Danbury Park Community Primary School
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Early Years Foundation Stage
Class Elm Topic letter
Autumn 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Class Elm for the Autumn 2026 term. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting start to the year.

Our topics this term are Marvellous Me in the first half term and Celebrations in the second half term. This letter gives a clear outline of the learning your child will take part in across the Early Years Foundation Stage. We hope it will also help you support your child at home.

Our Curriculum Overview

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

As the children settle into school, we will help them talk about their feelings with trusted adults and friends, using words that build understanding and confidence. They will learn about rules and expectations and begin to follow them, with reminders where needed. We will also support them to develop a stronger sense of themselves, their place in the class and their own ideas.

Communication and Language

Children will be encouraged to listen carefully to adults and other children, especially during story time and carpet time. They will take part in activities that build attention and concentration, and they will hear familiar stories, rhymes and poems. We will support them to answer simple questions, follow one-step instructions such as “Wash your hands”, and begin to respond to simple “why” questions. They will also practise speaking in simple sentences and talking clearly during play, role play and shared book experiences.

Physical Development

This term we will support both fine motor and gross motor development. Children will practise holding a pencil using a tripod grip and use tools such as scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery with growing control. They will also work on early cutting skills, including making simple snips in paper. In PE, outdoor learning and active play, they will develop balance, coordination, posture and overall body control.

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Music Mark Proud to be a Music Mark School 2023 - 2024

Literacy

We will use a range of texts linked to our topics to develop early reading and writing. Children will hear and explore sounds, rhythm, rhyme and alliteration, and practise orally blending and segmenting simple words such as cat and dog. They will learn that print carries meaning and that English is written from left to right and top to bottom. Children will also practise mark-making, writing their names, and using phonics to label, caption and write simple sentences. Daily Phonics will take place using our scheme Little Wandle.

Maths

In maths, we will focus on numbers 1-5. The children will explore different representations of these numbers, subitising, one more, one less and number composition. They will also learn to form the numbers correctly. We will work on matching, sorting and explaining reasoning, as well as identifying and naming 2D shapes and spotting shapes in the environment.

Understanding the World

Children will talk about themselves, their families and the people who are important to them. We will explore sources of information such as books, photographs, maps and technology. The children will also learn about autumn, animals and habitats, and will discuss celebrations and events including Harvest Festival, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Children in Need and Christmas.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will have plenty of opportunities to explore role play, music, art and design. They will use props, costumes and materials to act out familiar stories and create their own ideas. In music, they will sing songs, learn new rhymes, explore sounds and begin to talk about pitch. In art, they will experiment with mark-making, painting and different tools and techniques.

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 11th September, 9.00 am – Phonics and Reading meeting

Wednesday 30th September – Individual photos

Friday 16th October – Harvest Assembly

Tuesday 20th October and Thursday 22nd October – Parent consultations

Tuesday 24th November and Thursday 26th November, 2.30 pm to 3.25 pm – Stay and Play sessions, one session only

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Routines

PE will take place on Wednesday and Thursday. Children should come to school in their PE kits. Please send a tracksuit for colder weather, as we go outside in most conditions. Earrings must be removed at home before PE.

Let's Present will take place on a Wednesday morning as part of our speaking and listening work. Each child will be given a date for their show and share. This is optional this term, with encouragement to take part in the spring term. A separate letter will follow with more information.

Our new class email is elm@danburypark.essex.sch.uk. Please use this for questions or queries for me. I will endeavour to respond within 48 hours, during working hours. If your email is urgent, please contact admin@danburypark.essex.sch.uk as I am usually unable to read emails during the school day. You may also contact me via Tapestry.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,

Mrs Smith
Class Elm Teacher