Elmstead Primary School

NEWSLETTER
Friday 6th November 2026

www.elmsteadprimary.com

New Half Term

Ian MacDonald (Headteacher)

This week has been the beginning of the second half term of the school year. The children have returned to school with a positive attitude and have been working hard.

We have started looking at our Core Value of Open-mindedness. We have thought about what it means to be open-minded and been thinking about both the way that we treat others and the way that we approach life. The key theme this week has been about showing respect.

Tomorrow, Elmstead Cricket Club's Big Bang Fireworks Festival takes place; EPSA will be running some stalls to raise money for the school and hopefully the weather will be good!

Next week, we have our first two tours of the school for prospective parents of children starting school in September 2027.

Online Safety Newsletter

I have attached to this week's Newsletter our Online Safety Newsletter for November. Please do take the time to read it as it does provide really useful information for you to help you keep your child safe online.

The November video is about **Online Grooming.**

Online Grooming

Description: This video provides a short overview explaining what Online Grooming is, spotting the warning signs and what actions you should take if this is happening to your child.

Picking children up after school

As the clocks have now changed and the evenings are getting darker, please could I encourage you to make sure that you or a designated adult is picking your child/ children up after school, particularly if they have been to an after school club. If you are happy for your child to walk home on their own, which is probably Year 5 and Year 6 parents/ carers, then please make sure that the School Office has been notified of this.

P.E. days for each class – please note that these days may be different from the first half term

On the days that your child's class has P.E., they will need to come in to school in their P.E. kit as the children will not change for P.E. They will remain in these clothes all day so do not need to bring in uniform to change into afterwards. These are the days that each class is doing P.E. starting from week:

Reception: Friday
Year 1: Thursday and Friday
Year 2: Monday and Friday
Year 3: Monday and Friday
Year 4: Wednesday and Friday
Year 5: Wednesday and Friday
Year 6: Thursday and Friday

Attendance this week:

This week's attendance figures:

Year 1: 97.93%
Year 2: 99.31%
Year 3: 97.24%
Year 4: 94.14%
Year 5: 92.26%
Year 6: 96.21%

Attendance Matters ...every school day counts!

Congratulations to Year 2 for this week's highest attendance!

Wellies for the field at lunchtimes

A reminder that if your child is in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) and they would like to play on the field during lunchtime, they will need to bring in a paired of named wellies and a pair of spare socks in a carrier bag to change into. This will then avoid the children's uniform getting muddy and also prevent mud being brought into school.

Each year group has football on the field at lunchtime on the following days:

Monday: Year 6
Tuesday: Year 5
Wednesday: Year 4
Thursday: Year 3

Coats

As we get closer to winter, the weather is starting to get wetter and, at some point, it will get colder too. Please can you make sure that the children are coming to school with coats, with their name in, and are suitably attired for these conditions.

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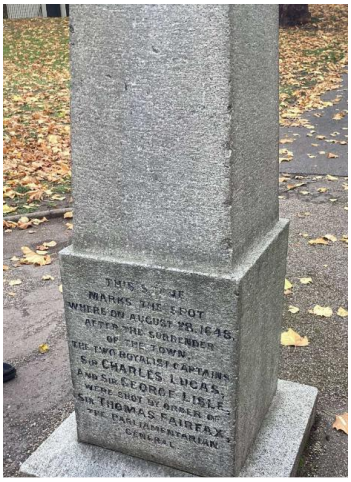
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Walking Through History: Year 5 Conquer Colchester!

Year 5 had a fantastic time stepping back in time on Wednesday on our trip around Colchester, exploring some of the key locations linked to the Siege of Colchester, including Colchester Castle, the Priory and the Siege House. The children certainly had to put their walking shoes on, covering plenty of ground as we explored the town! They approached the day with a brilliant, active attitude, showing lots of enthusiasm and energy throughout. It was wonderful to see just how much information the children had remembered from our Siege of Colchester day before half term! As we explored, the children put their knowledge to the test by completing a quiz, answering questions about the historical locations and events. They also had the opportunity to bring history to life by creating their own re-enactments of scenes from the Civil War and performing them to the rest of the class. The children were fantastic throughout the day, showing excellent behaviour, respect and enthusiasm. I am incredibly proud of them all! A huge thank you to all of our parent helpers who gave up their time to make the trip possible.
Miss Hastings







Toys Through Time: Year 1 Take a Trip Down Memory Lane!

Year 1 have had a fantastic start to their new History topic, *Toys Past and Present*! The children began by exploring how toys have changed over time and discovering what playtime might have looked like for children in the past.
During the lesson, Mr MacDonald popped in to share some of his own childhood Star Wars figures, giving the children a little glimpse into the toys he enjoyed growing up with!
The children then had the opportunity to get hands-on with a range of traditional toys, playing with them, investigating how they worked and comparing them with the toys they enjoy today. They also explored the different materials the toys were made from and considered how this compares to the materials used for toys nowadays.
The children thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to play, investigate and discover just how much toys have changed over the years. What a lovely way to kick-start our new topic!
Miss Penwill





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Year 4 launch into the Viking Age

Year 4 have been getting creative during half term by researching the Vikings and creating a project to share what they have learnt. We were so impressed to see their creations which included information posters, model longships, shields, swords and jewellery. They were so excited to share their creations and couldn't wait for their history lesson to find out more. They showed great knowledge of Viking longships and understood how the Vikings were able to travel so far in them from Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Here are some other interesting facts that they have found out:

- Vikings did not wear horned helmets.
- Although famous for raiding and invading, most were peaceful farmers.
- To 'Go Viking' meant to go on a plunder trip.
- Far from being dirty barbarians, they actually cared deeply about cleanliness and grooming. Archaeologists have found combs, tweezers and razors in Viking graves.

Needless to say, they are getting very excited for their Viking day at the end of term!
Mrs Chase







After School Club

What a wonderful week we've had in After School Club!
This week our focus was independence and teamwork. The children did brilliantly making their own tasty snacks – we had yummy sandwiches and crackers which they prepared all by themselves!
We made the most of the dry weather and spent time outside playing together. It was so lovely to see everyone helping each other and being kind friends during our games.
We started our week, by getting creative and made some absolutely gorgeous painted firework pictures – they are bright, sparkly and now hopefully proudly on display at home.
To end the week, we made chocolate sparklers! Using breadsticks chocolate and sprinkles! Yum
Well done to all our superstars!
Mrs Hammarton and Miss Robson







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Children in Need – Pyjama Day!

Following a decision made by our School Council, the children have chosen to celebrate Children in Need with a Pyjama Day!
On Friday 13th November, children are invited to come to school wearing their favourite pyjamas in return for a £1 donation to Children in Need.
It's a lovely opportunity for everyone to get cosy, have some fun and help raise money for a fantastic cause. We are so proud of the children for choosing to support such a worthwhile charity!
Thank you for your support.
Miss Penwill



Get Ready for the Pudsey Run!

A huge thank you to everyone who has already signed up and started fundraising for our **Pudsey Run in aid of Children in Need!** It has been amazing to see the enthusiasm and generosity of our children, who have been working so hard to raise money for such a fantastic cause.
We are particularly excited to celebrate some incredible fundraising efforts! A special shout-out to our top fundraisers so far:

- 🥇 **1st Place: Ada (Year 2)**
- 🥈 **2nd Place: Josh (Year 2) and Blake (EYFS)**
- 🥉 **3rd Place: Zahra (Year 1)**



All of our top fundraisers have raised an incredible **over £100 each!** What an achievement – we are so proud of you!
The Pudsey Run will take place in school next Friday, 13th November. All children will have the opportunity to take part in the run, but please remember that children must be signed up and have received sponsorship donations to qualify for their special Pudsey Run medal and certificate.
There's still time to sign up! Make sure you register your child before next Friday so they can be recognised for their fundraising efforts and receive their medal and certificate.
Every donation, big or small, makes a difference. Let's make this year's Pudsey Run one to remember!
Miss Penwill

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extra

Your Sensory Child

Scan to book your free place

Join us for a relaxed, informative workshop to explore how children experience the world through their senses, how this can affect their emotions and behaviour — and why it matters. Learn practical strategies to support your child's unique needs.



Karen - Parent Service Manager



Angela- Associate Facilitator

Monkwick Infant School, Colchester, CO28NN

Monday 9th November 2026
9.30am - 11.30am



admin@extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk
01255475001
www.extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk/
Registered in England No: 1158891

Funded by...

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Mindfulness

Scan to register

This free 5-week course is designed for parents and carers of young children and teenagers. It explores how mindfulness can support you in your parenting role, helping to reduce stress, build confidence, and bring more calm, kindness, and enjoyment into everyday family life.
Each week you will learn simple mindfulness practices for yourself, along with fun activities you can share with your child at home.
The course includes:

- Parent Journal
- A booklet of mindfulness practices for children
- 6 guided mindfulness recordings

These practices are designed to support your wellbeing while creating meaningful and enjoyable moments with your child.

Starts Wednesday 11th November 2026
9.30am - 12pm
Online



admin@extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk
01255475001
www.extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk/
Registered in England No: 1158891

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Emotional Regulation Workshop

Scan to book your place

This workshop will help parents/carers to support their children through those BIG emotions.

We will explore core emotions, what triggers them and learn strategies to help our children on the journey towards self regulation.

Friday 13th November 2026
10am - 12pm

Orminston Centre, Berechurch. CO2 8NN



admin@extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk
01255475001
www.extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk/
Registered in England No: 1158891

funded by

Essex County Council

extra

Connective Family (Non Violent Response Training)

Scan to register

Non Violent response (NVR) is an evidenced based 9 week therapeutic programme for parents whose children/young people are exhibiting some challenging behaviours.
Several recent outcome studies have shown that NVR is effective in improving the behaviour of a significant percentage of young people, reducing parents' feelings of helplessness, and raising their confidence, as well as bringing about a more peaceful atmosphere within the family.



Karen - Parent and Services Manager



Jo - Associate Facilitator

Starts Tuesday 17th November
10am - 12pm
at Jaywick Community Resource Centre.
CO15 2JP



admin@extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk
01255475001
www.extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk/
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School Dinner Menus

Next week, we will be on Week 2 of our new Menus. The menus can be seen on the School Website at: https://www.elmsteadprimary.com/Dinner-Menus/. **School dinners can be paid for electronically on Arbor.**

Diary Dates

Academic Year 2026/ 2027

Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 10th November	Tour for prospective new parents/ carers – September 2027 – 11:00am
Thursday 12th November	Tour for prospective new parents/ carers – September 2027– 2:00pm
Friday 13th November	Children in Need Day – Run Pudsey
Wednesday 18th November	Tour for prospective new parents/ carers – September 2027 – 2:00pm
Monday 16th – Friday 20th November	Anti-Bullying Week 2026
Thursday 19th November	Tour for prospective new parents/ carers – September 2027 – 11:00am
Friday 27th November	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 30th November	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 4th December	EYFS Nativity – 9:30am
Friday 4th December	EPSA Christmas Fair – 4:00pm to 8:00pm
Tuesday 8th December	KS1 Nativity – 1:30pm
Wednesday 9th December	KS1 Nativity – 9:30am
Thursday 10th December	Year 4 Viking Day
Monday 14th December	pm – KS2 Carol Service
Tuesday 15th December	Whole School Trip to 'The Wizard of Oz Musical'
Thursday 17th December	iRock Concert for Parents/ Carers
Friday 18th December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 18th December	Last day of term

Forest School Dates for this term:



Forest School – Autumn Term 1

Week 1 8th September	Week 2 15th September	Week 3 22nd September	Week 4 29th September	Week 5 6th October	Week 6 13th October	Week 7 20th October
Year 6	Year 6	Year 5	Year 5	Year 4	Year 4	Year 3

Forest School – Autumn Term 2

Week 8 3rd November	Week 9 10th November	Week 10 17th November	Week 11 24th November	Week 12 1st December	Week 13 8th December	Week 14
Year 3	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 1	EYFS	Pantomime

Your child's teacher will tell you which of the two groups your child is in (Group 1 or Group 2) so you know which session your child will be taking part in and when to bring in their Forest School clothes.