

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Elm Class team, I am happy to welcome you back to a new school year! We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognise that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education.

We have a very exciting term planned which is sure to ignite lots of enthusiasm from us all and engage the children in a stimulating curriculum.

Writing

In Writing our work will focus on character and settings and we will be thinking about the features that authors use to create effective descriptions. Children will be composing their own descriptions and we are using the book 'small things' by Mel Treginning as a stimulus. Children will also be using this to look at a non-fiction focus and will be writing their own information leaflets and magazine articles concerning emotions and mental health.

After half term, children will be studying *The Whale* by Ethan and Vita Murrow. Using this beautifully illustrated text as a stimulus for their learning pupils will explore characters, themes and storytelling techniques while developing their reading and writing skills. They will focus on how dialogue and conversation can help to reveal characters' thoughts, feelings and relationships, learning how to punctuate and structure direct speech accurately. Children will also use the text as inspiration for planning, composing and publishing their own explanation texts, developing their ability to organise information clearly and write for a specific purpose and audience. Through these activities, pupils will continue to improve their vocabulary, creativity and confidence as writers.

Reading

Our reading this term will be centred around the exciting text *The Curse of the Maya*. Through this engaging story, children will develop a range of reading skills using the VIPERS approach (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval and Summarising). They will explore the text in depth, discussing characters, events and themes, while developing their comprehension and analytical skills. Children will also consider the choices the author has made.

Maths

Year 5 Mathematics

This term, Year 5 children will continue to develop their confidence and fluency in mathematics through the White Rose Maths curriculum. They will begin by strengthening their understanding of place value, working with numbers up to 1,000,000, before moving on to the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Children will build their reasoning and problem-solving skills as they apply mathematical knowledge to a range of real-life contexts. Throughout the term, pupils will be encouraged to explain their thinking, use mathematical vocabulary accurately and develop efficient calculation strategies.

Year 6 Mathematics

This term, Year 6 children will deepen their mathematical understanding through the White Rose Maths curriculum as they prepare for the challenges of upper Key Stage 2. They will begin by revisiting and extending their knowledge of place value, before developing fluency and confidence in the four operations when working with increasingly complex numbers. Children will apply their skills through a range of reasoning and problem-solving activities, learning to justify their methods and evaluate different approaches. The curriculum is designed to build resilience, accuracy and confidence ensuring pupils are well prepared for the mathematical learning they will encounter throughout the year.

Science

The children will be studying Living Things and Their Habitats in Science. Children will develop their understanding of how living things are classified by exploring the work of Carl Linnaeus and learning how scientists group organisms according to their characteristics. They will investigate microorganisms, plants and animals, discovering how similarities and differences help scientists identify and classify species. Through practical activities and scientific enquiry, pupils will develop their observation, reasoning and investigation skills while gaining a deeper understanding of the diversity of life on Earth and the importance of classification in the scientific world.

After half term, Year 6 will be learning about Light and Reflection through the Kapow Science curriculum. Children will investigate how light travels and how we are able to see objects. They will explore how light is reflected from surfaces, learn about the difference between reflection and refraction, and discover how mirrors can change the direction of light. Through practical investigations, pupils will make predictions, carry out fair tests and use scientific evidence to explain their findings. They will develop their understanding of key scientific concepts while building important enquiry and problem-solving skills.

History

This term, Elm will be learning about the fascinating Ancient Maya civilisation through their history topic. Children will explore who the Maya were, where they lived, and how this remarkable civilisation developed in Central America. They will investigate Maya society, including their beliefs, achievements, trade, farming methods and impressive understanding of mathematics and astronomy. Pupils will also examine the evidence historians use to learn about the Maya today and compare aspects of Maya life with other ancient civilisations they have previously studied. This exciting topic will encourage children to think critically, ask questions and develop a deeper understanding of how the past has shaped the world we live in today.

Physical Education

Our PE days this term will be Tuesday and Friday. On Tuesdays, children will take part in football and lessons will be held outdoors, so please ensure that they come to school dressed in their PE kit and are prepared for all weather conditions, including cooler or wetter days. On Fridays, children will participate in gymnastics, which will take place indoors. We kindly ask that children wear their PE kit to school on both PE days, as this maximises the time available for learning and physical activity and helps lessons to begin promptly. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is ready to take part fully in these sessions.

Religious Education

This term, Year 6 will be exploring the unit "What Would Jesus Do?" Children will investigate how Christians use the teachings and example of Jesus to guide the choices they make in their daily lives. Through studying key Bible passages, children will consider what it means to follow Jesus in the modern world. They will explore how Christians put these beliefs into action, reflecting on questions about right and wrong, helping others and making a positive difference in their communities. The unit encourages children to think deeply about how values and beliefs can influence the way people live.

Personal Social Health Education

In PSHE children will be focusing on the 'Me and Relationships' unit. Children will explore what makes healthy, positive relationships and consider the importance of kindness, respect and empathy in their interactions with others. They will learn to recognise the qualities of good friendships, understand how relationships can change over time and develop strategies for maintaining positive relationships. The children will also explore conflict resolution, learning how to manage disagreements respectfully,

communicate effectively and find solutions to problems. Through discussion, role-play and reflective activities, pupils will build their confidence, emotional literacy and understanding of how to develop and sustain healthy relationships both now and in the future.

Computing

In Computing this term, children will learn about the importance of developing healthy habits when using technology. They will learn how to keep themselves safe online, including how to protect their personal information, recognise potential risks and behave responsibly when using digital devices and the internet. Children will also begin to explore coding, learning how to create and debug simple programs. In addition, they will look at the programmes and systems used to support coding and understand how different technologies work together.

Art/Music

Children we be exploring and investigating a range of artists and styles including more classic and contemporary art. Focus this term will be on Street Art. They will explore how street artists use art to communicate messages, express opinions and make people think about important issues. Children will learn about famous street artists and investigate techniques such as perspective, scaling up drawings and creating impactful designs. In Music this term, children will develop their appreciation and understanding of a wide range of musical styles, genres and musicians from different times and cultures. They will listen to and discuss music, learning to identify key features and express their opinions about what they hear. Children will also develop their music-reading skills, exploring rhythm and notation, before using these skills to compose and perform their own musical pieces

We do appreciate your support with home learning. This year we will be sending homework home on a Friday and can be returned any time up to the following Wednesday. We also encourage children to be reading 3 times per week either independently or sharing this with an adult and we expect them to have their reading books in school every day.

If you have any questions regarding the curriculum please do not hesitate to ask.

Best Wishes

Mr Martin and Mrs Hale

