

Elm Class Newsletter

Autumn 2024

For more information about Elm Class please visit

<https://www.stmarysroughton.co.uk/home/children/class-pages/elm-class/>

Welcome back

We hope that you all had an enjoyable summer break. The children have been telling us all about your adventures over the past 6 weeks, and it sounds like you were all very busy! Elm Class has made a great start to the new school year. The Year 1 children are settling in well, and the Year 2s have been very welcoming towards their new classmates.

Thank you

Miss Pearce, Mrs Wallace and Mrs Lewis would like to say thank you very much for the kind wishes, cards and gifts we received at the end of last term. They were very gratefully received.

Curriculum

This year we will continue to use the CUSP curriculum for English, Geography, History, Science, Art and DT. We will use Jigsaw for RSE, Charanga for Music and White Rose for Maths. You can find more information about our curriculum for the Autumn term on the final page of this newsletter, and on the school website.

Handwriting

Once children enter Key Stage 1 then they will start to learn cursive script. This means that all lower case letters will start on the line, and will have lead in and lead out lines as shown below.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q
r s t u v w x y z

This is to prepare children for joining their writing when they enter Key Stage 2. Please can you encourage your child to use a cursive script when writing at home. There is a formation guide on the fourth page of this newsletter, but if you would like a paper copy to have at home then please let Miss Pearce, or Mrs Wallace know. Handwriting will continue to be an area of focus in Elm Class, and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Read Write Inc

This week (week beginning 9th September) all children will complete a RWI assessment. This will be completed by Miss Pearce, and will involve a short 1:1 session where children will be asked to read letters, words or short passages of text. Once all RWI assessments have been completed, the children will be organised into different groups dependent on their ability, and RWI sessions will begin. These take place Monday to Thursday, and on a Friday your child will bring home their RWI book to read to you. Your child will have read this book several times in school already, and we would ask that you encourage them to read the book as independently as possible. One of our main areas of focus in reading is fluency. This is a vital skill, and we are working hard to establish the routine of sounding words out in their head (we refer to this as 'Fred in your head' after the RWI character Fred the frog) rather than sounding words out loud. It would be very helpful if you could encourage your child to do this when you are reading with them at home. Please could you make sure that RWI books are returned to school by the following Friday. When your child has read at home please make a note of this in their reading record book.

Class Library Books

Alongside bringing their RWI book home, children will also be selecting a book from our class library. Rather than being a book for them to independently read to you (as is the case with their RWI book) this book should be a shared experience which you could either read to them, or you could take turns and try to read together. To encourage comprehension skills it would be really helpful if you could spend some time discussing the story, characters or type of book with your child. Class library books will be changed on a Tuesday so please make sure that they are in school on that day. On a Tuesday we have a reading volunteer in our class called Diana. She will read 1:1 with your child an appropriate RWI level book, and will record this in your child's reading record book. She will also change your child's Class library book with them.

Jumpers and cardigans

In Elm Class we have a jumper box to help try and keep track of the children's jumpers and cardigans when they have taken them off. Whilst this provides a central location for the children to keep their jumpers and cardigans, if they are not named it can be exceptionally difficult to work out which jumper belongs to which child. Please can you make sure you name your child's clothing so that we are able to return it to the correct owner.

Elm Class PE will take place on a Tuesday. Children will need to wear their PE kit to school on this day. If your child has their ears pierced, please can you make sure that their earrings have been removed for PE.

Woodland Learning

Elm Class will be taking part in Woodland Learning this term. They will need to wear their Woodland Learning clothes to school on a Wednesday. Please see the information below about Woodland Learning

Woodland Learning

As part of the children's Woodland Learning experience they are given the opportunity to take part in some messy play. This means that we often end up with very muddy children at the end of the session.

Please can you make sure that your child...

- wears trousers
- has two pairs of footwear (e.g. wellington boots and shoes, or two different pairs of shoes)
- has a spare set of clothes (including socks)
- has a waterproof jacket

Thank you

Aa

Bb

Cc

Dd

Ee

Ff

Gg

Hh

Ii

Jj

Kk

Ll

Mm

Nn

Oo

Pp

Qq

Rr

Ss

Tt

Uu

Vv

Ww

Xx

Yy

Zz

English

Texts: Grandad's Island, The Goose that Laid the Golden Eggs, Mrs Noah's Pocket, Paddington, The Christmas Pine

- Character description
- Poems developing vocabulary
- Retelling a Narrative
- Character description
- RWI phonics and reading comprehension
- Spelling
- Letter formation and handwriting skills

Maths

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths>

- Place Value within 20
- Addition and subtraction within 20
- Place value within 100
- Shape
- Length and height
- Money

PSHE

<https://jigsawpshe.online/>

- Being Me in My World
- Celebrating Difference

Music

<https://charanga.com/site/>

- Pulse, rhythm and pitch
- Playing in an orchestra: understanding what an orchestra is, playing music together

Art

- Drawing. Focus artist: Beth Krommes
- Painting. Focus artist: Wassily Kandinsky

History

- Understand chronology
- Understand the concept of cause and effect, and links to historical events
- The Great Fire of London

Curriculum Information Elm Class Autumn Term

Computing

<https://teachcomputing.org/curriculum/key-stage-1>

- Systems and Networks: IT All Around Us
- Creating Media: Digital Photography

English, Art, DT, History, Science and Geography will be following the CUSP curriculum

<https://www.unity-curriculum.co.uk/more-information/>

Science

- Living things and their habitats: Food chains, animal habitats, identifying sources of food
- Animals including humans: describe the basic needs of animals, understand the importance of health and hygiene to humans

RE

- Autumn 1: Why is light an important symbol for Christians, Jews and Hindus?
- Autumn 2: What does the Nativity story teach Christians about Jesus?

Design and Technology

- Mechanisms: Wheels and axles
- Food and Nutrition: What does healthy mean?

Geography

- Locational knowledge (north, south, east, west)
- Scale and connection (using maps)
- Local area study

PE

Will take place on a Tuesday, and will be taught by Active Education Sports