



ELM
ACADEMY

Newsletter

Principal's Message

As we move further into the autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our school community.

We are delighted to share that Year 4 have successfully completed their swimming programme and have shown great determination and enthusiasm throughout. We are very proud of their achievements. It is now Year 5's turn, and they have made a splendid start to their swimming lessons this week. We look forward to seeing their confidence and skills develop over the coming weeks.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Festival appeal. Your generous donations for Hope For Food will make a real difference to families in our local community, and we are grateful for your kindness and support. Please remember to book your Parent Evening appointments, which will take place during the final week of this half term. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate your child's successes and discuss their progress with their class teacher.

We are also excited to be holding our first school disco of the academic year during that same week.

Tickets are now on sale, and we look forward to what is always a fun and memorable event for our pupils.

At the back of this newsletter, you will find a list of important dates for next term, including details of our Christmas performances for each year group.

We hope this will help families plan ahead and ensure that as many parents and carers as possible can attend these special celebrations. Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. Together, we make our school EPIC and a wonderful place for children to learn, grow and thrive.

Upcoming Events

Friday 16th October
School Photographs (not Year 5)

Tuesday 20th October
Parents Evening, 3.30 – 5.00 pm

Wednesday 21st October
End of term disco, 3.15 pm – 4.30 pm

Thursday 22nd October
Parents Evening, 3.30 pm – 7.00 pm

Friday 23rd October School closed
INSET DAY
Monday 26th October – 30th October
Half term

Monday 2nd November
Children back to school

Please see page 15 for more dates

Reminders

Don't forget we have our uniform donation and exchange area in the office

Please make sure all school uniform is clearly named.

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2nd October 2026



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Nursery



Last week in Nursery, the children were exploring the theme of families and the people who are special to them. During circle time, the children thoroughly enjoyed sharing family photographs from home and talking confidently about their family members, developing their speaking and listening skills while learning more about each other. We discussed how every family is unique and celebrated the different people who care for us. The children then created their own family trees, naming the important people in their lives.



This week, we began our exciting new topic all about bears! Our book of the week has been 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', and the children have thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the repeated phrases and actions to help them remember the story. Through a range of engaging activities, the children have been learning about different types of bears and discovering where they live around the world. We explored the habitats of bears, discussing how they are adapted to their environments and what they need to survive. The children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm for our new topic, and we look forward to continuing our bear-themed learning in the coming weeks.

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Early years food choking hazards

Below is a table of advice on key foods for care givers who are involved with preparing and serving food for babies and young children (under 5 years old)

Vegetable and fruits	Advice
Pips or stones in fruit	Always check beforehand and remove hard pips or stones from fruit.
Small fruits	Cut small round fruits like grapes, cherries, berries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, into small pieces: cut lengthways and then again cut them in halves (quarters).
Large fruits and firm fruits	Cut large fruits like melon and firm fruits like apple into slices instead of small chunks. For very young children, consider grating or mashing firm fruits, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Vegetables	Cut vegetables like carrots, cucumber and celery into narrow batons. For very young children consider grating or mashing firm vegetables and legumes like butter beans, chickpeas and tofu, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Skin on fruit and vegetables	Consider removing the skin from fruit and vegetables, especially for very young children. Peeled fruit and vegetables can be swallowed more easily.
Cooking fruit and vegetables	Consider softening firm fruit and vegetables (such as carrots, broccoli, yam and apples) by steaming or simmering until soft. Serve cut into slices or narrow batons.
Meat and fish	Advice
Sausages and hot dogs	Cut sausages and hot dogs into short strips. Cut them in half and then lengthways or as thinly as possible. Peeling the skin off the sausages helps them to be swallowed more easily.
Meat or fish	Remove bones from meat or fish. Cut meat into strips as thinly as possible. Remove skin and fat from meat and fish, it will help the food pass smoothly down the throat.
Cheese	Advice
Grate or cut cheese	Grate or cut cheese into short strips. Cut lumps of cheese as narrow as possible.
Nuts and seeds	Advice
Chop or flake whole nuts	Chop or flake whole nuts, peanuts and seeds. Whole nuts should not be given to children under five years old.
Bread	Advice
White bread and other breads	White bread can form a ball shape with a dough-like texture at the back of a child's throat, if not chewed properly. Brown bread or toasted white bread are good alternatives. Cut bread, chapatis, naan bread and other breads into narrow strips.
Snacks and other foods	Advice
Popcorn	Do not give babies and young children popcorn.
Chewing gum and marshmallows	Do not give babies and young children chewing gum or marshmallows.
Peanut butter	Do not give babies and young children peanut butter on its own, only use as a spread.
Jelly cubes	Do not give babies and young children raw jelly cubes.
Boiled sweets and ice cubes	Do not give babies and young children boiled, hard, gooey, sticky or cough sweets, or ice cubes.
Raisins and other dried fruits	Do not give babies under the age of 1 whole raisins or dried fruits. Cut them into small pieces.

Make sure food is prepared appropriately for children under 5 years old, see: <https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning/>

It is also advisable that care givers are familiar with how to respond to a choking incident, see: How to stop a child from choking: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-stop-a-child-from-choking/> and How to resuscitate a child: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-resuscitate-a-child/>



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Reception



18th September
2026

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What a busy and exciting few weeks we have had in Reception!

We have continued to settle into school life and have been working hard to learn all about how to be at school. The children are becoming more confident with our routines, making new friends and learning how to be kind, caring and independent members of our school community.

We have also been working hard in phonics, learning our letter sounds and beginning to put them together to build words. It has been fantastic to see the children starting to read the words they have built — what a wonderful achievement!

We enjoyed reading the story *Who Are You?* and talked about what makes us special. This gave us lots of opportunities to think about ourselves and celebrate the things that make each of us unique. This week, we also introduced Pen Disco! A very exciting new part of our day where we practise our pencil grip and develop our early writing skills through fun and energetic mark-making activities, all while listening to some funky music! The children have loved getting creative and moving to the music while strengthening those important little hand muscles.

We are incredibly proud of how well both classes are settling in and all the hard work they have put into their learning so far. Well done, Turtle and Dolphin Class!



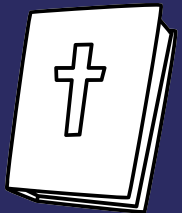
ELM ACADEMY Year 1



Year 1 have had a busy few weeks. In science they spent some time exploring our lovely school grounds finding and identifying different deciduous trees.



In RE the children have been learning about christenings and baptisms. They practised what would happen at these ceremonies using teddies.



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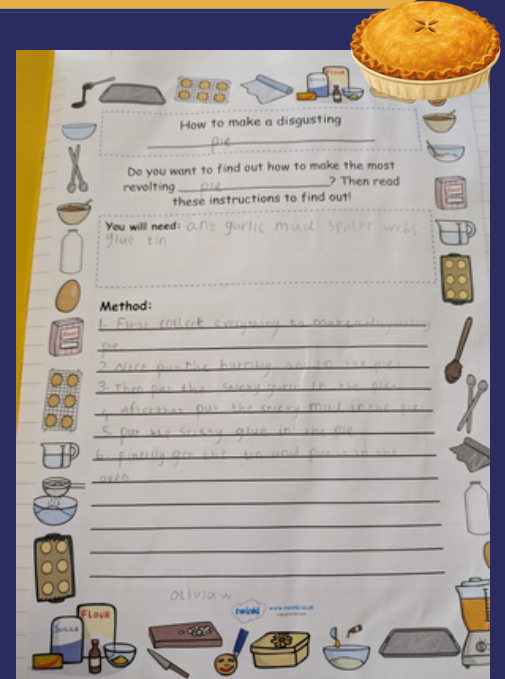
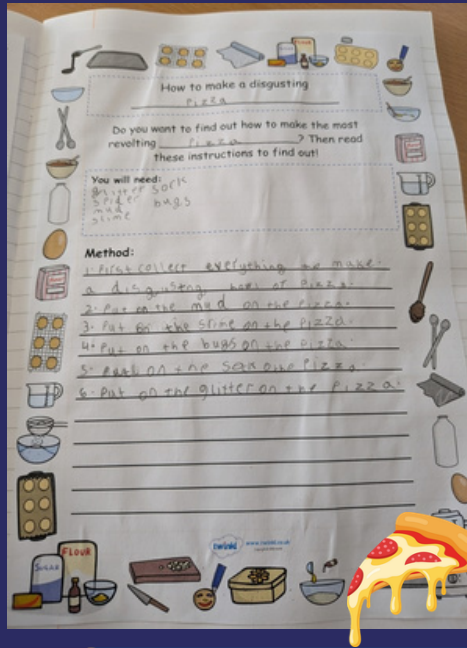
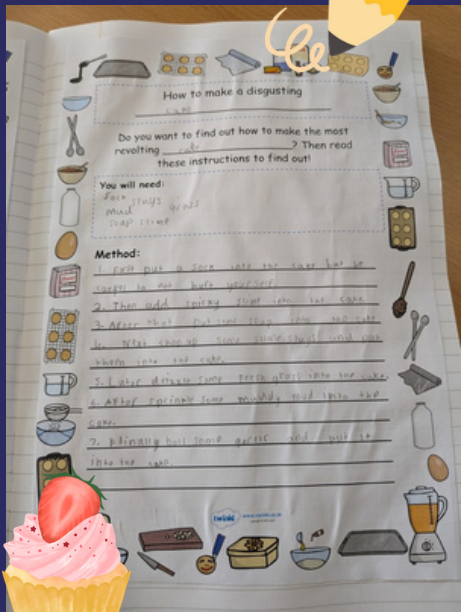


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Year 2

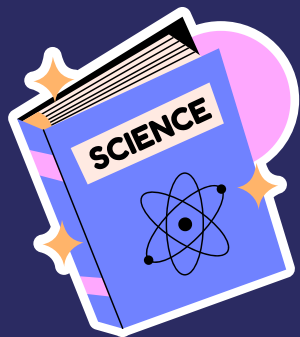


Year 2 are very proud of their first piece of published writing this year. They were inspired by the story *The Disgusting Sandwich* to write their own disgusting recipes. We even followed instructions on how to make a revolting cup of tea. Mrs Wakeman did not take us up on the offer of the lovely drink!



In science at the moment Year 2 are learning about plants. We have planted strawberry seeds and need to care for them all year in the hope of harvesting strawberries in the summer term!





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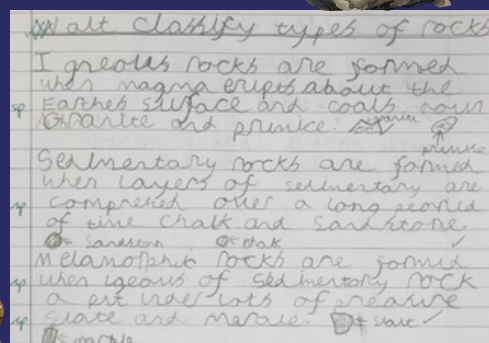
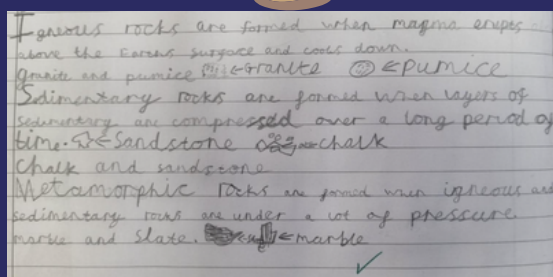
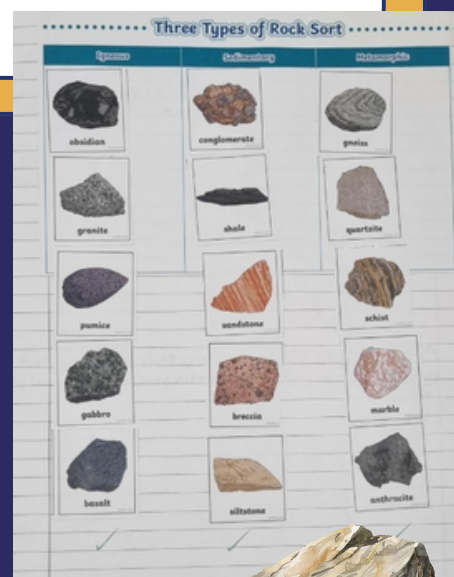
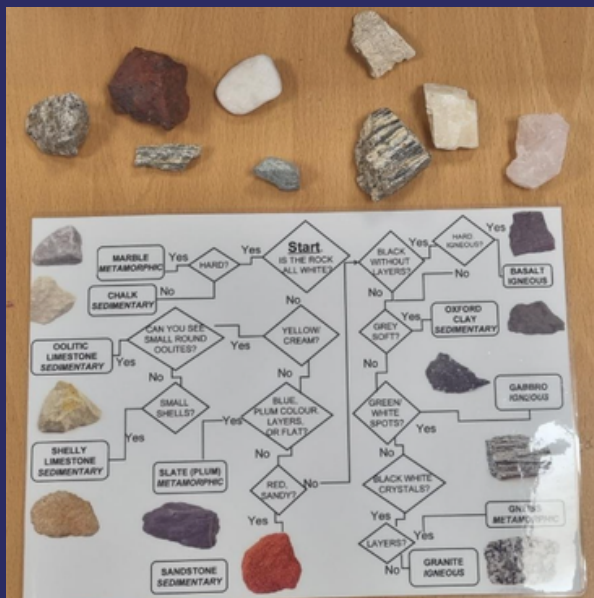
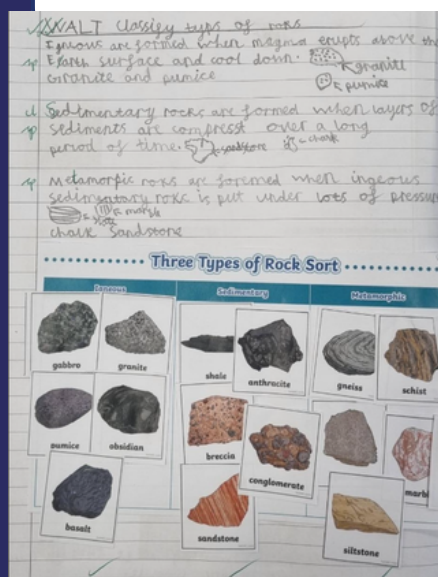
Year 3



This term, Year 3 have been busy learning all about rocks in Science. We have explored different types of rocks and investigated their features, including their colour, texture, hardness and appearance.

We have enjoyed becoming rock detectives, observing and comparing a range of rock samples and using our scientific vocabulary to describe what we found. We have also learned how rocks can be classified into groups according to their properties and characteristics.

The children have been curious, enthusiastic scientists, asking questions, making observations and sharing their ideas. It has been fantastic to see them developing their scientific skills while discovering more about the fascinating world beneath our feet!





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Year 4

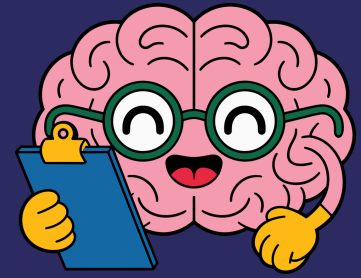
Year 4 have been busy in Art looking at the work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. We have used bubblewrap to create patterns with printing and have made 3D pumpkins using clay, which we will be decorating with spots in Yayoi's style in the coming weeks. We have also been learning to play keyboards in music. We can all find middle C and are able to play the notes CDEFG. We have been working on using all the fingers on one hand instead of just two pointing fingers, which has proved quite tricky! We have also been learning the value of musical notes. In PE we have been using up our energy playing football and learning skills as well as developing our stamina in cross country running. In English, we have written instructions and are busy typing them up on the computers and laptops, integrating our computing skills.





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Year 5



It has been another fantastic few weeks in Year 5, with lots of exciting learning taking place across the curriculum.

In Maths, we have successfully completed our unit on place value, where the children developed their understanding of large numbers and their value. We have now begun exploring addition and subtraction, applying a range of strategies to solve increasingly challenging problems. The children have shown great determination and resilience in their mathematical thinking.

In English, the children have enjoyed writing engaging short narratives inspired by a short film. They have worked hard to develop their descriptive language, build suspense and create interesting characters and settings. It has been wonderful to see their creativity shine through in their writing.

In Science, we have been learning about mixtures and dissolving. The children have explored the difference between soluble and insoluble substances, investigated which materials dissolve in water and carried out practical experiments. They have enjoyed making predictions, testing their ideas and recording their findings like real scientists.

In Geography, we have focused on trade and learned about the movement of goods around the world. The children have also developed their map skills by using coordinates and grid references to locate places accurately and build their geographical understanding.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their swimming sessions this week. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow in the water as they develop their swimming skills and water safety awareness.

We have had a positive start which the children continue to demonstrate in all aspects of school life, and we look forward to another exciting period of learning ahead.

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Year 6

A huge well done to Year 6 pupils who have completed tests this week. We have already seen some excellent progress.

Keep working hard and trying your best!



Reminders

- PE - Wednesday and Friday
- Tank Museum - Thursday 15th October - payment to be made via Parent Pay
- Swimming - week beginning 19th October - 23rd October
- Ties must be worn when not in PE kit

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Friends of Elm



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WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER

**END OF
HALF TERM
DISCO**

3.15PM TO 4.30PM

£4

**TICKETS AVAILABLE
ON PARENT PAY**

**SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS
FROM 50P**



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A reminder that our free breakfast club doors open at 8.20 am and will close no later than 8.25 am.

All children must be accompanied by an adult to the doors.

If your child arrives after this time they will not be allowed in and you will have to wait until 8.40 am for the gates to open.

Please see below for our weekly menu

Breakfast Club

MONDAY - PASTRIES

TUESDAY- BEANS ON TOAST

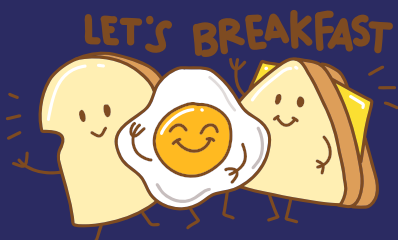
WEDNESDAY- FRUITY SURPRISE

THURSDAY - SCRAMBLED EGG ON TOAST

FRIDAY - BACON/SAUSAGE BAP

CEREAL AND TOAST SERVED DAILY

BOOK YOUR SPACE VIA PARENT PAY



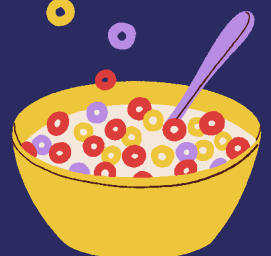
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Attendance



Attendance 21st Sept - 01st Oct 2026

Dolphins - 86.9%

Turtle - 95.11%

1SG - 96.76%

1TB - 93.8%

2JC - 95.42%

3KW - 97.94%

4LL - 96.63%

4SL - 89.47%

5AH - 95.98%

5JD - 96.03%

6AC - 95.28%

6BH - 96.39%

6ET - 98.06%



ATTENDANCE



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Please can we remind you that Elm Academy is a NUT FREE School.

We have multiple children at our school with severe nut allergies.

Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties).

We can NOT have NUTs at Elm Academy in any form. So please check that your children have NO NUT products in their lunch boxes or brought into the school as a treat.

The following items should not be brought into Elm Academy:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (students allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nut

Please ensure you always check the packaging of any food items brought into school. If the packaging says the following words, these items should not be brought into Elm Academy:

- Not suitable for nut allergy sufferers
- This product contains nuts
- This product may contain traces of nuts

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.



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Important Dates

Friday 9th October – Year 1 to visit Kinson Common

Thursday 15th October – Year 6 at Tank Museum

Friday 16th October – School Photographs (not Year 5)

Tuesday 20th October – Parents Evening, 3.30 – 5.00 pm

Wednesday 21st October – End of term disco, 3.15 pm – 4.30 pm

Thursday 22nd October – Parents Evening, 3.30 pm – 7.00 pm

Friday 23rd October – School closed INSET DAY

Monday 26th October – 30th October Half term

Monday 2nd November – Children back to school

Wednesday 11th November – Year 2 Care Home visit

Monday 23rd November – Sibling and Y5 photos

Wednesday 25th November – Elm Choir singing at the Bournemouth Pavilion

Wednesday 25th November – Year 4 at Winchester Science Museum

Thursday 3rd December – Enterprise Day

Friday 4th December – Pantomime production treat for all children

Monday 14th December 9.30 am – Year 5 Christmas Show

Monday 14th December 2.00 pm – Year 1 Christmas Show

Tuesday 15th December 9.30 am – Years 2 and 3 Christmas Show

Tuesday 15th December 2.00 pm – Reception and Nursery Christmas Show

Wednesday 16th December 9.30 am – Year 4 Christmas Show

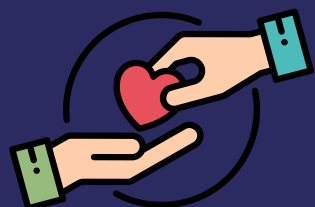
Wednesday 16th December 2.00 pm – Year 6 Christmas Show

Thursday 17th December – End of term disco, 3.15 pm – 4.30 pm

Friday 18th December – End of term prize draw and last day of term

School starts again on TUESDAY 5th JANUARY 2027





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Useful Information



Is your child a Young Carer?

A young carer is a 'child under the age of 18 who helps to look after a member of their family or a friend who is ill, disabled or living with a Mental Health condition or who misuses substances'.

If your child is a Young Carer they could benefit from support in school, MYTIME Young Carers can

give young carers something to look forward to amidst challenging circumstances

Create much-needed breaks for young carers and safe spaces where they can be themselves

Offer social opportunities for young carers to connect with one another

Empower young carers with new skills, confidence and self-worth

Identify training opportunities and pathways to employment for young adult carers

Educate schools, local authorities and communities to increase support and understanding for young carers

Provide support to young carer parents, siblings and other family members

If you feel your child is a Young Carer please contact Miss Penzer and Miss Bridger through the Elm email for more information, .



Many people are struggling due to the current cost of living. If you require support with essential food items please contact Miss Penzer or Miss Bridger through the Elm email to request a Food Hamper . These are delivered to school weekly by Hope for Food.

Please See below link for the BCP Access to Food Map showing community Food Support in your area

[Access to Food Map | Tableau Public](#)





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SCHOOL PHOTO DAYS

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOS (EXCEPT YEAR 5)

16 OCTOBER

SIBLING AND YEAR 5 INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

23 NOVEMBER

PLEASE REMEMBER: CHILDREN MUST WEAR FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM ON THEIR PHOTO DAY.

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Useful Information

SET PIECE SOCCER ACADEMY X SC CLUBS
OCTOBER HALF-TERM 2026

FOOTBALL CLINIC

FOR AGES 5 - 14

£24 A DAY | £90 FOR ALL 4 DAYS

26TH - 29TH
OCTOBER
2026

Skill Progression

Fun and Engaging Games

UEFA Qualified Coaches

All Weather Facility (QPA)

ELM ACADEMY
QUEEN'S PARK ACADEMY

CONTACT US
OFFICE@SPSACADEMY.CO.UK
07566 218322
SET PIECE SOCCER ACADEMY

BOOK VIA ClassForKids



26TH OCTOBER - 29TH OCTOBER
2026

SC CLUBS OCTOBER HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

Ofsted
Registered

50%
SIBLING
DISCOUNT

ACTIVITIES:
INVASION GAMES
ARTS AND CRAFTS
COMPETITIONS
DODGEBALL
HALLOWEEN THEMED GAMES

PRICE
£24 A DAY
£90 FOR ALL FOUR

BOOK ON
 ClassForKids

YR1 - 14 YEARS

TIME
9AM - 3PM

WHERE ARE WE?
ELM ACADEMY
QUEEN'S PARK ACADEMY
ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARLEY FIRST SCHOOL

SEE YOU THERE!



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Useful Information

SCAN TO BOOK

FREE

THE CONNECT PROJECT

MONDAYS
MONTHLY

3:45-5:45

HENRY BROWN CENTRE

COOKING • ACTIVITIES
ADVICE FOR ADULTS

A fun session for ages 8-11, plus a chance for parents & carers to relax and get helpful advice.

Fun, food, games & challenges for ages 8-11! Enjoy 50 minutes of exciting activities followed by 50 minutes of hands-on cooking, with a new seasonal theme each session.

Parents & carers: Grab a cuppa, take a breather and get helpful tips from Citizens Advice & Ridgewater Energy on money, energy, cost of living and more!

MONDAY 28 SEP | MONDAY 26 OCT | MON 16 OCT | MON 14 DEC

BOOK HERE:

Or by searching 'West Howe Community Enterprises' on Eventbrite.

HENRY BROWN CENTRE | BH11 8DU

THE CONNECT PROJECT

FRIDAY
30TH OCTOBER

12-2PM

FREE!

SPOOKY SPECIAL

AGES 8-11

COOKING ACTIVITIES DOWNTIME FOR PARENTS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Kids sink your teeth into spooky games, creepy challenges and hands-on Halloween cooking fun!

While they get stuck in, parents and carers can relax with a cuppa and pick up some handy tricks and treats for saving money, keeping energy costs down, managing the cost of living and more...

Monday 19th October - 10am

Free

Autism Talk

A Boy Called Arsenal

After receiving a late autism diagnosis aged 49, Arsenal has been on a journey to understanding himself and discovering what works best for him.

In this relaxed session, he'll share his story including how he has built routines, learned to manage triggers, and found ways to move forward with confidence.

He'll also talk about how he now supports others, including working positively with young people in school settings.

This is a great opportunity to hear a real-life experience in an open and supportive space.

Arsenal's Book

Arsenal has also worked with Alan Hill to turn his journey into a book, offering a deeper look into his experiences, challenges, and the tools that have helped him along the way. Signed copies will be available to purchase on the day.

Whether you're on your own journey, supporting someone else, or just want to learn more, you'll leave with a better understanding of autism and some practical ideas you can take away.

Book here:

Or search Eventbrite West Howe Community Enterprises

Monday 19th October

10:00-11:00am
Talk

11:00-11:30am
Questions & Book Signing

Adults Only (18+)

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Useful Numbers

National Domestic Abuse Helpline- 0808 16 89 111

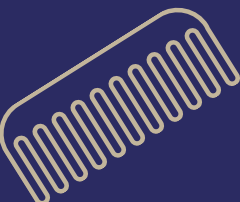
Citizens Advice- 0808 27 87 939

SHOUT Text Service (Mental Health Support)- Text 85258

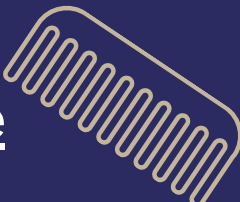
KOOTH (Mental Health Support 11-18 years)- 08000 55 555

NSPCC Helpline- 0808 800 5000

NSPCC Helpline Under 18- 0800 1111



Information regarding Head lice



Head Lice:

- Can't fly, jump or swim
- Are very unlikely to be spread by objects such as hats, combs and pillows
- Don't have a preference for dirty, clean, short or long hair
- Only affect people and can't be caught from animals

Once detached from the hair, head lice will usually die within 12-24 hours.

Preventing head lice

It's very difficult to prevent Head Lice. You may want to consider regular detection combing on a weekly basis. Lotions and sprays don't prevent Head Lice and should only be used if a live louse has been found in your own, or your child's hair. Staying off work or school and washing clothing and bedding on a hot wash is unnecessary, as it's unlikely to help prevent the spread of Head Lice. It is also ideal if your child has long hair to wear it up to lessen the chance the lice attach.