

Summer term Newsletter

July 2025

MESSAGE FROM MR WILLS

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we end another academic year, I wanted to write and thank you all for your ongoing support. Eltham Church of England Primary School is a very special place but made extra special by each and every family who attends every day.

We joined together this week to say goodbye to Mrs Vagg, Mrs Leung, Mr Tibbert, Mrs Hayes and Miss Lovekin. We will miss them all and wish them all the very best as they embark on the exciting adventures ahead of them!

We also said an emotional goodbye to our wonderful Year 6s. As I told them in the Leavers service at the church last week, they are always welcome back at the school and we look forward to hearing about all their future achievements and successes. I say again, this is not goodbye but instead "see you soon!".

The year has had its share of wonderful moments twinned with challenges and sadness too. We especially think of Chisimdi's family as they approach the first anniversary of his death. We continue to hold them in our prayers.

Whatever you're doing over the Summer break, I hope it is full of rest, refreshment and time to make lasting memories.

The children are back on Tuesday 2nd September at 8:45am. I'm looking forward to it already!

Very best wishes

Matthew Wills Headteacher

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However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

Acts 20:24



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

ABSENCE

Please report any absence either by phone or email to: absence@elthamce.greenwich.sch.uk. You must give a reason for the absence and let the school know daily if your child is off.

CONTACT DETAILS

A reminder to update us with any changes to your contact details i.e. address, phone number, emergency contact details. It is imperative that we have the correct information.

SCHOOL CLUBS

Booking for next term's after school clubs and lunchtime clubs opens on 18th August at 6pm.

SUMMER TENNIS CAMP

Please see the attached flyer advertising Twist Fizz's Summer Tennis Camps running from 21st July - 15th August at Eltham Park South.

SPANISH HOLIDAY CAMP

There will be a Spanish Holiday Camp for children 4 - 11 years old in Eltham Church of England Primary School this summer from Monday 4th - Friday 22nd August from 9:00 am - 3:30pm. The camp is packed with games, drama, art and music workshops, story telling, singing, dancing and more activities to learn Spanish. For more information re booking places etc., visit: https://www.elrecreospanish.com/spanish-holiday/camp

BOPPIN' BUNNIES MUSIC SHOWS

Please see the attached flyers advertising Boppin' Bunnies interactive music shows taking place throughout the summer holidays in Blackheath Standard, Eltham and Woolwich.

PLACES KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1)

Visit https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free to see where kids eat free (or for £1) in the school holidays.

SAFEGUARDING

If you are concerned about a child's safety or wellbeing or you want help to look after your own child, you should contact Children's Services at Royal Borough of Greenwich. If a child is in immediate danger, you should always call the police on 999. Anyone who is concerned about a child's safety or wellbeing can contact using these details: Contact MASH Referral team: Telephone: 020 8921 3172 Email: mash-referrals@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the children and parents for all the kind words and lovely gifts you have given to all members of staff. We are very grateful!

A huge thank you to members of the PTA for their amazing fundraising efforts which this year has enabled the children in every year to enjoy exciting trips out. This has been a great way to support the children's learning. The signature Summer and Christmas fairs were also fantastic events - thank you again for all your hard work in organising these events.

EDIBLE GARDEN

A huge thank you to Godfrey Munro for all his help with the Edible Garden. We would also like to thank Ben Simpson of Simpson Garden Services for his help - he really made a difference to the edible garden in such a short space of time and offered valuable advice!

Breaking News! We have achieved the Eco-School Green Flag Award!

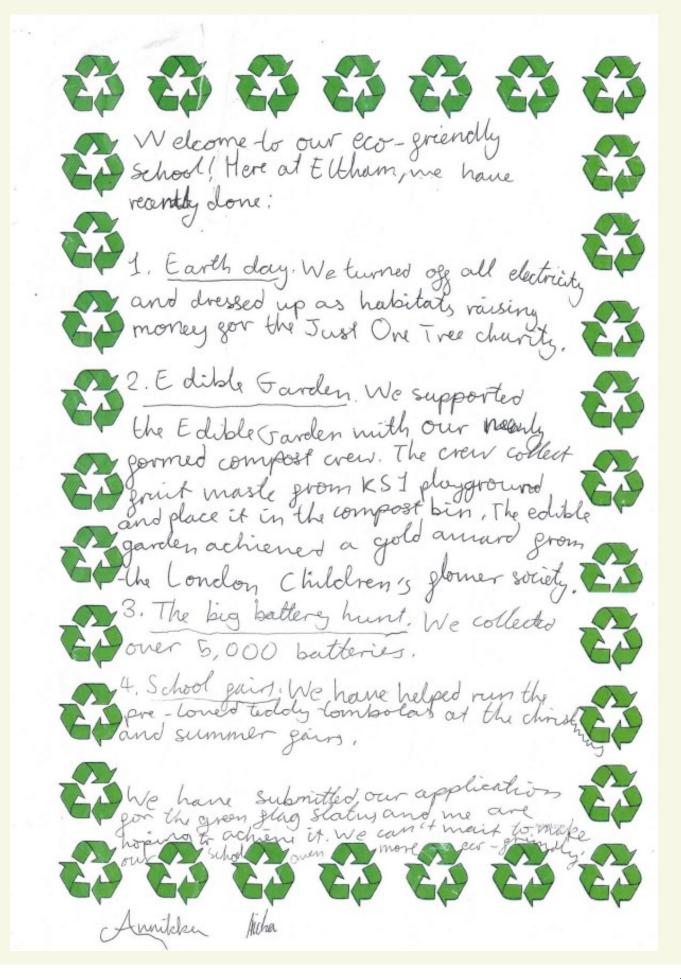
UPCOMING DATES

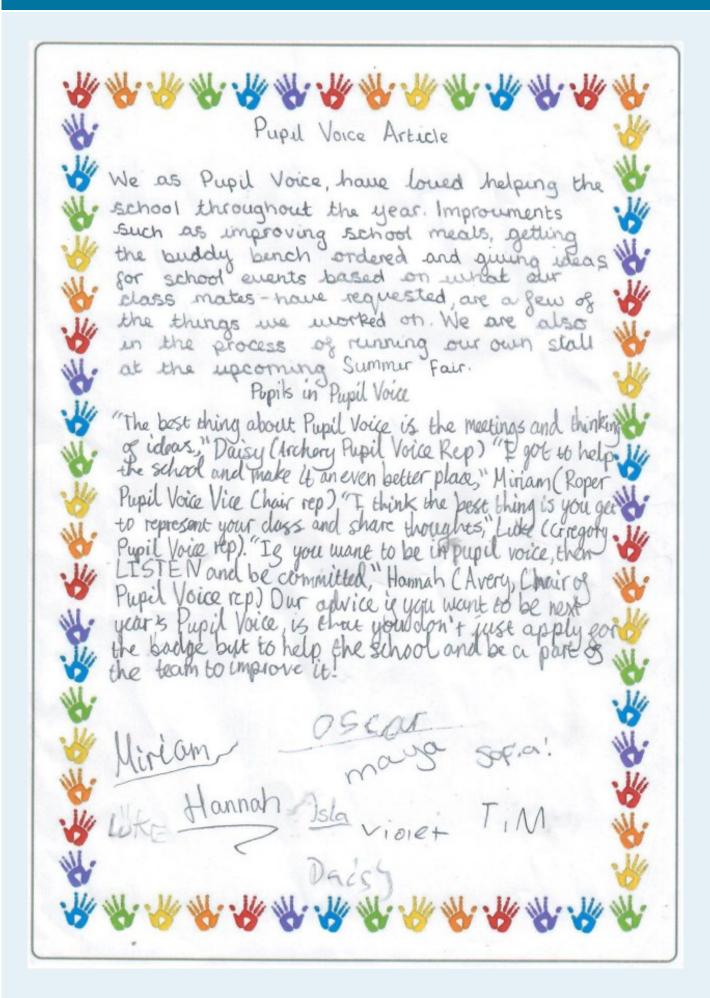
- Children return to school Tuesday 2nd September at 8:45am.
- Please see page 14 for further details of school term dates and Inset Days.



THE ECO COMMITTEE'S END OF YEAR REVIEW

WRITTEN BY ANNIKKA AND AISHA





SCHOOL ASSOCIATION







Hello All,

Another wonderful year has come to an end for the PTA!

We've had a lot of fun with popcorn sales, ice pole sales, the CKB Easter egg hunt and colouring competition. We've had two film nights and the best event in the PTA diary, the school disco, and the eagerly awaited return of Break The Rules Day!

Our busiest time of year is always Christmas, and this year was no exception. The children thoroughly enjoyed choosing presents for their loved ones at our biggest Christmas shop with over 3,000 gifts, and who could forget the magical Willy Wonka themed grotto at the Christmas fair?

This past term has been all about getting ready for the Globetrotters themed summer fair. The parents and children started the ball rolling by coming into school dressed in flag colours and donating some wonderful items to be recycled as prizes at the fair. Your generosity blew us away, so thank you! The fair was like no other, "best ever" it has been suggested! With the sun shining brightly, the surf simulator, a super slide and the fantastic face painter really made the children's day!

A new addition to the fair was the hugely talented Kavel on the steel drum and the brilliant band musicians from the Royal Greenwich Music Service who belted out classic tunes. Thank you both for keeping us so wonderfully entertained!

Thank you once again to CKB Estate Agents for sponsoring our fair and allowing us to not only make it a fundraising event for the school, but also to make the day so special - memories are made for the children.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support of our events. From the uniform sales, to the 5p challenge, to donating items at Christmas, to volunteering at the summer fair, we really do appreciate the support from all of you, parents and staff! You are the best!

This year we have been able to raise over £10,000 which has been spent on wonderful class trips to Creekside Discovery Centre and the Thames Barrier, school equipment, the Christmas pantomime, a buddy bench and some equipment for the edible garden. We will also be funding trees for the edible garden too.

I think it's fair to say, a fantastic year all round!



PTA SPOTLIGHT





PTA SPOTLIGHT

Not only do the PTA want to say a big thank you to all the parents and staff this year. We are losing a key member of the team, the face of the uniform sales, and we all want to say a MASSIVE thank you to Alison, (co-chair and treasurer) as Chloe heads off to secondary school.

Here is an emotional interview, looking back on her time in the PTA...

When did you first join the PTA?

I joined in 2018 when my daughter Chloe first started reception.

What made you want to join the PTA?

As a stay-at-home mum I felt I needed to get out a bit more while Chloe was at school, so I looked into more of what the PTA did and that made me want to help out a bit more as I felt so passionate about wanting to help the children create memories in school.

Best PTA moment?

There have been so many 'best moments', too many for me to count, but what really sticks out is the personal 'thank you's I get from the children for giving them the opportunities to experience exciting events we put on in school and the trips we pay for to send them go theatres and other extra-curricular activities.

Worst PTA moment?

Standing out in the rain trying to get volunteers for our events. Only joking! I don't think I've ever had a worst moment.

Greatest PTA achievement?

Well, this is going back a few years! This has always stuck in my mind and still to this day I am so proud of the team for what we achieved. In 2022, we heard of the devastating war in Ukraine and how the families and communities lost almost everything. The team heard that companies were sending care packages over to them, so we decided to help as well. We got the whole school involved and I've never been so proud of how well the school community came together.

We managed to fill and pack up 150 boxes of clothes for all ages and necessities, and we got the local Whitewoods Removals company to help (very kindly free of charge) to ship them off for us. This by far has been one of the greatest achievements that will stay with me forever.

I want to thank all the team members and staff for making the last 7 years at Eltham C of E so great and unforgettable, especially as I leave with making friends for life!

From everyone at the school, thank you for all the thought, care, and time you have put into the PTA over the past 7 years. The PTA would not be where it is today without you.



ATTENDANCE FOR SUMMER 2 TERM

At Eltham Church of England Primary School we continue to promote and celebrate good attendance and punctuality. Not only is good attendance beneficial to pupils' achievements, it is also an excellent 'life skill'.

We use the Royal Borough of Greenwich's Attendance Advisory Service to monitor and support our management of pupil attendance.

Under Fast Track, families will be informed when their child's attendance has crossed the threshold, even when all absences have been correctly documented and understood. If a child's attendance continues to decline and gives the Attendance Advisory Officer a cause for concern, then a meeting between the school, the parents and the advisory service is convened.

The school's target is to ensure that whole school attendance is consistently above 97% and better still above 97.5%

Can we remind parents that all absences and appointments need to be supported with a written letter, or appointment card, outlining the reason for the absence as soon as your child returns to school. Also, that **all** holiday will be recorded as unauthorised, however a child's overall attendance will be taken into account when consideration is given to the Fast Track procedures.

Class Attendance since September 2024

TOTAL	95.8
Avery	96.1
Roper	95.5
WG Grace	95.8
Chaucer	96.4
Gregory	96.1
Nesbit	95.9
Shaw-Brooke	95.5
Sherard	96.6
Tarn	96.3
Archery	94.9
Mills	95.5
Bek	94.8
North	95.7
Corbett	95.6

CHARITY DONATIONS

THE WOODLANDS FARM TRUST

Well done to our Year 2 pupils who held a cake sale (making and selling their own cakes) and raised £148 for the Woodlands Farm Trust to go towards the cost of a new guinea pig hatch.



JUST ONE TREE

On Earth Day (25.04.25), children came dressed as something from the natural world. We had a parade and an electricity-free day of learning. A truly memorable day. £268.38 was raised to support the Just One Tree charity. Every £1 donated plants a tree, supports kelp regeneration in the oceans and helps to spread environmental education into even more classrooms around the world.



THE FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY

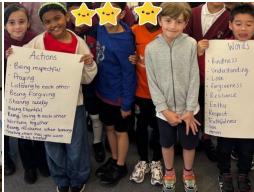
£112 has been donated to the Fire Fighters Charity. This donation helps to ensure that everyone in the fire and rescue service community, past and future, has someone to turn to for the support they need to live healthier and happier lives.





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION





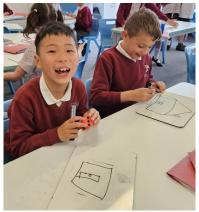


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In September, every year group will be teaching from a new RE syllabus which has been developed by Southwark Diocese. Each year group looks at detail into Christianity and one other world faith (each year group covers a different world faith). The syllabus splits the units into lenses. These are believing, living and thinking. This allows the children to get a deep understanding of religious and non-religious views, (believing lens), understand how people live their lives based on these views (living lens) and allows the children to reflect on what they have learnt to their own lives (thinking lens). This year, some year groups have been diving into some parts of it to help transition into the new syllabus. Here are some photos of some of the learning we have done this year. Please look at the school website for more information about the scheme and the overview for each year group. We will continue to update you next year on our RE learning through newsletters, Instagram and in some of our Friday emails.

Miss Dann (RE lead)

WHAT'S NEW FROM FRENCH







FRENCH

We have had an extra special activity to round off this year's learning in French in Year 5. Both classes joined a video call with a school in Leverkusen, Germany (a school we have connected with before). The children asked and answered questions about their favourite things and got to hear how the school day in German primary schools is so different to the UK. If Year 5 children were in Germany now, they would be heading off to secondary school in September as they start a year earlier. Year 2 have been getting to grips with their pronunciation skills and are recognising the regular phonics differences. Year 3 explored house building in the style of the 3 Little Pigs and went on to be able to describe different body parts. Year 4 wrote wonderful descriptions of their families and took them home to share what they had written. And Year 6, what can I say, except that it has been an absolute pleasure teaching this wonderful group of children for the last five years. Their enthusiasm for learning has meant I have continually adapted my lesson plans to keep apace with what they want to learn - what a super problem to have! I wish every child all the very best of luck in their new schools and with their future language and cultural learning journeys. Please encourage your children to log on to www.linguascope.com during the holidays and complete exercises in the Elementary and Beginner sections. Login details are in the children's reading journals and have also been emailed to families.

Bonnes vacances! Madame Edwards



WHAT'S NEW FROM HOPE CLASS









BUGS AND BUDS, AND FAIRYTALES

We have had the most exciting term in Hope class.

After Easter, we started learning all about how living things live and grow. We learnt that plants have flowers, leaves, stems and roots. In the Edible Playground, we put our learning into practice by watering all the vegetables growing there. Usually, we remembered to water the roots not the leaves! We also watched our class caterpillars grow. We named the caterpillars Mufasa, Dojo, Nala, Topsy and Tiny Tim. Sadly, Tiny Tim died but the other 4 caterpillars spun chrysalises and turned into butterflies and we released them into the Edible Playground. A few weeks later, we noticed tiny eggs on the underside of leaves and wondered if our butterflies have had babies. We continued our book writing exploits with a book we named 'Big and Small Bugs'. We also enjoyed learning all about different creepy crawlies when the 'Wiggly Wild Show' visited our school. In maths, we continued practising our counting to 10, and counting bugs in our outdoor provision.

After half term, our topic was fairy tales. We started off reading the story of The Three Little Pigs. We acted out the story and joined in with the wolf's refrain "then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down". Then we transformed our role play area into the three little pigs houses. In weeks 3 and 4, we read the story of The Gingerbread Man and compared it to 'The Runaway Chapati'. Lastly, we focused on The Three Billy Goats Gruff, we acted out the story and made goats out of Numicon.

In our phonics sessions, we have continued learning our letter sounds and practised writing them every week. Mrs Masterson has been amazed at how many sounds we can remember. In the penultimate week, we learnt the sound 'qu' and Quarrelsome Queen made an impromptu visit. In maths, we counted and graphed the batteries we brought in for 'The Big Battery Hunt'. We didn't win but we did collect 356 batteries! In the last week of term, we had a Fairytale Ball and played party games with all our nursery friends - a fitting finale to a truly magical year.

The Nursery Team



WHAT'S NEW FROM RECEPTION













SUMMER TERM

Wow! We can't believe we've reached the end of the year already. It has been a truly fabulous time with your children, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

Throughout the summer term, we continued with our daily phonics lessons, and every child has made noticeable progress. It's been so rewarding to hear them reading confidently and applying their phonics knowledge to decode new words—what an achievement!

In mathematics, we've been developing our number skills, including recognising numbers up to 30 and beyond. The children have also been practising number bonds, as well as addition and subtraction. They particularly enjoyed our lessons on shapes and patterns—important mathematical concepts that they explored with great enthusiasm.

Our themed learning this term included Growing and Animals, Tell Us a Story, and Dinosaurs. Unsurprisingly, the dinosaur activities were a big hit! The children engaged in fantastic imaginative play and created wonderful dinosaur collages featuring their own faces. They even came up with creative dinosaur names—such brilliant ideas!

We also spent time exploring the garden, hunting for minibeasts and observing the growth of plants. One of the highlights was watching caterpillars transform into butterflies. It was a joy to witness the children's awe and wonder during this magical process.

This term also included some special events. We visited St John's Church to help Reverend Caroline with a clean-up, and she later visited us at school to support our learning about The Creation. As part of the Reading Festival, the children enjoyed The Owl and the Pussycat Workshop. The Wiggly Worm Workshop, introduced the children to a wide range of fascinating minibeasts. Another memorable moment was our Teddy Bear's Picnic, even with the rain shower. The children loved taking part in races and playing with their friends on the playground. As teachers, we thoroughly enjoyed watching their interactions, and we'd like to extend a big thank you to all the amazing parents who supported the event.

It has been an absolute pleasure teaching North and Corbett this year. We are confident they will continue to grow and thrive in Year 1.

On behalf of the entire EYFS Team, we wish you a wonderful summer holiday and thank you sincerely for the incredible support you've given us throughout the year.

The Reception Team



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 1













YFAR 1

This half term we have enjoyed reading the snail and the whale by Julia Donaldson and have created some fantastic pieces of writing, including a non-chronological report about whales and a diary entry in role as the snail. We have worked hard at trying to include lots of adjectives in our writing to make it really exciting. In Geography this half term, we have enjoyed using our locational knowledge of the continents to help us learn about the equator and hot and cold places. We enjoyed using globes and atlases to help our learning. In DT, we enjoyed making and tasting vegetable kebabs and vegetable dips. We learnt how to safely use a knife to chop vegetables and a hand blender. We enjoyed dipping pitta bread into our dips.

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Creekside Discovery Centre, where we found lots of creatures including newts, tadpoles caterpillars and lots more. A member of the public called the school to tell them how sensible and polite Year 1 had been on the train and how impressed they were with their behaviour.

This half term, as part of our community work, the children invited in an adult that they wanted to say thank you to. We had such a lovely morning, singing them a song and making a craft to show our appreciation for them.

We have had such a fantastic year and are really impressed with how much progress they have made in Year 1. Year 1 can be tricky, especially with the transition from Reception, and Bek and Mills class have taken it in their stride. We want to thank you all for your support this year and we hope you have a lovely Summer!

The Year 1 Team

WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 2













YEAR 2

It's been a long yet lovely term in Year 2 and we have seen the children grow so much as they get closer to becoming Year 3's! We are so impressed with all of their efforts with the charity work for Woodlands Farm Trust. From the get go in Autumn term when we chose the charity, the children have been so passionate and enthusiastic about what we could do to support the Trust. Their fabulous ideas resulted in a grand total of £148.00 for Woodlands Farm to buy a new guinea pig hutch.

The children have also been developing their Food Technology skills such as cutting techniques, food hygiene and knowledge of natural, processed and ultra-processed foods (of which we were very impressed about how much they knew!). They made Overnight Oats and Tortilla Quiches which they loved.

In Maths we have been learning about Position and Direction and the children really enjoyed the practical side of this using beebots and directing their friends around obstacle courses made by the staff in the playground. Please use any chance you get over the holidays to slide in the language of left, right, clockwise, anticlockwise, forwards, backwards, quarter turn and half turn.

Our local history topic has been about significant individuals and events in Eltham. The children were particularly hooked on information about the war including Zeppelins and tanks, whilst many were also shocked to learn that one of their favourite stories 'The Highway Rat' is based on the Highwaymen of Shooters Hill. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching your children this year and we wish you all a fantastic summer and look forward to seeing you around in September.

The Year 2 Team



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 3





YEAR 3

As we wrap up the Summer Term, we're reflecting on another fantastic few months of learning and growth in Year 3. One of the highlights has been our work in literacy, where we've been reading the wonderfully funny book Krindlekrax by Philip Ridley. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the story and used it as inspiration to write diary entries in role and vivid setting descriptions. Their creativity and imagination have truly shone through!

In RE, we've been exploring a thought-provoking question: *Are actions or words more important?* This philosophical topic sparked some deep and meaningful discussions, and we were so impressed by the children's thoughtful contributions.

Throughout the year, the children have been having weekly ukulele and djembe lessons and got to showcase all they've learnt in a performance. They performed this on the final Friday of the term to the school and their families. It was great to see how much they have progressed since September.

As always, we are incredibly proud of the children's hard work, enthusiasm, and progress this term. They've shown great maturity and readiness for the next step in their learning journey. Thank you for all your end of year cards and gifts. They were much appreciated by everyone. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved, restful break before the exciting start of Year 4.

Miss Linge, Miss Page, Miss Freeman, Mrs Leung, Mrs Smith

WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 4







YEAR 4

What a sizzling summer term it's been! Despite the heat, Year 4 have kept their cool and had an absolutely fantastic time. It's been wonderful to see the children rising to the challenge and getting ready for Year 5 by diving into some tricky maths concepts like decimals and fractions. In English, they've impressed us with their use of ambitious vocabulary, careful error checking and creativity in writing everything from narratives to non-chronological reports.

This term has also been bursting with energy in PE! The children loved learning new skills from our amazing netball coach, took part in an exciting workshop with Charlton Athletic, and showed incredible determination during our sponsored run around the MUGA, raising money for a great cause.

We're especially proud of the children's efforts to give back to the community. Their litter picking around Eltham made a real difference and helped make our local area a cleaner, better place for everyone.

We wish all our wonderful Year 4s an incredible summer holiday and can't wait to see them again in September as they begin their next adventure in Year 5!

Miss Bruty and Miss Million



WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 5













YEAR 5

What a fantastic year it has been for Year 5! The children have worked incredibly hard and should be immensely proud of all they've achieved. This term has been packed with exciting learning experiences and memorable moments. We had a brilliant trip to the Globe Theatre. As part of our English learning on The Tempest by Shakespeare, the children enjoyed a guided tour of this iconic venue and took part in an acting workshop. It was a joy to see their confidence shine—there are definitely some budding actors among us! Another highlight was our trip with the Thames Explorer Trust, where we tried our hand at mudlarking. The children had a great time hunting for artefacts and learning fascinating facts about London's history along the riverbanks.

In PE, we've been active and adventurous! The children embraced their Judo sessions with enthusiasm and showed great teamwork and sportsmanship in cricket and rounders. In art, we explored the work of Barbara Hepworth, focusing on her abstract 3D sculptures. Inspired by her style, the children created their own sculptures using papier-mâché and armatures made from cups. Their creativity and perseverance were truly impressive. We also had butterflies in our classroom as we watched them grow from a caterpillar, to a chrysalis, then into a butterfly. This linked to our science topic on lifecycles. We then wrote haiku poems relating to what we had observed.

This term has shown just how resilient, creative, and capable our Year 5 pupils are. They've grown so much and are more than ready to take on the challenges of their final year in primary school. We've absolutely loved working with your children this year. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all a brilliant, relaxing summer break!

Miss Fryer, Mrs Bailey, Mr Tibbert, Mrs Debenham, Mrs Wilkins and Mrs Cunningham

WHAT'S NEW FROM YEAR 6









YEAR 6

Our final weeks of the Summer 2 term in Year 6 consisted of lots of exciting activities. Roper and Avery class performed their outstanding productions of 'The Greatest Show'. The staff, parents and children were blown away by their fantastic acting and singing. We also visited the Natural History Museum - a visit that linked with our science lessons on evolution. The children participated in a workshop and also explored the museum, finding out more about fossils and how animals have adapted. We also visited The Reach Climbing Wall to develop our skills of bouldering and auto-belay climbing. Last Friday, the children attended a Year 6 leavers church service led by Reverend Caroline. It was great to come together to celebrate their time here at Eltham. Sadly, we now have to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children. It has been an absolute pleasure to have you all and we wish you the best of luck for secondary school!

Miss Feeney, Mr Williams, Mrs Senner and Ms Alison



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025/2026

Autumn Term

Term time:

Monday 1 September to Friday 24 October 2025

Staff Inset Day:

Monday 1st September 2025

[no children in school]

Children return to school:

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Staff Inset Day:

Friday 24th October 2025

[no children in school]

Half-term holiday:

Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October 2025

Term time:

Monday 3 November to Friday 19 December 2025

Christmas and New Year holiday:

Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026

Spring Term

Term time:

Monday 5 January to Friday 13 February 2026

Staff Inset Day:

Monday 5th January 2026

[no children in school this day]

Half-term holiday:

Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February 2026

Term time:

Monday 23 February to Friday 27 March 2026

Easter holiday:

Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April 2026

Summer Term

Term time:

Monday 13 April to Friday 22 May 2026 (except May Day bank holiday on 4 May 2026)

Half-term holiday:

Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2026 (spring bank holiday on 25 May)

Term time:

Monday 1 June to Monday 20 July 2026

Staff Inset Days:

Wednesday 17th June 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

[no children in school these days]