



ELTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Lane, Elton, Peterborough, PE8 6RS

Telephone: 01832 280314

E-mail: office@elton.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.eltonschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Claire Arnold

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU”

FRIENDSHIP

TRUST

JUSTICE

ENDURANCE

COMPASSION

KOINONIA

Dear Parents/Carers of St Christopher and St Etheldreda children,

A very Happy New Year to each of you and a huge, huge THANK YOU for all the wonderfully thoughtful and generous gifts and cards from you all. We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break and didn't get too confused by the days in between Christmas and New Year because we certainly did!

The following letter lets you know what your child will be discovering and learning about this term and it also serves as a reminder about other important information too.

*This is also a good moment to let you know that we are very lucky to be joined by **Miss Haleina Bi** who has swapped with Mrs Swales for this half term on a contrasting placement for their teacher training. Miss Bi will be working predominantly in St Christopher Class but will also experience some teaching with the whole of the Year 4 group.*

So first of all, a huge welcome back to an exciting spring term and our new **Big Question:**
“Is the world fair for everyone?”

This Big Question will involve diving into our three concepts of “**Equality**”, “**Diversity**” and “**Exploitation**” in order to help us to develop and explore our *exploring skills* this term in a range of subjects in addition to making strong links with local and international geography.

Our class book this term is “**Floodland**” by Marcus Sedgwick: if you imagine that England is now covered in water and Norwich is an island you will hopefully be able to see how this story links in with our Big Question and the three concepts!

As always, there is no need/expectation to buy a copy of the book as we will be providing copies of the text for your child – **and it also means that we read the text together in class, not at home, so no spoilers (please)!**

Geography: This term we will be developing our **place/locational geographical** knowledge and understanding by comparing similarities and differences between two contrasting parts of the world. This will also include opportunities to develop our **fieldwork skills**, using atlases and physical and digital mapping techniques. We will begin by focusing on East Anglia with its extremely close links with our class text and our upcoming class trip to Ely Cathedral!

History: We will explore Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots, investigating questions such as, “**Why did they want to settle?**”, “**How did they keep control of their kingdoms?**” and “**How was Anglo-Saxon Britain ruled?**”

Maths: This term we will be focusing on **Multiplication and Division** not only becoming fluent in our multiplication and division facts but also securing our knowledge and understanding of written methods and developing our reasoning and problem-solving skills. Later on in the term we will be moving on to **Fractions**.

Science : This term looks at understanding the changes that happen in humans as they develop into old age. The children will be taught about the differing gestation periods in humans and other animals and creating timelines to show how our bodies change from babies to adults in a fairly simple way. We will also investigate what plants need in order to live, grow and reproduce.

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RE: - We will be delving into 2 different enquiry questions for the Christian faith this term, **Christianity**, “**What difference did Paul’s conversion on the Damascus Road make to Christians?**” and, “**How does believing Jesus is their saviour inspire Christians to save and serve others?**” The children will further develop their skills in learning *about* religion (knowledge and understanding of religion and worldviews) and learning *from* religion (responding to religion and worldviews). During these units the children will be making connections and links building on previous topics and finding golden threads between other faiths. In these enquiry units they will be developing their understanding of the concepts through 3 areas: **Scriptural narrative, Community Practice and Daily Living.**

Music: We will be cultivating our singing skills and playing instruments with increasing confidence and control. This will lead to developing ways to improvise and compose using musical notation and investigate some great composers and continue to appreciate the history of music. The question we will explore through our music lessons is “**How does music improve our world?**”

Computing: Year 5 will be investigating how to read and create spreadsheets in order to organise data and years 3 and 4 will be developing their coding skills.

PSHE: We will be looking at **diversity and communities** and continuing our work on **healthy and safer lifestyles** exploring aspects of healthy eating, physical activity and sleep.

Latin: Latin is a brilliant way to support children’s literacy as it can help children make connections between Latin and English grammar and vocabulary, and it gives them the key to unlock English. It also gives them a deeper cultural knowledge, helping them understand common concepts and phrases like “et cetera” and “Achilles’ heel.” Year 3 will begin their Latin journey learning about the origins of the English language and learn about present tense verbs. Year 4 & 5 will continue to develop their understanding of Latin nouns, verbs and how sentences are created.

Visitors/Trip:

We are really excited to be inviting Andy Sadler, who works for the Environment Agency, in to share what his role entails and providing us with valuable information about rivers and linking it in with our 3 key concepts and geography topic work.

In the second half of term, we will be travelling to Ely Cathedral to take part in a bespoke “Floodland” day (*and to also make an important connection with the year 4/5 class name!*) to enrich our understanding and enjoyment of our class book. (We will be looking for willing volunteers closer to the time to come along on the trip with us.) More details to follow about this trip later on.

Homework:

The weekly homework will consist of:

Times Tables: Every day for about 10 minutes we expect the children to be practising their times tables and associated division facts. (They should know how many 7s are in 42 as opposed to simply only knowing that $6 \times 7 = 42$.) *Please remember that the Government expectation with regard to times tables is that all children by the end of Year 4 should know all their tables up to 12x. Year 4 children will also be formally tested in the Summer term.*

Daily Reading: At least *15 minutes* per day. This is a **minimum** - please read more if you can! Regular readers make for stronger spellers and writers – so the more reading the better please! The children need to bring their current reading book into school **every day** as we will have periods of quiet reading each day. Our class library has been significantly updated and improved with a wide range of texts but we encourage children to bring their own reading books in from home too – as long as it is appropriate for their age and reading ability and, very importantly, the children are enjoying the book.

Spelling: Every Monday (for both classes) the children will be tested on the spelling strategies we have been looking at during the previous week in class. We will share these spelling strategies in the weekly homework letter. Your child should also have a copy of the Year 3/4 and 5/6 Spelling Lists that they were learning/learnt last term. We will expect them to continue to work on these lists. Please let us know if you need another list sending.

The idea is that the children should be able to complete all of these homework tasks independently helping to develop the skill of taking responsibility for their own learning and being able to organise themselves effectively, without it being driven solely by parents.

For the '**Daily Homework Tasks**' there is no expectation that the children actually produce any written/paper evidence to me as many of these tasks will be done verbally or through an online game/activity.

HOMEWORK MATTERS

We will be sending the new term's project ideas out shortly and your child will again only need to choose ONE to complete. A date for the new Open Afternoon to share projects will be sent out in due course.

PE: Every Wednesday afternoon, (St Etheldreda) and every Friday morning (St Christopher). Your child may arrive for school in their PE kit. Please remember that layers are a good idea for cold days!

Water bottles: Even though its cold it remains very important that your child brings a water bottle every day into school and take it home every day to be thoroughly cleaned. ***Brains need hydration – whatever the weather!***

Change of shoes! *A change of shoes is imperative* in order to keep our lovely school clean and a nice place to learn in. *(Please bring wellies/change of shoes in a separate, strong, bag to be stored in the cloakroom)*

Our email addresses are hhannam@elton.cambs.sch.uk and jmurphy@elton.cambs.sch.uk

Kind regards

Mrs Hannam, Mrs Murphy & Mrs Hook