



SPRING TERM 2024-2025
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS – Elm Class Year 1/2

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new term and a new calendar year! We hope you've all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break, and have had the opportunity to spend time with family and recharge your batteries. We are really excited to get started with some new learning, and it's been great to welcome the children back into school and help them settle back into our classroom routines.

Your child will bring home their new phonics books today. Regular reading at home makes such a difference to children's progress, so it would be brilliant if you could hear your child read every day, or as much as possible. Little and often is best – it's more beneficial to do 10 minutes several times a week, rather than fewer, longer sessions. We will also continue to allow children to bring home a free choice library book every week, which is not levelled, and therefore is intended to be read to them, rather than by them. We ask that these books are returned every Friday so that a new one can be chosen. Reading to your child is just as important as hearing them read, and really helps to develop their vocabulary as well as having lots of mental wellbeing benefits.

Our **English** work this half term will begin with the beautiful 'Tell Me A Dragon' by Jackie Morris. Many of our children are now confidently constructing sentences and short narratives independently, which is brilliant. We will be focusing on generating exciting descriptive language, using conjunctions, and using commas in lists to begin with, as well as practising key spellings and spelling rules. Later on in the term we will be doing some non-fiction writing based on maps and journeys.

In **Maths**, Year 1 will begin the term focusing on addition and subtraction within 20. They will then be introduced to the place value of numbers up to 50. Meanwhile, Year 2 will start the term focusing on money, learning to count in pounds and pence. They will then move on to multiplication and division, aiming to know their 2, 5, and 10 times tables by the end of the year. Any additional practice at home would be greatly beneficial. Towards the end of the term, both year groups will explore length, height, mass, and volume.

During **Geography** lessons, we will learn about maps, including their key features and symbols. We will also learn how to use a compass and its points. Finally, we will plan a journey around the village to study its human and physical characteristics, with a stop at the park for a picnic!

In **Science**, we will be learning about living things and their habitats all the way up until Easter. This is a really fun unit, and a great one to do in the spring when we can see evidence of nest building, and other habitat developments. We are hoping to give the children as many real-life learning experiences as possible - watch this space for more information!

An updated homework 'menu' has been shared on Dojo, with some new activity suggestions for this half term. These tasks have been designed to help develop children's language, understanding of number, and fine and gross motor skills, and are suggestions for activities **in addition to** daily reading.

A few handy reminders for the beginning of the year:

We will be reading with the children 1:1 throughout the week in addition to their daily phonics/ guided reading lessons. This can happen at any point in the week, so please ensure that your child has their reading books and reading record in school every day. Staff will use a pink pen to comment in your child's reading record.

Our days are busy, and children often misplace their belongings. It makes life easier for all of us if everything that comes into school is named, so that it can be reunited with its owner if it goes missing!

PE will be on Mondays and Wednesdays this term. Elm class will be exploring team building on a Monday with Mrs Pemberton. On Wednesdays we will be creating a dance with Miss Lawes which we will showcase at the School Games Dance Festival in February.

Dojo messages are the easiest and quickest way to communicate with us, although you can also of course speak to us in person at the door, or via telephone. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Mrs Haines, Mrs Pemberton, Mrs James and Miss Pope