



Building Foundations for
Fulfilling Futures

ELM Pathway



The Elm children have lots of exciting educational visits and events to look forward to as we approach the end of a successful school year. We will continue to prepare our Year 6 Elm pupils for the end of their Oaklands' journey and the start of Secondary school life. There are also lots of opportunities for family members to join us in school this half term.

Elm pathway staffing:

Pathway Lead – Ingrid Spencer

Rabbits – Jack, Dominique, Yvette, Sahida & Lucy

Hares – Raksha, Loretta, Anisa & Fathima

Deers – Reshma, Rachel, Maria, Nazmira, Danielle & Ivana

Robins – Jodie, Marcella, Maegan, Maryam & Harshila

Educational visits & family events in school this half term

- Monday June 8th Fun Valley visit
- Thursday 11th June: Parent Forum meeting by the Café in Abbey Park
- Monday 22nd June: Parent Workshop – Behaviour in Communication
- Monday 29th June dance event
- Wednesday 8th July: Parent Breakfast with school leaders
- Celebration picnic and reading event in Evington park- date & time to be confirmed
- Year 6 Leavers Assembly 1.30 Thursday 9th July (children can go home with parents afterwards if wished)

This half term's learning focus: Social skills in public places. The school is now using **smiLE Therapy**©

led by Assistant head Vicky Bland and Communication Facilitator Kayleigh Thrower. It was created by Speech & Language Therapists as a taught programme for practicing social skills. Pupils are given tasks to complete which are

videoed, so that they can watch back to understand how they used their communication skills including tone of voice & body language to get what they wanted. They then role play how to do the activity more appropriately or effectively and gain valuable self awareness and independence. We are trialling this with Cherry children now, and hope to deliver it with some Elm children in the Autumn Term.

It extends on the work we do on social skills in whole class teaching every day where we support our Elm children to understand socials rules and language and to feel more confident in their own communication skills. An example of opportunities to practice these skills are when we have family events like assemblies or special sessions such as the Mental Health spa activity. Many classes also use snack time to set up a 'class café' scenario. We will also be practicing our social skills on trips around Leicester over the next few weeks.

Roleplay and practicing social scenarios is also something that is very useful to do at home, especially as pupils will be in different places with their families over the summer holidays.

Pupils often need support with getting the attention of shopkeepers or servers in food venues and to think about the volume of their voice and asking clearly for wanted items. A simple no resources needed way to practice this at home is to ensure that you make your child ask for things clearly in a reasonable tone (for snacks or to choose a TV show etc.) rather than anticipating what they want or allowing one- or two-word requests. If we insist on fuller sentences at home, it is easier for our children to use them everywhere and become a better communicator.

Home Supported Learning: Here are some activities you could do together outside school to build your child's social skills and role play situations that happen in everyday life, for example

- You can describe an open-ended situation, such as "What do we do when the doorbell rings?" or "What do we do if we're lost?" and then play through different scenarios because there are probably several right answers
- You could write down several different situations on pieces of paper and draw them out of a jar at random.
- Set up a concrete situation like your child wanting to buy something that costs £2.50. Use real money wherever possible and practice what you need to say to ask a shopkeeper to get the wanted item. Don't be afraid to suggest better or clearer ways to ask for the item or ways to get someone's attention politely.
- Then roleplay that activity: One person can be the shopkeeper and one can be the buyer. Then exchange roles
- To build on these skills, the shopkeeper can give the wrong item and your child can then practice appropriately correcting them and asking again for what they need
- There are some pre-made card games to practice choosing or stimulate conversation which you might enjoy on journeys over the summer such as these:

Important Notice: Please make sure your child has suitable clothes including a hat for the good weather we hope is on the way. Oaklands site lacks good shade and we will also be visiting sites this half term. We want children to be active and outdoors every day, so please send in a hat, sunglasses if your child will wear them and sunscreen. Please remember that all items should have your child's name on them.

