



A very warm welcome to the start of a brand new academic year! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable break.

Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, we're excited to have you as part of our school community.

Term 1 is always a special time — full of fresh starts, new friendships, and

exciting opportunities for learning and growth as well as a chance to feel accepted in a nurturing environment. Our staff have been working hard to prepare a welcoming environment where every student can thrive.

We're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead, and we can't wait to see all the wonderful things our students will achieve.

Summer News

We are thrilled to share that during the Summer break, Elmley Dray School won 2nd prize for the business/school category in the Minster in Bloom competition. The staff and students worked incredibly hard to get everything ready for this and their hard work paid off!

Dates for the diary

Wednesday 3rd September - Start of term

Tuesday 16th September - National playdough day

Tuesday 22nd September - Recycle week

Friday 10th October - Young people's mental health day

Friday 10th October - End of term.

Students will notice a couple of changes have been made to the school site in order to make improvements to the layout and accessibility for pupils. Access to the first aid room is now via the reception, in order to allow for uninterrupted intervention sessions in the therapies room where the previous entrance was. The student entrance door has also been replaced to reduce the heat that was being lost through the old one - another step towards our mission of becoming an eco friendly school.

We are thrilled to announce that we've received a grant from Wooden Spoon, the children's charity of rugby. This charity funds life-changing projects for the 1.2 million children living with disabilities, the 30% of children in poverty, and the 3 million children struggling with mental health issues across the UK & Ireland.



Since 1983, Wooden Spoon has donated £32 million, transforming the lives of over 2 million children. As a result of this grant, our new Rowan classroom base & sensory room is now complete and located in Minster Cabin. Part 2 of the project will be completed during the October half term which will see an additional outdoor sensory space added around the outside of Minster Cabin.



New staff

As we welcome our students back this academic year, we are joined by a number of new young people, as well as a growing team of staff. A full list of all our team can be seen on our website under the "About Us" tab (https://elmleydrayschool.co.uk/page-vision_ethos_values53.html)

Our termly newsletter can be requested in a paper format from reception, as well as viewed on our website www.elmleydrayschool.co.uk

Reminders

We ask that all our students have a spare pair of clothes on site should they get dirty during outdoor activities. These will be kept in your child's form room. This allows students to fully participate in activities and remain comfortable afterwards.

Please also note that due to allergies, we are now a nut free school. Please ensure that students do not bring items with nuts into school.

Useful contacts

Emily Hollis (Headteacher & DSL) - emily.hollis@elmleydrayschool.co.uk
Gemma Connolly (Deputy Head & DDSL) gemma.connolly@elmleydrayschool.co.uk
Hayley Furnell (Director & DDSL) - hayley.furnell@elmleydrayschool.co.uk
Safeguarding - safeguarding@elmleydrayschool.co.uk
Governance team - pat@elmleydrayschool.co.uk

Please don't hesitate to get in contact with us if you have any questions,
With warm regards,

The Elmley Dray Team

Please support us in respecting our local community, pupils, school and staff team.

Careers Information, Advice, and Guidance

- We are working closely with DWP to deliver careers lessons to our students as well as set up links for work experience placements in the future.
- Students in the Aspen group will work towards their NCFE Level 1 Award or Certificate in Employability Skills.