ELTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
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"LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU"

FRIENDSHIP TRUST JUSTICE ENDURANCE COMPASSION KOINONIA

Dear Parents and Carers of St Christopher and St Etheldreda Classes,

We hope that you all had a super summer holiday and didn't melt too much during all that glorious weather!

We begin our new autumn term with Our Big Question:

"Where is the past in the present?"

We will be unpicking this question using our three concepts of **Change, Community and Legacy.**

To help the children try to answer this question they will be travelling back in time to investigate *prehistory* – to discover what life was like in the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages.

Later in this term we have organised an exciting trip to Flag Fen for the children to experience some hands-on experiences and to get a feel for what life was like without smart phones, cars and even designer clothes! (How on earth did they survive?)

We will be looking at a number of different class texts including, **"Stone Age Boy"** and **"The Wild Way Home"**. As always, there is no need/expectation to buy a copy of the book as we will be providing copies of the texts for your child – and it also means that we read the text together in class, not at home, so no spoilers (*please*)! In English the children will be using these texts and their developing history knowledge to create various pieces of writing over the term to inform and entertain their reader.

These texts, together with our historical topic work and trip to Flag Fen, will provide us with a range of interesting and imaginative ways to develop our spelling, grammar and writing skills over the term. Look out for a set of instructions about how to survive in the Stone Age, or a story to read over your campfire!

Maths- The children will continue to be taught in their year group, rather than as a mixed class. All three years will begin the term by developing and embedding their understanding of place value before moving onto investigating addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills during the term. All lessons begin with a quick "flashback" activity to check their previous understanding before moving onto practising their fluency and problem-solving skills for the current mathematical topic. It is vitally important that all children continue to practise their times tables skills at home on a daily basis in order to support their work in maths lessons.

(If you need any further information about these mathematical subjects - how they are taught and/or what you can do to support your child - please get in contact with us via the email addresses below.)

Computing-
Year 3 will understand how flowcharts are used in programming and explore different types of timers. They will practise using the repeat command and understanding the importance of nesting. This will lead to them being able to design and create an interactive scene.

Year 4 will explore how "if statements" work and use coordinates in computer programming. They will look at selection in computer programming and what a variable is. These skills will lead them onto creating and playing their own game.

Year 5 will begin the term by continuing to build on the coding skills they have developed in previous years. They will learn about the importance of simplifying code as well as how tags, functions and different variable types can be used within a program.

Every week each year group will, in addition to the above Computing topics, continue to develop their general computing skills with a huge focus on keeping safe online. They will be following a programme called "2BeSafe" which is an age-appropriate Department of Education backed programme to equip children for "digital" life. This will include sessions investigating, for example, self-image, online relationships and bullying, privacy and copyright issues to name just a few.

Art- We will investigate famous cave paintings from all around the world, exploring how they were created, what they depict and how we can use the images to learn about the past. The children will use a variety of different media to create their own cave art paintings

Music-Year 3 will explore how long and short (rhythm) and high and low (pitch) sounds can be represented by musical symbols. The children will explore the notes, crotchets and minims within the music they listen to and explore the question "How does music bring us together?

Year 4 will also explore the question "How does music bring us together?" Looking at how musical sections can repeat or change to help create the structure or form of a piece of music or song.

Year 5 will be investigating how melody and harmony can work together to create a piece of music and we will also be answering the question, "how does music bring communities together?" These units of work will provide the children with lots of opportunities to listen and respond to a range of musical styles as well as composing and performing their own pieces of work.

Science- This term the children will be investigating the living things and their habitats followed by looking at animal life cycles. There will lots of opportunities for the children to develop their observation and pattern seeking skills in science in addition to asking questions, setting up fair tests, recording data and interpreting and communicating the results of their investigations and research.

RE - We will be delving into 2 different enquiry questions for two different faiths this term, Islam and Christianity. In Islam, '**How does tawhid create a sense of belonging to the Muslim community?**' and in Christianity, '**Why do Christians believe they are people on a mission?**' 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.

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 and 5 will continue to investigate simple Latin sentences and develop their knowledge and understanding about Latin nouns, verbs and adjectives and making important connections with the language we use today.

Homework:

The weekly homework will consist of:

Spellings: Lists will be provided so that the children can practise at home.

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 x 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 the children will be tested on the spelling strategies we have been looking at during the week in class. We will share these spelling strategies in the weekly homework letter. Your child should also have a copy of the relevant Year 3/4 and/or 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' t**here 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 continue to really enjoy seeing the children's efforts with their homework projects this year. It is a fantastic opportunity for the children to share their efforts and be so engaged and interested in not only their own but the work of others too. We will be sending out the new Homework Matters for the children to select a project for this term.

PE: This continues as before with **St Etheldreda Class** on **Wednesday afternoons** and **St Christopher Class** every **Friday morning**.

Water bottles: As we head into autumn don't forget that it is still 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 to keep our lovely school clean and a nice place to learn in. *(Please bring wellies/change of shoes in a separate, strong, bag.)*

Our email addresses are jmurphy@elton.cambs.sch.uk, lauraswales@elton.cambs.sch.uk and Hhannam@elton.cambs.sch.uk

The St Etheldreda team would kindly request that if you would like to email Laura or Jane (Mrs Swales/Mrs Murphy) about any matter would you copy in both of their email addresses so that they are both kept in the communication "loop".

Warm regards

Hanna Hannam: St Christopher

Laura Swales: St Etheldreda (Wednesday/Thursday/Friday)

Jane Murphy: St Etheldreda (Monday/Tuesday)