

Welcome back to a chilly Term 3! We hope you all enjoyed the holidays and were able to spend some quality time with your family and friends. Last term we celebrated a number of events, ranging from Halloween, to Remembrance Day and Christmas. We made our first Christmas shoebox donations as a school to House of Opportunity - many thanks to everyone who made donations for this charity.

Kent Golf Captains Society kindly visited the school, to present us with a cheque to support with the construction of our additional sensory garden which is now complete.

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 6th January - Start of Term 3

Week of 17th January - Big Energy Saving Week

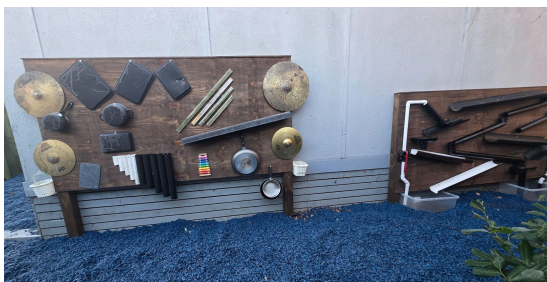
February - LGBTQ+ History Month

Friday 6th February - NSPCC Number's Day

Week of 9th February - Children's Mental Health Week

Friday 13th February - End of Term

Term 4 commences Monday 23rd February



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

Marshmallow Igloos

Miss Connelly, our Deputy Head says *"Students in Cedar and Aspen were given the task of working with others to build a marshmallow igloo. This task focused on Science, Engineering and Maths - construction, shape, measurements and problem solving. Students used vanilla icing as a cement replacement and built their igloos. All students engaged well and it was great to see them working so well together, sharing resources and problem solving. I do, however, wonder where the extra marshmallows disappeared to...! A brilliant and enjoyable lesson had by all."*

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. It is an educational approach designed to prepare students for the challenges of the modern workforce. Through STEM learning they develop the following:

- Problem solving and critical thinking skills
- Cultivate curiosity in the world around them
- Cognitive skills
- Research skills
- Technical skills
- Collaborative working



Students also completed Christmas activities during intervention sessions, making DIY snow following a recipe.



Term 3

- Over the Christmas break, we had some netting installed in the playground to help us reduce the number of pieces of equipment lost to neighbours and ensure students always have a supply of activities outside.
- This term, Inclusive Sport will be introducing fitness, dance and gymnastics across the groups for P.E sessions (weather dependent).
- Students will be taking part in The Big Bird Watch in January.
- Dates for the diary can be found at the top of the newsletter for this term, with additional information being sent out via email closer to the events.

Staff Updates

Congratulations to Miss Harry who had her baby back in November. Miss Harry will be popping in from time to time to visit the students with Winnie whilst on maternity leave

Miss Bailey has been appointed as our new permanent SENDCo; many of you will already know her, or have had annual reviews with her before the Christmas break.



Miss Lanning has also now started her maternity leave after welcoming her baby in December and will be covered by Mrs Butterfield during this period. Mrs Butterfield joined us at the end of Term 2 so is a familiar face to our students.

For those students who have a 1:1 member of staff, students would have brought home a social story over the half term, describing changes to staffing allocations. These students will have two assigned staff, one of whom will spend the morning with them, the other who will spend the afternoon with them.

Reminders

- Just a polite reminder that due to allergies, we are a **nut free** school. Please ensure that students do not bring items with nuts into school.
- Thank you for your support in parking with consideration to our neighbours and not leaving engines idling. We ask that you continue to park respectfully and use our driveway if available.

Useful contacts

Emily Hollis (Headteacher & DSL) - emily.hollis@elmleydrayschool.co.uk

Gemma Connolly (Deputy Head & DDSL) gemma.connolly@elmleydrayschool.co.uk

Sian Bailey (SENDCo & DDSL) sian.bailey@elmleydrayschool.co.uk

Hayley Furnell (Director & DDSL) - hayley.furnell@elmleydrayschool.co.uk

Safeguarding - safeguarding@elmleydrayschool.co.uk

Governance Team - pat@elmleydrayschool.co.uk

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with us if you have any questions.

With warm regards,

The Elmley Dray Team