



A Strong Start to Writing

Ian MacDonald (Headteacher)

Over the first few weeks of this term, we have had a whole-school focus on strengthening some of the essential building blocks of writing. It has been wonderful to see how positively the children have responded and, already, we are seeing a real impact in their work.

Every child has been working on an age-appropriate unit focused on developing a secure understanding of **what makes a sentence**. Alongside this, children have been using **green and red pens** as they write – green for capital letters and red for punctuation within and at the end of sentences. This simple approach helps to slow the writing process down and encourages children to really think about the punctuation choices they are making.

These were two important areas we wanted to develop this year, and we are already seeing a really positive difference. One of my favourite parts has been having children come to see me to proudly share their writing. Seeing their excitement and hearing them explain what they have been working on and how their writing has improved, has been fantastic.

We want our children to see themselves as writers and to feel proud of what they can achieve.

For more information about what we are doing so you can support your child at home with writing, please read the accompanying information from **Mrs Harmer**.

Online Safety Newsletter

I have attached to this week's Newsletter our Online Safety Newsletter for October. This month's edition has articles about AI Companions and Discord.

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.

Our October video has the theme: **Digital Wellbeing**

[Digital Wellbeing](#)

Description: *This video provides a quick overview on how to help children build healthier tech habits.*

Attendance this week:

This week's attendance figures:

Year 1: 97.93%

Year 2: 98.00%

Year 3: 99.31%

Year 4: 91.38%

Year 5: 95.81%

Year 6: 97.92%



Congratulations to Year 3 for this week's highest attendance!

Tours of the school for prospective new parents/ carers – September 2027

Primary School applications for children to start in Reception at a Primary School in September 2026 can be made from 9th November 2026. (The closing date is 15th January 2027.)

Therefore, we will be having tours of the school for prospective new parents/ carers on the following days and times:

Tuesday 10th November – 11:00am

Thursday 12th November – 2:00pm

Wednesday 18th November – 2:00pm

Thursday 19th November – 11:00am

Please contact the School Office for more information or to book a place on one of the tours.

Breakfast Club – Important Update

Our Breakfast Club continues to be very popular with families and we are delighted that so many children are enjoying a sociable start to their day.

To make sure that we can provide a safe and welcoming environment for all children, we must ensure that we have the correct staff-to-children ratio in place each morning. For this reason, **only children who have been pre-booked by 4:00pm the previous day can be admitted to Breakfast Club.**

We kindly ask all parents and carers to help us by making sure bookings are made in advance.



Our Wonderful World of Play

Reception have enjoyed settling into their new classroom and are becoming more and more confident in exploring the exciting areas on offer. Our 'Playroom' role play area has inspired lots of imaginative adventures, with the children creating their own stories and working together. We have travelled through space on exciting missions, constructed impressive cities using a variety of construction materials and transformed ourselves into magical fairy space explorers through the dressing up box! It has been wonderful to see friendships growing and confidence developing as everyone becomes settled in their new environment. Well done Reception!

Miss Procter



Fruit-tastic Fun in Year 1!

Year 1 have been busy in DT designing and making their very own fruit kebabs! First, they tasted a range of different fruits to help them decide which ones they would like to include in their design. This week, they put their plans into action and carefully made their fruit kebabs, showing some fantastic cutting skills and thinking carefully about the order they wanted their fruit to go in. They worked amazingly well and were very proud of their finished creations. Of course, the best part was getting to taste and enjoy their delicious fruit kebabs at the end!

Miss Penwill



School Dinner Menus

Next week, we will be on Week 1 of our 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 20 th October	Parents' Evening – 3:30pm to 6:30pm
Thursday 22 nd October	Parents' Evening – 3:30pm to 6:30pm
Monday 26 th October	Half term holiday week
Thursday 5 th November	Year 3 Layer Marney Trip
Tuesday 10 th November	Tour for prospective new parents/ carers – September 2027 – 11:00am
Thursday 12 th November	Tour for prospective new parents/ carers – September 2027 – 2:00pm
Wednesday 18 th November	Tour for prospective new parents/ carers – September 2027 – 2:00pm
Thursday 29 th November	Tour for prospective new parents/ carers – September 2027 – 11:00am
Friday 27 th November	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 30 th November	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 14 th December	pm – KS2 Carol Service
Tuesday 15 th December	Whole School Trip to 'The Wizard of Oz Musical'
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term

Forest School Dates for this term:



Forest School – Autumn Term 1

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

Forest School – Autumn Term 2

Week 8 3 rd November	Week 9 10 th November	Week 10 17 th November	Week 11 24 th November	Week 12 1 st December	Week 13 8 th 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.