



Elmer Base

# Dates and information – Reception Spring 1 2025

Happy New Year to you all! We have really loved hearing all about your Christmases, the children have loved telling us all about their special memories and moments during the holidays.

We have lots of exciting learning to look forward to this term. We have already begun talking about winter and the seasonal changes we have noticed outside. As we will be taking part in the Big Schools Birdwatch, much of our learning will be based around garden birds, how to care for them outside and how to be good bird spotters. You can take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch together at home too - there are more details below. We will also be learning about animals in different parts of the world. The children are fascinated and interested in all animals, especially birds. We will also be sharing a variety of high-quality books to help us discover more about native British wildlife. We will be continuing with our daily phonics lessons, revisiting learning from last term to be sure that all children are secure with the more recent sounds we have learnt before moving onto the next set. Please continue to share the stories that your child brings home as well as listening to them read their **reading/blending** book. To enable children to develop their fluency when reading they need to read the same book at least 3 times. This not only enables them to gain confidence but develop an understanding of what they have read too. As you are aware, there is an expectation that you read with your child at least three times a week and comment in the diary; please continue to do this as it really does make a huge difference to the development of your child's reading ability. The diary is also a good place to write messages for school. Please bring in your child's book bag every day and remember to check it each day for letters and messages from school as well other things your child might have made which have been taken home - thank you.

As the weather is turning colder and children are wearing hats, gloves and scarves, please try to make sure these are named so that your child can be responsible for their own belongings – thank you.

Children can bring in items, books, pictures or other things related to our current learning theme at any time to share with their friends. Please don't hesitate to come and see me if you any questions about our learning this term.

Warmest regards,  
Miss Maese

## Dates for your diary

**24 and 26 Jan – Big Garden Birdwatch**

**10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February – parent consultations**

**29<sup>th</sup> Jan – Chinese New Year**

**17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February – half term week**

## Class Organisation

**PE** Our PE session is on Wednesday.

### **Home learning –**

Reading every day if possible (x3 times a week minimum)

Phonics home learning – sent home each Friday

Tricky words to learn – bookmark in diary

## How you can help at home

Reading with your child as regularly as possible.

Big Schools Bird Watch- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch/how-to-attract-birds-to-your-garden>

Playing games at home to encourage sharing and turn taking, subitising on a dice and counting on a track.



# ELMER BASE EYFS AREAS OF LEARNING: SPRING TERM 1 2025 ' WILD WONDERS'

N.B. THESE ARE 'INTENDED' ACTIVITIES AND CAN CHANGE OR BE ADAPTED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EACH CHILD'S INTERESTS AND INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.



<b>Personal, Social &amp; Emotional Development</b> SCARF –Keeping myself safe This unit of learning will involve thinking about: What's safe to go onto my body Keeping Myself Safe - What's safe to go into my body (including medicines) Safe indoors and outdoors Listening to my feelings Keeping safe online People who help to keep me safe  We will continue to develop an awareness of our own and others feelings and develop the relationships we build with our friends.	<b>Physical Development</b> In our gymnastics unit this term children will develop their basic gymnastic skills. They will explore basic movements, creating shapes, balances and jumps and begin to develop rocking and rolling. They will learn how to use the space effectively and perform basic skills in floorwork and on apparatus. They will learn to copy, create and repeat short sequences. We will begin to use levels and directions when travelling and balancing. We will be continuing to work on individual letter formation and ensure this is used accurately in their in daily writing work.		<b>Communication and Language</b> Our role play area is a veterinary surgery to enable the children to take on the role of caring for the animals. Children will join in with stories, rhymes and songs linked to the books we read; Lost Words, Robin’s Winter Song, Blackbird Blackbird, Owl Babies, The Dawn Chorus, Farmer Duck. Bird fact books. Rhyming activities and games. Listen carefully to each other during circle time. Listening and attention games and activities. Developing key vocabulary based around our guided reading texts.
<b>Mathematics</b> We will continue to develop perceptual subitising skills (seeing the quantity without counting) in increasingly complex arrangements. For larger quantities, the children will begin to use skills of conceptual subitising, beginning to quickly see the sub-groups within these larger numbers. The children will continue to engage with activities that draw attention to the purpose of counting – to find out ‘how many’ objects there are. The children will consolidate their understanding of the composition of 5. The children will deepen their understanding of a ‘whole’ being made up of smaller parts. The children will secure their understanding of the pairs of numbers that make 5, and then use 10 frames to begin to explore 6 and 7 as numbers that are composed of a full 5 and 1 more/ 2 more etc. We will notice when quantities are equal or unequal, and will begin to consider how we can manipulate the number of objects in 2 sets to make them equal. We will use the language of ‘more than’, ‘fewer than’ and ‘an equal number’ to describe how many objects there are in each set. ‘Fewer than’ is used rather than ‘less than’, as the focus is on countable things.	<b>Understanding the World</b> Seasonal changes – Winter Making observations during the birdwatch. Making bird feeders – link with developing outdoor area, planting etc, thinking about suitable planting for wildlife. Animals native to the British Isles, animals from around the world and in different habitats. Birds around the world, evolution of birds – link back to dinosaurs. Chinese New Year celebrations.	<b>Expressive Arts &amp; Design</b> Sing songs and rhymes and learn new ones in our Jolly music scheme. Learning new songs about animals. Use tools and techniques and begin to adapt work as necessary. Use ways to shape, join and assemble materials being used. Explore different ways of making sounds linked to the wild wonders using musical instruments.	<b>Literacy Reading:</b> Read and listen to a range of stories linked to birds and animals. Daily phonics. Read simple phrases and sentences with increasing fluency. Read an increasing number of common exception words.  <b>Writing:</b> Write words and labels using CVC (zip), CVCC (back), CCVC words (ship). Speed write to help us quickly recall graphemes. Guided writing focused on constructing short sentences in a meaningful context. Write facts about animals and birds discovered during the birdwatch. Develop story making skills to make up and perform their own stories.
<b>Christian value</b> Our Christian value for this term is Hope		<b>R.E</b> How can we help others when they need it?	