

Elephant Parent Letter - Term 1 2025

Dear Parents/carers,

A very warm welcome to Year 2!

I am pleased to share with you a short overview of what we will be learning this term and how you can support your child at home. This has been added to the Elephant Class link on the school website. I have also attached a Medium-Term Plan so you can see week to week what your child will be learning should you wish to discuss at home as often they did 'nothing' at school.

English: We will use *'The Bear and the Piano'* as our core text to develop key writing skills. They will learn to write detailed descriptions using nouns, adjectives to bring characters and settings to life. Pupils will practise using subordination and coordination to join ideas and add detail to their sentences. They will also explore story structure, identifying the beginning, middle, and end, before planning and writing their own narratives inspired by the book. We will also review letter formation, and sentence construction, focusing on building vocabulary and effective word choice.

Phonics: Following Little Wandle and reviewing all Phase 5 sounds.

Mathematics: Our focus will begin with place value. We will start by understanding tens and ones. Practical activities will involve using manipulatives such as dienes and cubes. We will gradually progress to using pictures to represent tens and ones, eventually introducing the concept of numbers such as 23, consisting of two tens and three ones.

To support your child at home, practicing with 1p and 10p coins is beneficial. Start with simple additions up to 9p, then exchange coins to introduce concepts of larger sums. There is also a year 2 white rose handbook which you can purchase to work through as it follows the learning we will be doing in school. **'White Rose Maths Practice Journals Year 2 Workbook'**

Science: This term, we will explore "Living Things: Habitats." The children will investigate which things are alive, have never been alive, or were once alive by examining various life processes. They will match plants and animals to their respective habitats and learn how plants produce their own food for energy.

Geography: Our topic for this term is, "Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place?" This term, children will learn to identify the seven continents, the Equator, and the North and South Poles on a world map. They will explore the differences between the UK and Kenya, investigate weather, and understand the features of hot and cold places by locating countries with different climates.

Art: This term, children will explore maps through art by sorting and drawing maps, then using them as inspiration for creative projects. They will experiment with different materials and techniques, including felt-making, stained glass effects with cellophane, and printing from polystyrene tiles. Pupils will make choices about design and composition, evaluate their work, and take part in curating a class gallery to showcase their favourite pieces.

PSHE: Our topic for PSHE is "Families and Relationships."

Music: Music lessons will cover beat, rhythm, melody, echo, call-and-response, and both tuned and untuned instruments. Assessment will be based on progression snapshots of videos of the children.

R.E.: Our R.E. lessons will start with the creation story (Christianity) and the seven days it took for God to create the universe, emphasising the beauty and diversity of our planet Earth.

Reading: Each child will have group reading sessions with a teacher or teaching assistant up to three times a week. They will be encouraged to read regularly at home to develop fluency. 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 Monday and Thursday afternoon. Please ensure all children have the correct PE kit.

Spellings:

New spellings will be sent home every Friday for children to practise at home. These spellings follow the Little Wandle scheme and will review the previous week's phonics learning. The first set of spellings will be sent home on Friday 12th September, based on the phonics taught during the first week.

Homework:

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

Communication: Please encourage your child to inform their teacher when a parent or carer arrives for collection. This ensures safety and accountability.

KEY DATES for the diary

Tuesday 9th September - Meet the teacher 3:20 – 4:00

Friday 12th September - Non- uniform day

Wednesday 24th September - Church for Harvest 9:00 – 10:00

Thursday 9th October - Parkour Day

Friday 17th October - Non – uniform (wear red anti-racism day)

Friday 17th October - FOSS Disco

I am continuously amazed by how much children learn within a term. I look forward to meeting you at the 'meet the teach event soon, where we can get to know each other and address any questions you may have.

Kind Regards
Mrs. Kidd