

Elm Class Newsletter – Autumn term 1 2026

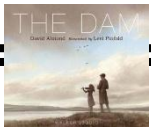
English

This term, our English learning will be centred around the book *The Dam* by David Almond. The story provides opportunities for the children to explore themes of change, memory, loss, nature and hope, while making meaningful links to our Art learning.

The children will explore the story through discussion, drama, illustration and close reading, developing a rich and varied vocabulary to support their writing. They will look carefully at how authors and illustrators create mood and atmosphere and will experiment with descriptive language to bring settings, memories and emotions to life.

As part of our writing outcomes, the children will create a poem inspired by *The Music of the Wind*, exploring sound, movement and imagery. They will also write from the perspective of someone living in the village before it is flooded, considering what it might feel like to leave behind a much-loved home and community.

In Guided Reading, we will continue to develop key skills, including retrieval, inference, vocabulary and discussion. Please continue to support your child by reading regularly at home and talking together about the books they are enjoying.



Art

Our Art learning will be inspired by *The Dam* and the illustrations of Levi Pinfold. Children will explore how artists use tone, texture, colour and composition to create mood and atmosphere.

They will develop their observational drawing skills and create a botanical illustration on aged sheet music, using mainly monochromatic tones with a single pop of colour.

History

Our topic this term is The Stone Age to the Iron Age. The children will be introduced to the key changes and developments during the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age in Britain. They will use a range of sources, including artefacts and images, to ask questions and draw conclusions about what life was like during these fascinating periods of history.

Science

We will be learning to identify types of rock and describe their properties. We will consider how a rock's characteristics might influence what it's used for and how rocks and organic matter turn into soils. We will look at how fossils are formed.



Maths

We will begin by developing a secure understanding of numbers to 1,000. The children will represent and partition numbers, use number lines, identify hundreds, tens and ones, and compare and order numbers. They will also explore finding 1, 10 and 100 more or less and practise counting in 50s.

We will then move on to addition and subtraction. Children will build on their understanding of number bonds and place value before developing efficient strategies for adding and subtracting 1s, 10s and 100s. They will explore calculations both with and without exchanging and will apply their knowledge to adding two-digit and three-digit numbers and subtracting two-digit numbers from three-digit numbers.

We will use a range of practical resources, visual representations and problem-solving activities to help children develop both their fluency and confidence in mathematics.

Additional Information

- **PE Days:** PE will take place on **Monday afternoons**. Please ensure your child has the correct kit in line with school guidelines.
- **Reading:** Children are expected to read every night. Please record this in their reading records and ensure it is signed by a parent/guardian.
- We encourage regular times tables practise using www.timestables.co.uk and www.timestablerockstars.com, or whichever method works best for your child. Consistent practice will help build both speed and confidence.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and support. If you need any help with anything, or would ever like to set up a meeting, please do let me know!

Religious Education

In RE, we will explore the big question: How did the world begin?

Children will learn about creation beliefs in Christianity, Judaism and Islam, as well as scientific explanations such as the Big Bang theory and evolution. We will compare these ideas and consider why caring for our world is important.