



ELKESLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter—Autumn 1

01/09/26—16/10/26



KEY DATES

Autumn 1—1st September 2026 —16th October 2026

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| Monday 14th Sept | - Adventure Unlocked (LA/Oak) |
| Monday 28th Sept | - Adventure Unlocked (Chestnuts/Sycamore) |
| Thursday 1st October | - Step inside our learning—3.30pm—4.00pm |
| Friday 9th October | - Harvest Assembly—2.00pm
(Harvest food collection ends) |
| Tuesday 13th October | - Phonics Visit and Workshop—9.10am—10.15am (Little Acorns) |
| Thursday 15th October | - Halloween Disco |
| Friday 16th October | - Values Assembly—HAPPY |
| Monday 2nd November | - Return to school after half-term |



Events to Attend:

Here is an outline of events; further information will be issued closer to the time.

Step inside our learning—let your child give you the grand tour of their classroom, show you their books so far and of course, the most important thing of all... their tray!!

Phonics visit and Workshop for parents: Parents and carers of Little Acorns are invited to complete activities with their children in class, along with attending a workshop of how phonics is taught.

Harvest Assembly: Annual performance assembly and celebration of food collected for the food bank.

Value Assembly: You are invited to our end of half term assembly where we issue reading awards, attendance certificates and awards for our value of 'HAPPY'.

Music Provision



Mr Fretwell will be continuing his 1:1 music sessions. Please keep your eyes peeled for a possible change of day.

Calendar Synchronisation

Our school website features a Calendar Synchronisation tool. By using the subscribe button, you can seamlessly download important dates directly to your personal calendar. Please be assured that the site does not access your information; any updates made by Mrs. Sutherby will automatically reflect in your calendar.

Extra-Curricular

- Ballet: Tiny Toes is back! Little Acorns and Oaks will have their annual ballet lessons this half term.
- Adventure Unlocked: Adventure Unlocked: Bob will be joining us once again for our outdoor learning.

News and Updates

Don't forget to check Class Dojo for weekly updates and pictures of what the children are learning in class. Please see your child's What We Are Learning document for more information on their learning this half term! For further information, please refer to the school website.



Playgroup

Our fabulous, fun and FREE playgroup is still running in the school hall every Thursday 9-10am. Miss Bell is always ready with a smile (and open arms!) to welcome all children and parents/carers old and new, so please feel free to pop along or pass on our information to anyone who may be interested.



PTA

Our wonderful PTA have planned some fantastic events for the upcoming year, with a few new events thrown in, which we are very excited about! Funds raised from the PTA led events goes directly to your children which is why your on going support is so valuable and greatly appreciated.

Being a small school, means a small PTA and whilst they are small and mighty, we can always welcome more members! If you feel you could offer some time in either helping shop for events, gather donations or helping on the actual days, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the office for more information.

Attendance

Our school day starts at 8.55am and so does our learning. Being on time is a crucial part of success in your child's school life. We understand life happens, we've all been there, but if a child is repeatedly late by 10 minutes a day, that equals almost 6 school days a year and as you can imagine, the impact on learning can be huge.



Attendance is monitored closely by both school and the Local Authority and persistent absences can result in meetings in school, action plans and ultimately legal action. Please work with us to ensure your child is getting the best education possible, and to do that they need to be here whenever possible.

Mobile phones

We understand that, for safety, some children need to bring their phones to school as they walk to and from school alone. These phones need to be handed in to the office as soon as your child arrives on school site and collected when the bell goes. Can we please ask, if your child does not need their phone for safety reasons, they do not bring them.

Miss to Mrs

As I'm sure most of you will know, Miss Turton got married in the summer holidays and has now returned to school as Mrs Barnes. Staff and children are still getting used to the name change, as is she, but we are getting there!!



Welcome to Ms Cocking

Miss Cocking has joined the team for the Autumn term as our Little Acorns teacher. Miss Cocking has already planned and delivered lots of exciting learning experiences and we know the Acorns are in very good hands.



Healthy Eating Reminder

To promote a healthy lifestyle, we encourage ordering snacks from the tuck shop or bringing fruit or a cereal bar. Please note that unsuitable snacks may be removed, and a reminder sent home.



OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

Soon you may start to notice some changes to our outdoor areas as we embark on an exciting new journey, designed to revolutionise play across the school. However, we can't do it alone...we need you! Resources will be needed to support this new way of learning and playing and we will soon be asking for donations of items such as fabric, wooden planks, tarpaulin plus much more. If you would like to find out more about OPAL please check out their parent page on the website <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/opal-programme/faq-for-parents/> and keep your eyes peeled for our parent information evening coming up in Autumn 2.

Staff shoutouts!

Reminder that anyone can nominate a staff member for a very special 'Staff Shoutout Award'. These are given out in Gold assembly and are a lovely way to acknowledge staff for something they have done or a difference they have made. If you would like to nominate a staff member, please contact either Mrs Sutherby or Mrs Griffiths via Dojo with a short message explaining why.

Changes to Head Teachers Award

Our 'Head Teachers Award' is a very special award given to children who are spotted by adults going above and beyond in their every day school life. This can be anything from effort in class, manners around school, helping their peers and much, much more. They aren't given out each week so when a child gets one, it really is something to celebrate!

This year we have decided to rename the award the 'Platinum Award' as it is not only the Head Teacher who can spot a recipient and give it out, but any member of staff across the school.

We are also changing the prize system and instead of choosing a small toy prize from the box, children will now be able to choose a reward from a half termly menu. Awards on these menus have been chosen by the children themselves and include things like hot chocolate with the Head Teacher, comfy chair for assembly, choosing a new book for the library or class. We love this idea and we love the fact that the children have chosen it themselves!

Swimming

Our swimming timetable has changed this year. Swimming sessions will begin at the beginning of March on Monday afternoons. Sycamore will swim first followed by Chestnut class.

Meet the Teams

A new school year brings with it new school council members and this year, they are bigger than ever! With the exciting introduction of OPAL in school, we have enlisted some extra Play Leaders to support in the roll out.

The glorious Green Team: Islay, Minnie, Joanie, Tom, Axel, Jeremiah, William

Key Priorities – All things green! The Green Team are in charge of planting, weeding, ordering plants/fruit/vegetables and working towards the prestigious Gold Woodland Trust award (we already have Silver!)

The excellent Elkesley Innovators: Penelope, Harvey, Sam, Sebastian, Katie, Theon, Ollie D

Key Priorities – Making money for fabulous causes (including us, of course!) The Innovators plan, organise and help run our fundraising events such as Red Nose Day, Children In Need and food bank collections. They also play a crucial role in the village, often taking part in council discussions and being the voice of the children.

The remarkable Reading Champions: Chrissy, George, Rosie, Adam, Rory, Ariana, Benjamin

Key priorities – Caring for our beautiful library and the wonderful books it houses. Our librarians make sure books are well organised for easy access, run weekly story sessions for our young learners, open up the library at lunchtimes for children to enjoy some quiet time and take the lead on ordering lovely new books to share.

The powerful Play Leaders: Alfred, Jaden, Elora, Rosy, Perez, Maisie, Benjamin, Ruby, Willow

Key priorities – This year the Play Leaders role will be to tackle OPAL head on with enthusiasm, passion and enjoyment! They will be sourcing materials, setting up new play areas and educating their peers on what OPAL is. You may even see them at the parent workshop in November. Alongside this, they will continue to ensure our playground equipment is well stocked, in good condition and being used well as well as setting up and running games at breaktimes.



Inset Dates:

- Admin Day: 1st September 2026
- Day 2: 2nd September 2026
- Day 3/4/5: 26-28th July 2026

Term Dates:

Autumn 1: 3rd September 2026 – 16th October 2026

Autumn 2: 2nd November 2026 – 18th December 2026

Spring 1: 4th January 2027 – 12th February 2027

Spring 2: 22nd February 2027 – 25th March 2027

Summer 1: 12th April 2027 – 28nd May 2027

Summer 2: 7th June 2027 – 28th July 2027

PTA Dates:

Harvest collection – food bank, end date: Friday 9th October 2026

Halloween disco: Thursday 15th October 2026 – LA/KS1 2.45-3.45 KS2 3.45-4.45

Pumpkin Carving Competition: October Half Term – pictures posted on dojo

Bingo Night (Parents): Thursday 19th November 2026 – 5pm

Christmas Movie Night: Thursday 3rd December 2026 – 3:30pm

Supporting the Year 6 Christmas Fayre: Friday 4th December 2026

Races Night (Parents): Thursday 4th February 2027 – 5pm

Easter craft and hunt: Thursday 18th March 2027

Bake Sale: Friday 23rd April 2027

Summer Fayre – Sunday 27th June 2027 TBC

Ice cream Sales – Fridays throughout July – led by Year 6s

End-of-year Party – Thursday 15th July 2027

Playgroup

Thursday Mornings 9-10:30

Parents Evenings

Autumn Term:

- Day 1: Tuesday 3rd November 2026
- Day 2: Wednesday 4th November 2026

Spring Term:

- Day 1: Tuesday 16th March 2027
- Day 2: Wednesday 17th March 2027

Parent Invited into school

- Step inside our learning – after school 1st October 2026
- Little Acorns Phonics Session, followed by a teaching phonics talk from Mrs Barnes: Tuesday 13th October 2026
- Shared Reading: Thursday 4th March 2027
- Science fayre: Wednesday 24th March 2027
- Sports Day (Reception – Year 6): Tuesday 18th May 2027
- Nursery sports day: Wednesday 19th May 2027

Parent Workshops (5pm Start times; subject to change):

- OPAL – Monday 23rd November 2026
- SATs Meeting: 18th January 2027
- Internet Safety Workshop: 22nd March 2027

Performance Assemblies (2pm subject to change):

- Harvest Assembly: Friday 9th October 2026
- Egg Rolling; Crème Egg Competition; Easter Assembly: Thursday 25th March 2027
- Reception Graduation: Wednesday 21st July 2027
- Year 6 leavers: Thursday 22nd July 2027

Value Assemblies (10AM)

- Happy: Friday 16th October 2026
- Welcoming/Celebrate Christmas at EPNS: Friday 18th December 2026 (pm)
- Compassionate: Friday 12th February 2027
- Resilient: Friday 26th March 2027
- Talented: Friday 28th May 2027
- Achievers: Friday 23rd July 2027

Concerts for children whom receive music Tuition (3:45 start) – TBC

Adventure Unlocked - Bob Parker

- Monday 14th September – Oaks and Acorns
- Monday 28th September - Chestnut and Sycamore
- Monday 16th November – O and LA
- Monday 23rd November - C and S
- Monday 11th January – O and LA
- Monday 18th January - C and S
- Monday 22nd February – O and LA
- Monday 1st March - C and S
- Monday 12th April – O and LA
- Monday 19th April – C and S
- Tuesday 8th June – O and LA
- Tuesday 29th June – C and S

Non uniform days:

- Odd Socks Day (Anti-bullying): Monday 16th November 2026 -Theme: Odd Socks
- Children In Need: Friday 13th November 2026
- World Book Day: Thursday 4th March 2027
- Red Nose Day: Friday 19th March 2027

Additional Non uniform days will be used throughout the year; information for these will be added to dojo – there will be no specific theme.

Christmas

- Year 6 Christmas Fayre: Friday 4th December 2026
- Christingle (estimated date): Sunday 7th December 2026
- Little Acorn and Oak Nativity: Thursday 10th December 2026
- Christmas Dinner Day: Wednesday 16th December 2026
- Class Christmas Parties: Thursday 17th December 2026

Assessments

- Phonics Screening Check: Week commencing Monday 14th June 2027
- Optional Key Stage 1 SATs: May 2027
- Year 4 multiplication check: 2-week period from Monday 7th June 2027
- Key Stage 2 SATs: Monday 10th May to Thursday 13th May 2027

Transition

- Transition Week (To be confirmed in line with Tuxford):
- Year 6 Treat Day: Tuesday 20th July 2026

Other Noteworthy Dates – in bold = discussion/work based in school

- International Literacy Day: 8th September 2026
- International Day of Peace: 21st September 2026
- **Black History month: October 2026**
- National poetry Day: 1st October 2026
- World Mental health Day: 10th October 2026
- **Diwali: 8th November 2026**
- World Science Day: 10th November 2026
- **Anti-bullying Week: 16th November 2026**
- **Road Safety Week: 15th November 2026**
- **World Religions Day: 17th January 2027**
- National Story telling Week: 30th January 2027
- **Children's Mental Health Week: Monday 1st February 2027**
- **Safer Internet Day 9th February 2027**
- International Day of Maths: 26th March 2027
- **Sign Language Week: 19th March 2027**
- Eid al-Fitr: 9th March 2027
- Shakespeare Week: 15th March 2027
- **World Art Day: 15th April 2027**
- Earth Day: 22nd April 2027
- VE Day: 8th May 2027
- **GRT History Month: June 2027**
- World Environment Day: 5th June 2027
- World Ocean Day: 8th June 2027