Elephant Parent Letter - Term 2 2026

Dear Parents/carers,

A very warm welcome back for Term 2 in Year 2!

I am pleased to share with you a short overview of what we will be learning this term. This will be added to the Elephant Class link on the school website.

English: This term, our core text will be *Follow the Moon Home* by Philippe Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson. We will learn to distinguish between fiction and non-fiction and explore the key features of information texts. The children will use what they learn to create their own factual writing using information books. We will also continue to develop our understanding of conjunctions, as well as the correct use of apostrophes. In addition, the children will begin to explore biography writing, learning how to write about real people and their achievements. During handwriting practice, we will start joining our handwriting to improve fluency and presentation.

Phonics: Following Little Wandle and reviewing all Phase 5 sounds for consolidation as well as Beginning our bridge to spelling unit.

Mathematics: Our focus will be Addition and Subtraction and then moving onto geometry towards December.

Science: This term, we will explore "Living Things: Microhabitats." They will identify and name a variety of plants and minibeasts, exploring how different microhabitats provide the right conditions to meet their basic needs. The children will also learn about the work of a botanist and practise working scientifically by asking questions, planning simple investigations, making observations, and recording data. They will use classification keys and identification charts to group and name living things. To support this learning, we will be visiting Bedgebury on Friday 20th November.

History: Our topic for this term is, "How was school different in the past?" They will be learning about what schools were like 100 years ago and how they have changed over time. They will explore and compare classrooms from the past and present, identifying similarities and differences. Using photographs and other sources, the children will research school life in the past and discuss whether they would have preferred to go to school then or now, giving reasons for their choice.

DT: This term, children will be learning about structures by designing and making their own stable chair for a specific user (baby bear). They will explore how different shapes and materials can make structures stronger, stiffer, or more flexible, and learn how thickness can affect strength. The children will develop their understanding of design briefs and criteria, select suitable materials, join them securely, and evaluate and improve their finished products.

PSHE: Our topic for PSHE is "Connecting with others: How can I build safe, kind and caring relationships with others."

Music: In Music this term, the children will explore how sound and music can reflect an animal's character by selecting instruments and composing their own pieces. They will listen carefully to different sounds and pieces of music, describing what they hear. The children will learn to identify different qualities of sound, such as smooth, scratchy, or ringing, and recognise changes in tempo, and pitch.

R.E.: Our R.E. focus will be Universal (Christianity). Our key question will be 'How should we care for others and the world and why does it matter?'

Reading: Please continue reading with your child each week. Regular, short reading sessions, where adults model reading and children re-read sentences, are crucial for progress. Books will be changed on a Friday.
Please bring in your reading books everyday and try and read with your child everyday.

PE: Pe will be on a Wednesday afternoon this term. Please ensure all children have the correct PE kit.

Forest School: This term, children will have Forest School on Tuesday afternoons. Please ensure that children come to school in their own clothes and bring suitable outdoor clothing, including waterproofs and wellies.

Spellings:
New spellings will be sent home Friday for children to practise at home. These spellings follow the Little Wandle scheme and will review the previous week's phonics learning.

Homework:
- Daily reading practice
- Spelling practice
- No formal homework for KS1. Optional activities include Maths (numbots), handwriting practice, or online ICT games.

KEY DATES for the diary
Monday 1st November – Back to School
Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance day
Friday 13th November – Children in Need
Tuesday 17th November – Parents Evening – 3:30pm – 6:00pm
Thursday 19th November – Parents Evening – 3:30pm – 6:00pm
Friday 20th November – Year 2 School Trip (Bedgebury Pinetum Forest)
Friday 27th November – Pantomime Show (Morning) and
Non uniform day for Christmas shopping Donations
Thursday 3rd December – Christmas Shopping Day
Thursday 10th December – Nativity 9am and 2pm
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner
Friday 18th December – Last Day of term 2, Church 9am and open afternoon from 2pm

Kind Regards
Mrs. Kidd