



Ready, Respectful, Safe



November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to Elmbridge Primary School. Elmbridge benefits from a long tradition of excellence which we will continue to develop, and I am very confident that your child will be able to take advantage of the many and varied activities which are part of the school's life. In March 2018, OFSTED graded us 'good' in all areas, stating that 'pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain' and that 'classrooms are a hive of discussion and thinking'. In September 2023, OFSTED felt that the inspection grade might be 'outstanding' if a graded inspection was carried out acknowledging our 'exceptional pastoral support', our 'ambitious curriculum', our 'high expectations for pupils' academic and personal development' and our 'wide range of enrichment opportunities'.

We hope you find the information in this leaflet useful in providing an insight into life at Elmbridge Primary School and in answering some of the many questions you may have at this important time of choosing a school for your son or daughter.

At Elmbridge Primary School, we aim for all our pupils to be confident to embrace the next stage of their learning. We want them to have enquiring minds, be independent and resilient. We also want our pupils to value the importance of reading and be able to communicate ideas effectively. The Elmbridge Primary School curriculum will also evolve to reflect the knowledge and skills needed for life in the 21st Century.

Although we are a very large primary school split over two sites, with 630 pupils on roll, we strive to have a 'family feel' and real sense of community with our children and families. OFSTED noted that 'the warm and positive relationships between staff and pupils are replicated by pupils around the school' (September 2023). We believe that our staff and pupils should know how to look after their physical and mental health and show respect, tolerance and compassion for each other. Moreover, by working together as a team and involving all stakeholders (parents, governors, pupils and staff) will together ensure a continuous improvement in high standards of teaching and learning.

We look forward to meeting you and hopefully working with you in the future. Please contact us on 01452 523632 if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Glen Tharia - Head Teacher

Our School



We are very lucky to have a modern style building on our infant site. There are nine classes in EYFS and KS1 with three classes in each year group. Our teachers are supported by a teaching assistant in every class.

Our classrooms are bright, colourful and vibrant. We believe in providing a challenging, fun and creative learning environment which motivates our children and enhances their learning.

Each classroom is equipped with an interactive smartboard, laptops and iPads for the children to use. These resources are used to enhance the curriculum and to create exciting learning experiences for our children.



We are also fortunate to have a multi purpose hall, an enrichment and nurture room on the infant site. Children also have access to a range of facilities at the junior site, including a cookery room, large hall with purpose built stage, a computer suite, a large field and outside area.



All children have access to a playing field with a fitness trail and climbing wall. They also have a hard surfaced play area with a shelter, skipping area, basketball goals and a running track.



There are lots of other activities provided for the children to play with, but at times children like to use a quiet area to simply sit and chat with their friends.

We have several small gardens around the school that are planted and maintained by our children and staff. The main garden is used for growing vegetables which the children use to cook with. Surplus produce is sold to parents by the children.



A secret garden area with a totem pole designed by the children has been created. This enhances the curriculum by enabling the children to have hands on experiences.





We also have an environmental area for outdoor learning. This area is abundant with wildlife which the children delight in watching throughout the year.

In this environment, children will have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks, how to use their own initiative to solve problems, co-operate with others, develop their social skills, grow in confidence and become self motivated.



The School Day

Morning Session 8.45 am - 11:30 am

Afternoon Session 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

The sessions indicated above are the times that EYFS lessons start and finish. The classroom **doors open at 8:45 am and close at 8.50 am** so that children are in class and ready to start as soon as they come in to school.

For working parents, a breakfast, after school and holiday club is available at the junior site. The childcare club staff walk the children across the school playgrounds at the start and end of the school day.

Teaching and Learning

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS)

During their first year at school, children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum. This statutory curriculum is for children from birth to five years of age. For many pupils, this means that there will be continuity from their pre-school experiences. The EYFS curriculum is organised into Prime and Specific areas of learning.

The three Prime areas are:

Communication and Language	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development
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Strands from these areas of learning underpin and run through the Specific areas of learning, which are:

Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design
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At Elmbridge Primary we seek to promote independence and encourage Foundation Stage pupils to initiate and explore creative, expressive and investigative activities, learning through a play-based approach. We also value the importance of teaching fundamental skills in phonics, developing speaking and language, reading, writing and mathematics and so these aspects are taught daily. We follow the Read Write Inc phonics scheme.



Throughout the Foundation Stage, 'free-flow' principles are fostered alongside structured experiences, enabling pupils to pursue learning in many different ways.

The outdoor areas are an integral part of the stimulating learning environment provided at Elmbridge. Each classroom has access to the Foundation Stage veranda and courtyard.



In addition, pupils have timetabled sessions in our Forest School woodland setting. This is an inspiring and innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning, with children exploring and experiencing the natural world through practical activities. This aims to:

- Build pupils' confidence, self-esteem and independence skills
- Raise pupils' awareness and appreciation of the natural environment



Key Stage 1

Years 1 and 2 form Key Stage 1 and are the beginning of your child's journey through the National Curriculum. Years 3 to 6 form Key Stage 2. The National Curriculum consists of four core subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Computing



The other subjects are called the Foundation Subjects and these are:

- Art
- D&T (Design & Technology)
- History
- Geography
- Music
- P.E. (Physical Education),
- R.E. (Religious Education)
- PSHE&C (Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship)



Using the National Curriculum as our framework, a broad, balanced, creative curriculum is planned for the children.

Special Educational Needs

Everyone belongs ... Everyone thrives: Families are at the heart of everything we do at Elmbridge, where all our children can flourish and achieve. It is our shared responsibility to unlock their potential through a personalised and child-centred approach. We want our parents of pupils with SEND to feel welcomed, valued and actively involved in the decision making of their child's learning. Our ambition is to give our SEND pupils opportunities that showcase the 'best' they can be.

Where a child has a recognisable additional need or disability, we will make reasonable adjustments to meet those needs, to ensure that your child thrives in our mainstream setting. Pupils are seen to have additional needs if they have a significant difficulty in one or more of the following areas:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs
- Medical, Sensory and/or Physical needs

For most pupils, extra help will be provided within the classroom, managed by the class teacher and with some support from the Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCO) or appropriate teaching assistant. In exceptional cases, some pupils may need support from external agencies. In very exceptional cases, the pupil may need an Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and require additional support from the Local Authority, or from the Health or Social Care services.

During the transition into school, parents of children with additional needs will be contacted by the class teacher initially, supported by the SENDCO member of staff, and informed of the support arrangements for their child. Please refer to the school website for more detailed information about our Special Educational Needs provision, www.elmbridgeprimaryschool.co.uk.

Behaviour Management.

Elmbridge Primary School is committed to creating an environment where exemplary behaviour is at the heart of productive learning. Everyone is expected to maintain the highest standards of personal conduct, to accept responsibility for their behaviour and encourage others to do the same.

The school has 3 simple rules: **'Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe'** which can be applied to a variety of situations and are taught and modelled explicitly.

Relentless routines

We encourage all our school community to follow our 'relentless routines' of calm corridors, wonderful walking, legendary line-ups and marvelous manners.

We also understand that for some children following our behaviour expectations are beyond their developmental level. In this case, these children will have bespoke positive behaviour plans, which may include rewards to reinforce positive behaviour.

Aims:

- To create a culture of exceptionally good behaviour: for learning and for community for life.
- To ensure that all learners are treated fairly and shown respect
- To promote good relationships.
- To give learners attention and importance for good conduct.
- To help learners be responsible for their own behaviour.
- To build a community, which values kindness, care, good humour, good temper and empathy for others.
- To promote community cohesion through improved relationships.
- To ensure that excellent behaviour is a minimum expectation for all.

The full Behaviour Policy is available on the school website:

www.elmbridgeprimaryschool.co.uk.

Admission Procedure

Sadly, we are not involved with the admissions allocations for reception children and are not permitted to offer places. To obtain a school place for your child an application has to be made to the Local Authority.

Information is automatically sent to you by the Local Authority (L.A.). In order to obtain a school, place your application must be returned to the L.A. by the date specified.

In Gloucestershire, children may be admitted to school at the beginning of the school year following their 4th birthday.

In September 2025 we will be able to offer 90 places for Reception children at Elmbridge Primary School.

As explained in the Local Authority Information Pack, when the number of applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following oversubscription criteria is applied to decide which children will be allocated a place to our school.

1. Children in Public Care (Looked After Children).
2. Children who already have siblings attending the school at the time the applicant is admitted.
3. Children for whom only one particular school is appropriate due to an exceptional medical condition.
4. Children with the strongest geographical claim.

For your information the Gloucestershire County Council Key Dates for applying for a primary school place for September 2025 are:

From November 2024	Letters sent out explaining how to apply for a school place. If you are a Gloucestershire resident and you still have not received a letter by December 2024 please contact coordinated admissions.
From 4 th November 2024 to 15 th January 2025	Online application facility open.
15 th January 2025	Closing date for all applications
31st March 2025	Closing date for Summer-born deferment requests
16 th April 2025	Allocation Day

23 rd April 2025	Closing date to return reply form accepting the School place or requesting to be placed on waiting list/s
14 th May 2025	Outcome of waiting list requests
21 st May 2025	Closing date for return of reply forms
June 2025 to July 2025	Appeals

For further information about the Admissions process, please contact the Co-ordinated Admissions Team at Shire Hall on 01452 425407 or visit the county council website: <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>.

Once your child has been offered a place at Elmbridge Primary School, we will contact you to invite you to an evening meeting to discuss the induction plans. During this term the children are invited to visit the school and meet their class teacher and other children who they will start school with.

In September the children will follow an induction programme. They attend school part-time gradually building up to full time by the end of a three-week period. This induction programme will be explained at the meeting in June.

Elmbridge Primary School
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