

Elder Class

Term 1 Newsletter

2026-2027



Elder Class Staff

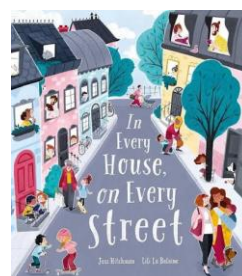


Welcome

Welcome back Elder class! We hope you have had a lovely and restful break and are looking forward to the new school year! We know that returning to school can bring a mix of feelings, so we will take time to settle back into routines. Visual supports, clear expectations, sensory regulation opportunities will all be in place to help pupils feel secure.

This term our topic is: We are family.

This term our book is...



Curriculum

Our focus in Elder class will be developing communication, independence skills and building positive relationships within the school community.

A total communication approach, is used and includes using, switches, Makaton, symbols, communication boards as well as language being modelled in the classroom. Our sensory story this term is *In Every House, on Every Street*. Through this story, we will explore the different rooms in a home and think about how homes can look different for different families. This links with our PSHE learning, where we will be talking about our similarities and differences, as well as the special people in our families. In Maths, we will be focusing on number and place value. We will practise our subitising skills and explore how these can help when finding one more and one less. We will also continue to build our interoception skills through TAC-PAC and emotional literacy lessons, helping the children to notice, understand and communicate how their bodies and feelings may be changing. On Fridays, we will have Art and Food and Nutrition lessons. These sessions give the children opportunities to be creative, explore new textures and develop practical skills. They can sometimes get a little messy, although we will do our best to keep mess to a minimum! If you would like to send in old clothes for your child to wear during these lessons, please feel free to do so. We love taking our learning outdoors and hope to make the most of the playground and outside areas in all weathers. Elder Class will have Forest School on Thursday afternoons, giving the children opportunities to explore, investigate and learn through hands-on outdoor experiences. Please send in suitable outerwear for your child to keep in school, so they are comfortable and ready to join in whatever the weather brings to use in school.

Whole School Diary Dates

Tuesday 15th September 2026	NHS Flu vaccinations for pupils with Parental/Carer consent
Tuesday 13th October	Parent's Evening
Friday 23rd October 2026	End of Term
Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October 2026	Half Term
Monday 2nd November 2026	Start of Term

Food and nutrition – Please log into your ParentPay account where a payment item has been raised. We would appreciate it if you could make a voluntary contribution.

Key Class Information

Please send in any snacks/ drinks for your child.

Tuesday	Woods
Thursday	PE and Forest school
Friday	AM: Food and Nutrition and Art PM: Library and Trampoline

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Keeping in touch

Please continue to use the Home/School Book or Tapestry to inform us of any important information relating to your child. We will check it every day but please log into Tapestry for your daily class update. Don't forget to add any home experiences to Tapestry as this provides us with a valuable link to home. Any absence or to notify us of a medical appointment or for general enquiries please email: willoughbyenquiries@prioryacademies.co.uk