

Mrs H's Update

#elmtreefamily

Update No 1 – September 2026

What an amazing few weeks we have had since the term started. Already so much has happened!

The children have settled well and our wonderful children in Miss Wigg's class and Miss Dagg's class are in great routines, started learning their phonics and getting busy exploring and learning.

The children have voted for their charity of the year – Children With Cancer UK – and we had the most amazing first charity day last Friday with a spectacular colour run – it was joyous! We will be adding photos to the website gallery soon.

Year 6 had a brilliant music workshop – Heavy Metal Badger – from the team at The Seagull Theatre. They created music, made drums out of tinfoil and got the chance to play the electric guitar.

This week is Art Week. The theme for this week is 'Take One Picture'. This is a project that is linked with The National Gallery. The children in Years 1-6 are all responding to the painting by Cosimo Tura called 'The Muse'.

Children delve into sections of the painting and make a decision about how to respond to it. It has been such a fascinating project with every class focusing on a different aspect and interpreting it differently. We cannot show the finished pieces of art yet as the children are still working on them but you can look forward to dragon's eyes from 5AA, fish from 3JH, botanical printing from 6KG and shells from 1EH as well as amazing puzzles, thrones and mood boards. We hope to be able to showcase our work to you as well as sending examples to the National Gallery.



In Miss Wigg and Miss Dagg's classes they will be launching an art project soon when they read a most brilliant book called 'Luna Loves Art'.

Last week we had a visit from Mrs Katie Lawson, our Director of School Improvement. Each term, she visits and spends the day with us allowing us to showcase our school. We were really proud that she noticed the amazing learning that was going on that day and how engaged and animated our wonderful pupils were when talking about their learning and our school. I am honoured to be the headteacher of Elm Tree every day but I always feel especially honoured when visitors see how fantastic everyone in the Elm Tree family is.

Staff update: I am not sure if I announced in the summer that Miss Nurse had her beautiful baby girl, Amelia Grace. She visited us last week and she is totally amazing. I am also delighted to announce that Mr Wyer and his wife are now



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proud parents of a gorgeous baby boy called Robin. Mr Wyer has been on paternity leave for the last two weeks but will be back on Monday. Everybody be kind to him, as he will be very tired!

You may have noticed that we currently don't have Mr Fox in school at the moment. Sadly, Mr Fox has been unwell during the summer holidays with some serious issues with his eyes. He has had to have several operations and is still recovering at home. I know that you will join in sending our love to him. He is very greatly missed. I will keep you updated over the next few weeks.

Have you noticed all the apples that are growing on the trees along the path going to the playground? They are big, juicy and ready to be picked! On Wednesday Mr Baker, who supports our outside learning, will be working with pupils in Year 3 and Year 4 to pick, wash, chop, and press the apples to make our own homemade apple juice. We will be inviting parents of these pupils to have a taste when they come to collect their children after school.

Our first share events will start next week. We love our share events as this is where families can learn together. Year 2 is on 29th September and Year 1 is on 30th September. All share events start at 2pm.

You may have seen on our website that once again our attainment outcomes from last year continue to be well above national standards. We are proud of this and the continued four trend of high outcomes. Our amazing results and school journey are so impressive that Mr Smith has been invited to speak at a National Conference on Thursday 1st in London. He will be sharing all the work that the whole school has been doing in all year groups to achieve and maintain these great outcomes. He says he is nervous, but we know he will be amazing!

We will be having our first open day on Friday 9th October. This is open to all but is mostly aimed at prospective parents across the school. If you have friend who is looking at a reception place for September 2027 or a friend who would like to look at an in-year transfer, please encourage them to visit on that date. Timings are 10 am and 1pm. They can ring the office on 01502 562930 to book a slot or just drop in on the day.

Today I am attending a conference where all the schools in our Trust come together to celebrate successes. We are being congratulated at Trust level for our work with the apprenticeship programme for support staff and teachers. Miss Houghton and Miss Newrick have been interviewed to talk about their experiences and also they are celebrating our passion and commitment for fundraising within the community. Mrs Burton and some children from across the school have been interviewed talking about their pride in how much money we have raised over the last three years and our excitement to support this year's charity. Did you know that our wonderful Elm Tree family has raised £14, 224.47 for our previous three charities – Wellchild, East Anglian Air Ambulance and The Dogs Trust.



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As always I am so proud of our school and the community that we have built and continue to grow.

Thank you for your continued support.

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