



Elmsett C.of E. Primary School



In the light of Jesus, we learn to shine

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Whole School News Letter September 2026



Welcome back to a new school year at Elmsett Primary School. We welcome all our new pupils and look forward to working with parents and carers to ensure everyone can shine.

We are looking forward to an exciting year with our engaging curriculum and exceptional extra-curricular offer including sporting events, trips out of school and visitors into school. This begins in the coming week with a visitor from the recycling centre at Grt. Blakenham who will be undertaking workshops with all the pupils to educate them about the many aspects involved in recycling our waste.

Over the summer the new Prime Minister heightened the focus on attendance. Across the UK absence rates have not fully recovered since the pandemic with nearly one in five pupils missing at least 10% of school in the 2025 /2026 academic year. Attendance at Elmsett has always been above national and local percentages and I would like to maintain this high standard. For last year we achieved 96.5% whereas the national rate was 93%.

Please find below some of the areas the government will be focusing on:

- Pupils should to attend on every day the school is open.
- In the term following your child's 5th birthday they become of statutory school age. This means that they must attend full time from that date. We like to ensure pupils are happy and settled and will work with parents to support the transition into full-time school.
- Permission for absence can only be granted in exceptional circumstances. This does not include holidays. Any absence must be notified to the school via our leave of absence request form. If leave of absence is not granted, then any days off will be registered as unauthorised.
- An Education Welfare Officer (EWO) is allocated by the local authority to every school and headteachers are required to meet with them on a termly basis to discuss attendance. They have access to our registers and identify pupils whose attendance is of concern.
- EWO's and the DfE will be looking at individual schools to assess trends in absence, for example pupils who have frequent Fridays off.
- The heatwave, specifically the week beginning 22nd June, lead to the highest absence rate of the year. We will endeavour to remain open across all weather events during the year to ensure pupils can access their education.

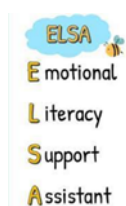
Please also note that from this term onwards we will require proof of any appointments where parents or carers take pupils out of school. For all appointments such as dentist, opticians, doctors, assessments and hospital appointments we will need to see an email, screen shot or letter. Please feel free to redact information that you do not want the school to see, but we must have the child's name, the date and time showing. If this is not supplied, we are now required to mark the

absence as unauthorised. We will also need to see proof of external examinations before we can authorise the absence.

Over the summer Mrs Ross has updated the Reflection Garden on the front playground. We would like to offer our thanks to Benton Street Trees and Gardens who donated the white gravel for the paths. Please take a look at the renewed garden where the pupils will be taking reflective time as well as using it as a learning environment.

My door is always open and I will do my best to meet with parents and carers whenever you have questions or concerns about your child/ren. Please initially address concerns to your child's teacher. Please see our Communication Plan which is attached for more information.

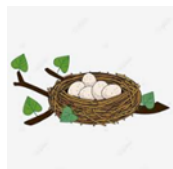
From Miss Hilton



From our ELSA

Welcome back to our new term. This term can be quite challenging for children because of changing year groups and worries about new expectations. I will continue to support your children with our worry box which all children have access to and is situated in our library area. I am also available at times suitable with their teachers for check in sessions. I will continue to run our Tuesday lunchtime club covering various subjects including mental health, understanding our emotions and friendships. All children will be made aware of how they can sign up for these. If you have any concerns, please speak to your child's teacher who will then discuss this with myself so we can put a plan of action in place via ELSA sessions.

From Mrs Bird (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA))



SEND from the Nest

Mrs Shaw is in school on a Thursday. Should you have any concerns about your child, please always speak to the class teacher in the first instance who can then refer you to Mrs Shaw. Please also see our website for advice and links to support.

Mrs Shaw (SENDCo)

School & Eco Council



The Eco Team 🌍 and School Council will be working together this year.

We will be selecting our Eco School Council over the next few weeks, so please watch out for the application forms. Then we will work on a variety of projects to benefit our environment and school which will be led by the pupils.

Forest School



Hello everyone and welcome back to school. This term, Autumn term, is a very exciting one in the woods. We are welcoming our new Reception explorers to Forest School and looking forward to seeing how we have all grown since last term.

We will be looking at seasonal changes in the woods and making our agreements together, learning new skills such as using the small hand tools, how to use them safely and efficiently, fire skills and how to build, resource and maintain the fire are some of the activities we will be having a go at this term.

Autumn is when the leaves are turning, falling and it is a time for harvesting too. We will be picking and cooking any fruits from the trees and hedges in Hazelwood on the campfire, identifying trees from their leaves, making ink from Blackberries. Autumn crowns, story sticks, soil painting, creating woodland carpets.

Here are just a few of the activities we will exploring: Reflection time and stories around the campfire, a sense of community and connecting with nature are some of our favourite things to do at Forest School. Forest School is mainly child-led, so these are just a suggestion and our sessions flow and change with our explorers.

Just a reminder as the weather is changing, please may we have wellies in school, waterproof coats and trousers, long legs and long arms for protection from scrapes and insect bites. As the weather cools down, layers are a great way of keeping warm. Autumn term is a very exciting one and I look forward to seeing all explorers in the woods.

Mrs Hills
Forest School Leader

From Robins Class



The new year has begun very well in Robins Class.

The children have settled well and getting use to the new routines. They have been demonstrating our Christian value of kindness in abundance and our learning power of team work.



This term the children started the year with a whole school book – Isla and the Sky and we will be starting our Drawing Club adventure.



We will be starting our new RE topic where we will be looking at what people believe is important with a focus on Judaism.

In art we will focus our art skills on drawing, and work on counting and place value in maths. In computing we will be learning about technology around us.

The reception children have completed their baseline so are ready to get learning new things and start their phonic lessons. Next week, Year one children will continue with phonics, reading and Year Two will recap the Phase 5 phonics and begin Little Wandle Spelling.

General Information



PE days are Monday and Thursday. Please come PE ready.

Forest school – Wednesday. Please come in Forest school clothes (long sleeved and trousers). Wellies are a must as the site can be extremely muddy and wet. Children will need school uniform to change into for the afternoon.

Reading Books

Year One and Year Two children will read their group reader book in a group 3 times during the week and then it will be sent home on a Friday so they can share it with you.

Reception children will also share a book in class with adults once they have started phonics the week after next and then bring this home – this will be a wordless book. After the children have begun to blend they will have reading groups like Year 1 and on a Friday bring back their group reader.

Please could these reading books be brought back on a **Friday**.

All children will also take home a library choosing book. This is a reading for pleasure book and is meant to be a book you can read to and share with your child. Ideally library books should be changed once a week, however if you have been brought back a chapter book we understand you may need it longer. Every **Tuesday**, children will change their library book and choose a new one.

Homework

On a Friday children will receive a phonics homework sheet, which covers the words and sounds covered that week for you to practice.

Year One and Year Two children will also receive spellings that will be checked on a Friday. They are always linked to the phonics of the week and includes some tricky words.

Water-bottles

Please could we remind you that juice and squash should not be in the children's bottles. Just water please.

We are so excited to enjoy the Autumn Term with your children.

Mrs Ross, Miss Hilton, Mrs Clements and Mrs Hills.

From Kingfishers Class



Welcome back, everyone! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break.

My name is Miss Lynch, and I am absolutely delighted to introduce myself as the new class teacher for Kingfishers. We have already had a wonderful start to the term, kick-starting our year with the beautiful picture book *Isla and the Sky* by Greg Stobbs, where we closely explored his illustrations to inspire some creative writing and artwork of our own.

Looking ahead to the rest of this half term:

Maths: Building a strong foundation in Place Value, followed by exploring Position and Direction.

English: Diving into history with our key text, *The Secrets of Stonehenge* by Mick Manning and Brita Granström.

History: Journeying back in time as we travel through British prehistory, from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

Science: Investigating the physical world through hands-on experiments with Forces and Magnets.

Religion & Worldviews: Exploring the concept of reconciliation within the Christian faith

Music: Immersing ourselves in the rhythms and history of Jazz.

PE: Developing teamwork and spatial awareness in Tag Rugby, with our Year 4 pupils also heading out for their swimming sessions.

MFL: Ms Hilton will also continue to deliver French (MFL) lessons.

Notices ahead of the half term -

PE and Swimming: All Kingfishers will need to wear PE kit on Tuesdays. Y3 will wear PE kit and Y4 wear school uniform and bring swimming wear on Fridays.

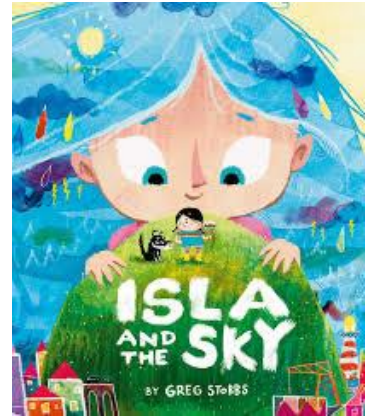
Homework: Homework will be set and collected on a Tuesday (weekly basis unless otherwise communicated)

From Miss Lynch and Miss Field

From Owls Class



Owls have had a fantastic first week back and settled really quickly into our class routines. We started the term with our whole school English project on the picture book 'Isla and the Sky' by Greg Stobbs. The children have written some incredible poems with fantastic descriptions.



We also linked our learning in English to PSHE by talking about identity and influence, as well as, creating watercolour sky images in art. In maths, we made a start on our place value topic, playing a game of 'place value dice' where we were rolling for different target numbers. The children have also painted pebbles with lovely positive messages for our new reflection garden at school.



This half term we shall become explorers in English, finding out about Shackleton's journey. We will be writing diary entries, narratives and a variety of fiction texts. In maths, we will be continuing with



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value before we move on to addition and subtraction Bartholomew and multiplication with Mrs Betts. In this half term, we will be learning about the Tudors and science we will be investigating forces completing lots of investigations and enquiries. Swimming begins this too.

We have an exciting and busy half term ahead with the residential later in October! Please do ask if you have any questions about this. Well done for an excellent start to this year Owls!

A few key bits of information and reminders:

- **PE** - Our PE day is a Tuesday this term and we will be swimming on a Friday morning. For our Tuesday lesson, please make sure earrings are out or that children can remove these themselves. We are not able to take these out or put them back for the children nor are we allowed to tape them. If children are removing earrings in school, it may be helpful to send in a small pot the children can leave on their desk or in their bag during the lesson. This is to stop any earrings rolling off the table and going missing!
- **Homework** - This will be given out on a Thursday and is due in on a Wednesday. The children will be given an English and a Maths task each week. Spelling homework will be given out on a Monday and the children are being encouraged to complete the assignments and practice in the Mastery Zone which provides tailored support. We would also like the children to continue with their times table practice on Tackling Tables and read regularly each week.
- **Reading** - AR books quizzes will need to be completed when they have finished their reading book as before. There will be iPads available each morning during registration for the children to use for this. Children are also encouraged to write their reading, both in school and at home, in their reading diaries across the week. Please could an adult hear their children read each week and sign in the diary to confirm this. Diaries will be collected in on a Monday to monitor and track progress as reading is a key skill.

From Mrs Betts, Mrs Bartholomew and Mrs Bird

Friends of Elmsett School

Thank you to FOES for providing ice lollies each Friday last term and refreshments at our end of term events. The Obstacle Fun Run was a big hit, thank you to everyone who sponsored the children to help raise £500! FOES will be in touch soon with future fundraising events and activities.

Looking ahead, instead of holding a Christmas Fayre, this year FOES and the School will be collaborating with the Village Hall at the Village Christmas Fayre on 12th December. FOES will be looking for your support. Also, the children have been asked to sing at 2.30pm, more details to follow.

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning – Tuesday 22nd September

Everyone is invited to our Macmillan Coffee morning on Tuesday 22nd September from 9am – 11am. Please come along during the morning for 'coffee and cake' We welcome donations of nut free cakes from Monday 21st which can be dropped off at the School Office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Hilton'.

Miss Leigh Hilton

Headteacher
On behalf of Elmsett Church of England Primary School