



Parents' Evenings – A New Format This Year

Ian MacDonald (Headteacher)

Our Parents' Evenings will take place on **Tuesday 20th October and Thursday 22nd October, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm.**

This year, we are making a few changes to the format of our Parents' Evenings to ensure that these meetings are focused on what matters most – **your child's learning, academic progress and next steps.**

We would like **as many children as possible to attend their appointment alongside their parents/carers**, as we believe it is important for children to be involved in conversations about their own learning, celebrate their achievements and understand what they are working towards.

Booking an appointment

From **Monday 12th October**, you will be able to book a ten-minute appointment using the clipboards near the School Office.

Arrangements on the evening

When you arrive, please make your way to the **Reception classroom**, which will be our waiting area. All teachers will be based in the school hall, and you will be invited through at your allocated appointment time.

Holding the meetings in the hall will help us to provide a welcoming and well-organised environment, whilst ensuring appointments run smoothly and on time.

Making the most of your appointment

The main purpose of Parents' Evening is to discuss your child's academic progress, achievements and next steps in learning. To ensure that every family has this valuable opportunity, we kindly ask that conversations remain focused on these areas and that the ten-minute appointment time is respected.

We recognise that there may be other matters you wish to discuss with your child's teacher. If a longer conversation is needed, or you would like to raise something beyond your child's academic progress, we will be very happy to arrange a separate meeting at a mutually convenient time. This will ensure that any additional matters can be discussed fully, without impacting on the time allocated to other families.

A chance to celebrate your child's work

We will not be looking through children's books during Parents' Evening appointments this year. Instead, we will be holding a special **'Parent Proud Pop-In'** during the second half of term, when you will be invited into school to spend time with your child, look through their books and celebrate the learning they have been doing. More details will follow.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Parents' Evening and working together to support their continued progress and success.

Attendance this week:

This week's attendance figures:

Year 1: 95.52%

Year 2: 94.00%

Year 3: 96.21%

Year 4: 97.59%

Year 5: 97.42%

Year 6: 95.86%



Congratulations to Year 4 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.

Flu Immunisations

The flu immunisations for children are due to take place on Monday next week with the Essex Partnership University Trust Immunisation Team.

You should already have completed the consent form online if you want your child to have the flu immunisation.

Year 6 Parents/ Carers – Secondary School Applications

You can now apply online for your child's secondary school (year 7) place for children starting secondary school in September 2027. Read about the [secondary \(year 7\)](#) school place application process. All applications received after 31st October 2026 will be treated as late and will only be processed after all on-time applications.



Elmstead Primary Crowned Penrose Cup Champions Again!

Elmstead Primary School's football team were celebrating once again after a fantastic team performance saw them lift the **Penrose Cup for the fourth time in five years!**

The tournament kicked off with an impressive 3-1 victory over Great Bentley, giving the team the perfect start. Next up were Frinton, who took an early 1-0 lead. However, our players showed tremendous determination and resilience to fight back, scoring a well-deserved equaliser to earn a 1-1 draw.

Our next match saw us face Great Bentley again, and this time the team really turned on the style! Some brilliant attacking football and cracking goals helped us storm to a superb 5-0 victory!

Going into our final match against Frinton, we knew that a win would guarantee us the trophy. In a closely fought contest, both teams battled hard, but neither could find the breakthrough, with the match finishing 0-0.

This meant the destination of the Penrose Cup rested on the final game between Frinton and Great Bentley. If Frinton failed to win by more than two goals, the trophy would be ours. After a nervous wait, the match finished 1-1, confirming **Elmstead Primary as Penrose Cup champions once again!**

A huge well done to **Tyler, Chance, Yahya, Lucas D, Jayjay, Lucas W, Ellie, Alfie and Hudson**, who all represented the school brilliantly. A special mention must go to **Hudson, who scored an incredible six goals** throughout the tournament!

There was some fantastic teamwork on display, plenty of brilliant goals and, most importantly, every match was played in a wonderful sporting spirit.

We couldn't be prouder of the whole team. Four Penrose Cup triumphs in five years – what an achievement!



Year 3's Fantastic Fossils!

Year 3 have been exploring rocks and fossils in science! This week, the children put their learning into practice by creating their own clay fossil models, inspired by dinosaurs, shells, fish and other living things from long ago, such as leaves, plants and insects. They used a range of techniques, including: pressing objects into the clay and using tools to draw designs, add details and create patterns.

The activity helped bring to life our learning about how fossils can preserve evidence of living things from the past. The children showed creativity and care as they worked, thinking about the shapes, textures and features they wanted to include. Each fossil model was unique, a fantastic way to combine scientific learning with artistic skills! Each fossil looked fantastic, and the children were very proud of their creations!

Miss Martin





Play Champions of the Week

A huge well done to our fantastic Play Champions this week!

KS1 – Maisie (Year 2) ☀

Maisie has been recognised for her wonderful imaginative play and for always making sure others feel included. What a fantastic friend!

KS2 – George (Year 3) ☀

George has been recognised for always including others in his play and consistently showing lovely manners towards both adults and his peers. What a brilliant role model!

Well done to both of our Play Champions for helping to make our playground a happy and welcoming place for everyone!

Miss Penwill



We're Upgrading to School Jotter 3!

Our School Jotter app has been a great way to keep parents and carers up to date, and we are now upgrading to School Jotter 3, making it even easier to receive important messages, reminders, school news, letters, photos and calendar updates straight to your phone. Instructions on how to download the new app have been sent home with your child today. **Once installed, please delete the old School Jotter 2 app** to ensure you stay connected and don't miss any important updates!



We're taking on a whole-school Run Pudsey challenge for BBC Children in Need!

On **Friday 13th November**, our children will be getting active and each taking on an amazing **2,026 metre challenge** to raise money for BBC Children in Need.

We would love as many children as possible to get involved! Simply **sign your child up**, share their fundraising page with family and friends and see how much we can raise together. Every donation, big or small, will help support children and young people across the UK – see the attached poster for more information.

☀ **Our challenge:** 2,026 metres

📅 **When:** Friday 13th November 2026

🐻 **The reward:** Children taking part can work towards their **Run Pudsey medal and certificate!**

[runPudsey - Take Part](#)

Can we make this our biggest fundraising challenge yet? **Dig out those trainers, get those sponsors coming in and let's Run Pudsey!**

SEND Roadshow

Please see attached a poster for the North East Essex Local Offer Roadshow, which is taking place at Frinton Lawn Tennis Club, Frinton on the morning of Thursday 15th October.

School Dinner Menus

Next week, we will be on Week 2 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.**



Never miss school notifications

Download the School Jotter Mobile App today and you'll get:

-  News and message notifications
-  School calendar access
-  Other links to useful resources



How to register

To access the app you will need to register your account:

1. Open the App
2. Click Register Account
3. Enter your registration code (you will get it from school)
4. Now register your account

If you already have an Account

1. Open the App
2. Tap Profile icon
3. Navigate to school list
4. Click Add School and enter your code





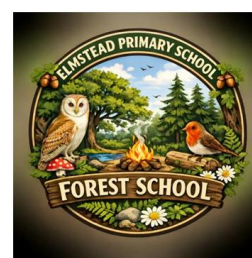
Diary Dates

Academic Year 2026/ 2027

Autumn Term 2026

Monday 12 th October	Flu Immunisations
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
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need Day – Run Pudsey
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 11 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.