

We hope you all had a lovely February Half Term and are looking forward to hearing from the students what they've been up to during the break.

Students took part in a range of activities last term, some of which you will be able to see information about below. This term we have a number of things to celebrate, including World Down Syndrome Day, Red Nose Day and Mother's Day. Please keep an eye on your emails for additional correspondence regarding specific events.

Please also find attached to this email, a PDF about "Friends of Elmley Dray" for those of you who may be interested in getting involved with sharing ideas and suggestions for the school as parents and carers, as well as some information regarding attendance.

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

## Dates for the diary

**Monday 23rd February**- Start of Term 4

**Friday 20th March** - Red Nose Day

**Saturday 21st March** - World Down Syndrome Day

**Wednesday 1st April**- End of Term, 12 o'clock finish

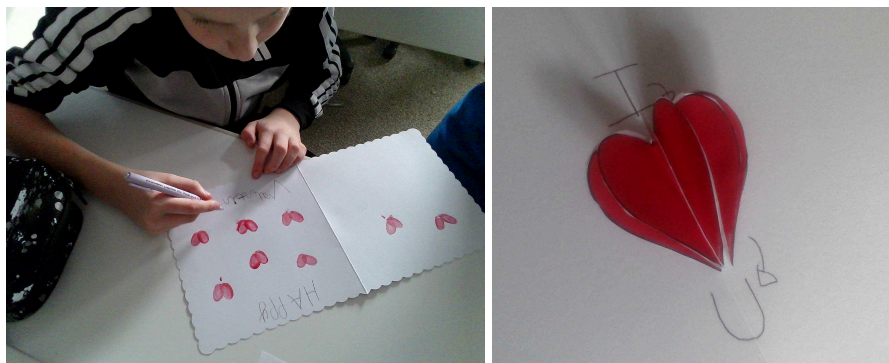
Term 5 commences Tuesday 21st April 2026

## Last Term

Last term, all students had the opportunity to attend a problem solving workshop as part of Numbers Day, which was run by The Problem Solving Company. Pupils took part in problem solving puzzles, code breaking activities, as well as escape room style tasks.



Students also took part in some Valentine's themed activities nearer the end of the term including pop up cards during class intervention with Mrs Roberts.



Aspen class have filled in their applications and are now members of the Kent Library service. This means they can access millions of books, visit any library in Kent and take part in the activities the libraries provide, including workshops for people with autism. During term 4, they will be visiting the local library which is walking distance from the school.

## Term 4

Elmley Dray now has school snails which are residing in Aspen Tutor. Students have named these Tiddles and Gary and will be learning how to take care of them, as well as tracking and logging their growth over the coming months.



The sensory room in the main building has had a freshen up over half term, with some new fidgets and sensory items being added. Students will be able to make use of the new beanbags and sensory floor tiles along with a basket of fidget toys that were kindly donated to the school.

Friday 20th March is Red Nose Day. Students will have the opportunity to design their own red nose, as well as take part in a number of activities as part of the "Take Yourself Funny" theme for Comic Relief this year.

Saturday 21st March is World Down Syndrome Day. This date represents the 21st chromosome present in individuals with Down syndrome. The school has signed up to the Sunflower Challenge, where each child will plant a sunflower seed. Miss Hancock will be leading sessions teaching pupils about Down Syndrome, as well as talking about what makes their sunflower unique and what makes themselves unique. More information about this can be found here:

<https://downsyndromeuk.co.uk/world-down-syndrome-day/sunflower-challenge>  
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## 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.
- Please remember to let us know as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend school. You can use the **email address below**, or call us on **01795 485039**. Regular attendance is vital, directly linking to higher academic attainment as well as helping to build essential life skills such as punctuality, fosters social skills and confidence, and ensures continuity in learning, reducing stress and boosting future employment opportunities.

## Careers information, advice and educational guidance (CEIAG)

- Students in year 9 and above have now had their 2nd careers meetings with iProgress.
- National Careers Week (NCW) 2026 takes place from Monday 2nd March - Saturday 7th March 2026. Students will be taking part in a range of careers based activities during their timetabled sessions during the week.

## Useful contacts

Emily Hollis (Headteacher & DSL) - [emily.hollis@elmleydrayschool.co.uk](mailto:emily.hollis@elmleydrayschool.co.uk)

Gemma Connolly (Deputy Head & DDSL) [gemma.connolly@elmleydrayschool.co.uk](mailto:gemma.connolly@elmleydrayschool.co.uk)

Sian Bailey (SENDCo & DDSL) [sian.bailey@elmleydrayschool.co.uk](mailto:sian.bailey@elmleydrayschool.co.uk)

Hayley Furnell (Director & DDSL) - [hayley.furnell@elmleydrayschool.co.uk](mailto:hayley.furnell@elmleydrayschool.co.uk)

Safeguarding - [safeguarding@elmleydrayschool.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@elmleydrayschool.co.uk)

Attendance - [attendance@elmleydrayschool.co.uk](mailto:attendance@elmleydrayschool.co.uk)

Governance Team - [pat@elmleydrayschool.co.uk](mailto: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*

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