



ELTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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“LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU”

FRIENDSHIP

TRUST

JUSTICE

ENDURANCE

COMPASSION

KOINONIA

Y3/4 St Christopher and Y4/5 St Etheldreda Class Information

Spring Term 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you were all able to enjoy a wonderful Christmas break. Many thanks for all the lovely cards and gifts we received.

Although our Spring term is relatively short it is crammed with exciting opportunities to learn and discover with an “*explore*” focus on the curriculum subjects. Our **Big Question** this term is “***What is the worth of water?***” and we will be looking at the three concepts of “***Stewardship***”, “***Adversity***” and “***Sustainability***” in order to develop and explore our geography skills.

Our whole class text, for the term, is “***To the Edge of the World***” by Julia Green. This is a *beautifully written tale of courage, friendship, and survival and is set in a very remote part of the British Isles. (Your child has already been discovering where the British Isles, the UK and Great Britain actually are and should also be able to tell you the exciting location of our class story).*

Throughout this topic the children will continue to develop their field work skills, reading a wider variety of maps, now using all 8 compass directions accurately, recording and sketching their own maps using coordinates in order to discover their local area and compare it to a contrasting location.

We will be continuing with our History topic – the Ancient Greeks – during the spring term. As you can imagine this topic is enormous and we would like to continue learning about ancient Greek Gods and their fabulous myths - including the story of the Trojan Horse! It is also really important that the children understand exactly what we can “thank” this ancient civilization for as their ideas and discoveries are still important to this day.

Maths- the children will continue to develop their fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills in the areas of Multiplication and Division, Length, Perimeter and Area and Fractions.

RE-we are exploring the faiths **Buddhism** and **Christianity**; our two enquiry questions are: ‘**How did Buddha teach his followers to find enlightenment?**’, and “**Is the cross a symbol of love, sacrifice or commitment for Christians?**” The children will further develop their skills in learning *about* religion (knowledge and understanding of religion and worldviews) and learning *from* religion (responding to religion and worldviews). During these units the children will be making connections and links building on previous topics and finding golden threads between other faiths. In these enquiry units they will be developing their understanding of the concepts through 3 areas: Scriptural narrative, Community Practice and Daily Living.

Science-the children will be exploring how sounds are made and how patterns are created with pitch and volume leading the children onto designing and conducting their own fair test to investigate sound-proofing materials.

Music- We will be cultivating our singing skills and playing a range of instruments with increasing confidence and control. This will lead to developing ways to improvise and compose using musical notation and investigate some great composers and continue to appreciate the history of music. The question we will explore through our music lessons is “**How does music make the world a better place and improve our world?**”.

Computing- Year 3 and Year 4 will continue with the work they started in the Autumn term on Coding before moving onto “Spreadsheets” (Year 3) and “Effective Searching” (Year 4) while year 5 will be investigating spreadsheets.

PSHE- Our new unit is called ‘**working together**’. The children will learn how to identify their own strengths and skills, understanding who they may need to turn to for support. They will also learn about the skills needed to work as a group understanding the need for good listening skills, knowing how to express opinions and ask appropriate questions. We will also explore how constructive and sensitive feedback can be useful.

Homework

We will continue to set the weekly homework on “Microsoft Teams”. Many of the tasks will be online games/completed verbally *so there is no need to hand in anything physical* as such, unless specifically stated in the homework task that week. We set the homework on Teams on a Tuesday and we will show the children during the day how/where to locate it on Teams each week and explain how/what to do. The weekly homework will consist of:

Times Tables: Every day for about 10 minutes we expect the children to be practising their times tables and associated division facts. (They should know how many 7s are in 42 as opposed to simply only knowing that $6 \times 7 = 42$.) *Please remember that the Government expectation with regard to times tables is that all children **by the end of Year 4** should know all their tables up to 12x. Year 4 children will also be formally tested in the Summer term.*

Daily Reading: At least 15 minutes per day for Year 4 children and 20 mins for Year 5. This is a minimum - please read more if you can! Regular book check ins are completed so that we can monitor how much reading is being completed by each child and the variety of genres they are selecting.

Spelling: Every Friday the children will be tested on the spellings we have been looking at during the week in class. I will share these spelling strategies in the weekly homework letter. Your child will also bring home a new copy of the Year 3/4 and 5/6 Spelling Lists that they were learning/learnt last term. I will expect them to continue to work on these lists.

We may also point the children towards games or activities set on Spelling Shed on some weeks (log ins have been sent home for this). The idea is that the children should be able to complete all of these homework tasks independently helping to develop the skill of taking responsibility for their own learning and being able to organise themselves effectively, without it being driven solely by parents.

If your child has mislaid/forgotten any of their passwords for Edshed, Microsoft Teams or Purple Mash please let us know and we can send them home with another copy.

HOMEWORK MATTERS

Homework Matters enables the children to delve a bit deeper into our Big Question and produce their own mini-projects. The expectation is that each piece of Homework Matters will have taken some time to complete. *(It must be clear that a good amount of time as opposed to minutes have gone into creating something that can be beautifully presented)*. For children with siblings in the school they may choose to work on a project together. We will be having a “**Homework Matters Showcase**” on the **27th March**. The children will have the opportunity to share and present their fantastic projects with the whole school and the families in our school community.

PE: Every Monday afternoon for St Christopher and every Tuesday afternoon for St Etheldreda. Please remember that layers are a good idea for these cold days!

Water bottles: Your child needs to bring in a water bottle every day and take it home every day to be thoroughly cleaned.

Change of shoes! Please ensure that your child has a second pair of shoes/wellies/trainers that can be used at break and lunch times. Every child took their pair home before Christmas – can you and your child check that they still fit before they return them!

Our email addresses are jmurphy@elton.cambs.sch.uk and hhannam@elton.cambs.sch.uk

You can contact us with any questions at this address and we will aim to get back to you as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Mrs Murphy Mrs Hannam