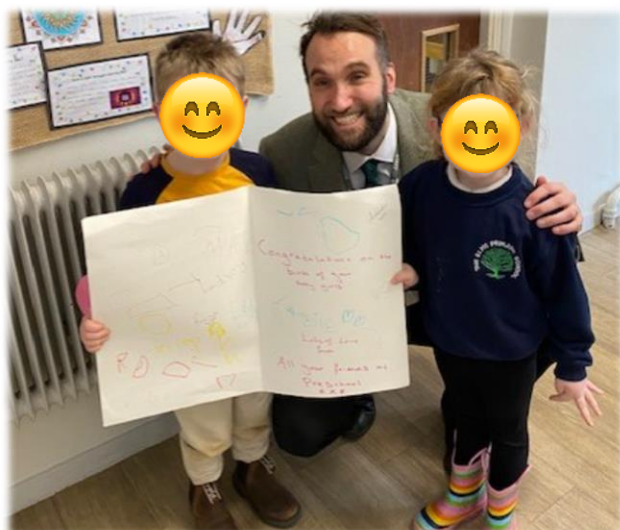
ELMS EXCELLENCE



Some of our Year 6 children have continued to support teaching our children sign language. As part of celebration assembly, we always sing happy birthday and now they are teaching the whole school!



Two Year 5 boys wanted to make sure children have a place to go if they need support on the playground. They created a brilliant poster and shared it with classes making themselves known that they are on the playground and if they have a worry, they can come write on a piece of paper and drop it into the worry box or go and talk to them! We love this boys.



Pre-school were so kind and made me a congratulations card for the birth of my baby girls. This is in pride of place on my shelf! The twins loved it – thank you!

CLASSES UPDATE

Blossom Class



Reception are really enjoying their topic of around the world. We started by visiting lots of different countries on our magic carpet. We looked on a globe at the different countries we visited including China, Japan, South Africa and Switzerland and compared them to Faringdon. We have loved trying different fruits from around the world. The passion fruit and mango were really popular!



You might have noticed our ladybird maths outside the classroom. We have been finding different ways of making numbers up to 5. We positioned the cones in different ways to make the numbers. Ask us to show you a number up to 5 using our 'bunny ears'. We are very good at partitioning numbers up to 5!



Laurel Class

In Y1 we have all had so much fun helping baby bear; She needed a new chair. Y1 were set the task to design, make and evaluate a chair for baby bear. The children learnt new attachment techniques which they then used to make truly fabulous chairs!



In English, Laurel class have loved making up their own polar animal to write a non-chronological report on. We had so many never seen before creatures like the Penwhale and the Narhare! We have enjoyed learning about space travel and the first man on the moon. The children all took part in some role play of the moon landing.



Sycamore Class



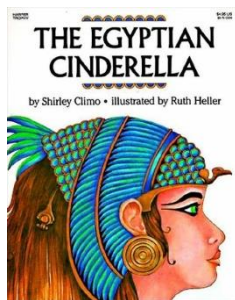
This term, Sycamore have been reading 'The Diary of a Killer Cat' by Anne Fine in our English lessons. The children have been reading this humorous story about a cat who keeps finding himself in trouble. We have completed drama activities (including the conscience alley left), diary writing, and newspaper articles themed around the book.

Sycamore Class have been looking at The Mulberry Bush social, emotional and mental health curriculum. We have concentrated on the 'Learning to Play' section and have focused on making our own choices, turn taking and sticking to the rules. The children enjoyed the 'Would You Rather...' activity. Perhaps you could try this at home!



The children have enjoyed the Great Fire of London history unit. We have looked at what life was like in 1666, the causes of the fire and how it was eventually stopped. The children have explored sources of evidence including Samuel Pepys' diary.

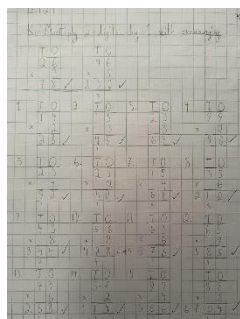
Ash Class



This term, Ash class have been reading and exploring the book "The Egyptian Cinderella" by Shirley Climo. This book has been enjoyed by the whole class as it ties in perfectly with our work on Ancient Egypt. We have been focusing on the Character "Rhodopis", her characteristics and physical description which led into us writing a diary entry as if we were the character ourselves.



The children have enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt; the location of Egypt and the "Desert belt" in Geography, along with finding out about the Egyptians themselves. The children became Egyptologists to investigate and study pictures and hieroglyphics. What might they mean? What are they trying to say?



Ash class have been working extremely hard on maths this term. We've focused on multiplication and division which was a challenge for a lot of us. We used many methods like breaking the 2 digits by 1 digit multiplication, breaking down and partitioning the equation to make the question simple and easier to work out. We've been using our fantastic multiplication knowledge to work out our divisions which has posed as a challenge but not one we couldn't handle.

Cedar Class

Cedar class have been working incredibly hard this term in all subjects and should be incredibly proud of all that they have achieved. In English we have been reading Egyptian Cinderella and using this to influence our writing about diary entries. Meanwhile, in maths, the children have been working on multiplying and dividing 2-digit numbers by 1. They have also enjoyed listening to the Numberrock songs on YouTube and working on their times table knowledge.



In History we are looking at Ancient Egypt and the children are very keen to learn about Egyptian burials. Before Christmas, the children had the opportunity to go up to Folly Hill and plant some tree. Although the weather was wet and cold, the children loved the opportunity to do something new and really enjoyed themselves.

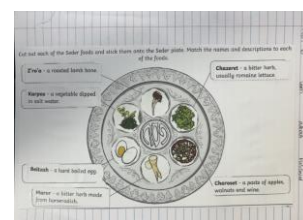


Birch Class

Year 4 has been a hive of activity! In English, inspired by "The Firework Maker's Daughter," students have been refining language skills and expressing themselves through letters and diary entries. Mathematics has seen them mastering multiplication of 2, 3, and 4-digit numbers, building a solid foundation. French lessons delve into the world of vegetables, while Geography connects us with our twinned



town in Normandy. In Science, circuits take centre stage, with students gearing up to create their own in Design and Technology, keeping the spirit of fireworks from our literary adventures alive. The enthusiasm and growth in Year 4 are shining brightly, making this a fantastic learning journey!



Alder Class

Alder Class have been thoroughly enjoying reading with their Reading Buddies in Year 2! Once a week, a Year 5 pupil chooses a genre of text and the class use their library slot to find a book they think their Year 2 partner will enjoy. The children have voluntarily



put themselves in pairs together and the relationship they build with each other in the Reading Buddy sessions extend to when they see each other elsewhere in the school. It is a time of the week they all really look forward to!



Hawthorn

Hawthorn Class have been busy investigating mountains this term. Our travels have taken us far and wide, up to Mount Everest to investigate mountaineers, and over to the high Andes.



In English, we continue to enjoy His Dark Materials, a fantasy novel split between two (or more) worlds, one of which is Oxford itself. The children are honing their reading skills to gather up key information whilst still enjoying this very expansive story. Hawthorn Class like nothing better than to raid the Book Nook and sit with their novels, which is really something to celebrate.



The children have really loved getting to learn about animal reproduction in science, a topic which everyone finds interesting. Their scientific sketching is really lovely. All of us have had a wonderful term and most of us are ready for a little break. I hope the children continue to read each day, and to be read to, where possible. A recent study showed that children up to the age of eighteen, benefit from an adult reading to them. I hope you all have a lovely break, and we will meet again after the half term.



Hornbeam

In Year 5, our mathematical exploration has been focused on the thrilling concept of multiplying fractions by whole numbers.

Meanwhile, our geographical journey led us to discover the fascinating formation of mountains. In the realm of



science, we delved into the captivating realms of animals and plants, exploring their intricate life cycles. Adding excitement to our learning experience, a forensic scientist shared her expertise, leaving us enthralled with the world of forensic



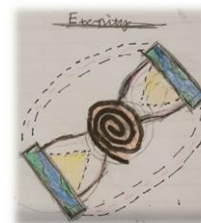
science.

Beech Class

This term in Beech Class, we have started our new topic, Unfamiliar Lands.

We have been reading *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, enjoying the journey into Narnia and writing additional scenes for the story; there has been some fantastic use of CS Lewis style dialogue from the class.

Our geography has also linked into our topic, looking at the different biomes around the world, their climates and the variety of life that inhabits them.



In RE, we have been investigating the concept of eternity, looking into Christian beliefs about God, Heaven and eternity; everyone produced some magnificently creative work about the idea of eternity, and how they might represent this visually.

We are very much looking forward to continuing this topic after half term.

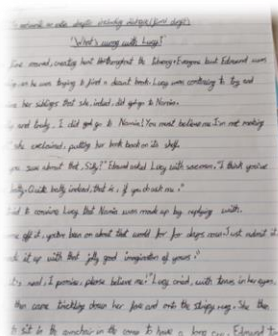
Oak Class

Oak class have had a wonderful term! We have started our new book, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe", and we have really enjoyed writing a new chapter for the book, alongside exploring the character's feelings and the different front covers that the books have had over the years. We have also enjoyed learning about the circulatory system in science and investigating the effect of exercise on our heart rate. Oak class have also enjoyed learning about the Earth and the different biomes that the Earth contains, researching the different types of animals and plants that exist in each one. Another fantastic term, and I can't wait to see what Term 4 brings!

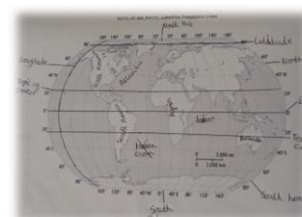


Poplar Class

In Poplar Class this term, we've started reading *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe*, getting to know the characters and this text has inspired some great pieces of dialogue writing and newspaper reports. The children have become more fluent with their reading, adding expression and using skills of retrieval and inference to enhance their understanding of the book. They have been working hard with grammar, learning about different word groups and how to identify them within sentences. Alongside



this, they have been embedding patterns and rules to help with spelling. In maths, we've moved from percentages, decimals and fractions to measure, area, perimeter and



volume. The children are making fantastic progress, applying their arithmetic knowledge. We are exploring biomes in Geography, the concept of eternity in RE and enjoying becoming fitter in PE!

STARS OF THE TERM



Amelia
Saplings



Savannah
Blossom



Elsie
Laurel



Zante
Sycamore



Ada
Ash



Lily - Mai
Cedar



Billy
Birch



Abigail
Hornbeam



Esther
Hawthorn



Valentyna
Alder



Harriet
Poplar



Ollie T
Beech



Scarlett
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

Learning Walks this term showed:

- ✓ Teachers were modelling the work to the children and using the I do, we do, you do approach.
- ✓ Learning behaviours displayed by children were strong. They were excited to share their learning.
- ✓ Scaffolding was evident to support and extend children's learning.

Key priority 2: Early reading/reading

- ✓ A phonics review from the trust showed
- ✓ All classes book corners have been updated and made more appealing to the children.
- ✓ A new tracking system was put in place to track children's reading in school.

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

- ✓ During the INSET day, Mr Moore updated all staff on our curriculum intentions and refreshed how to monitor a subject – which is now in full swing.
- ✓ Mr Saunders history staff meeting discussed what should be in a history lesson and our next steps. We are now using mind maps to show children's 'sticky knowledge'.
- ✓ A positive curriculum review from the Faringdon Learning Trust showed our subject leaders have a clear understanding of their subject, knowing the positives and areas to develop.

KEY DATES

Just a reminder of our open afternoons coming next term. Please see below:

Key Information

- Please arrive through the Main Reception by 2:05pm
- Only 1 parent or carer to attend per child to ensure enough space in classrooms.
- Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate younger siblings due to space in classrooms.
- If no one is able to attend, the class teacher and teaching assistants will support your child
- If you have another child in a different year group/class, you will be able to swap classes halfway through the afternoon.
- Parents and carers will collect their children from their usual gate.

Dates



Year Group	Date
Year 5	Tuesday 20 th February
Year 1 and 2	Monday 26 th February
Year 6	Tuesday 27 th February
Year 3 and 4	Wednesday 28 th February



Parents evenings

Parents evenings will be taking place on:

Monday 18th March 4-7pm

Tuesday 19th March 3:40-6:30

More information and how to book will be out after half term.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

10 - Where The Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

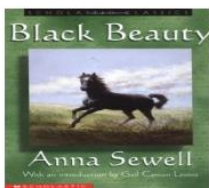
One night Max puts on his wolf suit and makes mischief of one kind and another, so his mother calls him 'Wild Thing' and sends him to bed without his supper. That night a forest begins to grow in Max's room and an ocean rushes by with a boat to take Max to the place where the wild things are. Max tames the wild things and crowns himself as their king, and then the wild rumpus begins. But when Max has sent the monsters to bed, and everything is quiet, he starts to feel lonely and realises it is time to sail home to the place where someone loves him best of all.

11 - Stig Of The Dump by Clive King

Barney is a solitary little boy, given to wandering off by himself. One day he is lying on the edge of a disused chalk-pit when it gives way and he lands in a sort of cave. Here he meets 'somebody with a lot of shaggy hair and two bright black eyes' wearing a rabbit skin and speaking in grunts. He names him Stig. Of course nobody believes Barney when he tells his family all about Stig, but for Barney cave-man Stig is totally real. They become great friends, learning each others ways and embarking on a series of unforgettable adventures.



12 - Black Beauty by Anna Sewell



Black Beauty is born in a beautiful meadow and cared for by gentle humans. But life takes him far from home, from the stable of a gentleman, to gruelling work as a cab horse in the city. Where will Black Beauty's journey lead him next? And is there anyone he can truly trust?

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)

Coming Soon
Virtual Book Fair

BOOKS FOR BUGS

Visit www.booksforbugs.co.uk Collect from your teacher Take home & enjoy!

It's not long until your schools' Books for Bugs Virtual Book Fair. Thousands of books at £2.99 each, brand new!

Start browsing today at www.booksforbugs.co.uk - More details with how to order with free delivery will be announced near the start of your fair

The banner features a purple banner at the top with the text "Coming Soon Virtual Book Fair". To the right is a circular logo with "BOOKS FOR BUGS" and illustrations of children reading. Below are three circular illustrations: a child at a computer, a child receiving a book from a teacher, and a child reading a book. At the bottom, there are three colored arrows pointing right with the text "Visit www.booksforbugs.co.uk", "Collect from your teacher", and "Take home & enjoy!". The background has a yellow and orange striped pattern.