

Principal's Message

Celebrating Our Autumn Term 1 Successes

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we finish Autumn 1, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic start we've had to the academic year here at James Elliman Academy. It's been a busy and productive term, and I'm proud of the achievements of both our pupils and staff.

Academic Progress

We're incredibly proud of the progress our pupils have made this half term. Our teachers have worked hard to ensure every child is supported in their learning journey, and it's been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and dedication our pupils have shown across all year groups.

Early Years Foundation Stage: Our Reception children have settled beautifully into school life. They've made excellent progress in developing their independence, social skills, and early literacy and numeracy skills through our engaging play-based learning approach.

Key Stage 1: Our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils have shown growth in their reading, writing, and mathematical skills. We've been particularly impressed with their phonics development and their growing confidence in tackling new challenges.

Key Stage 2: Across Years 3-6, pupils have demonstrated excellent engagement with the curriculum. We've seen improvements in reading comprehension, mathematical reasoning, and creative writing. Our Year 6 pupils are making strong progress as they prepare for their SATs assessments.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

The safety and wellbeing of our children remains our top priority. This half term, we've continued to strengthen our safeguarding practices and also focused on promoting positive mental health and creating an environment where every child feels valued and supported.

Community and Values

Our school community has come together wonderfully this half term. We've celebrated our school value of resilience through assemblies, classroom activities, and the positive behaviour we see every day.

Attendance

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your children attend school regularly and punctually. Good attendance is crucial for your child's progress and wellbeing, and we're pleased to see so many families prioritising this. Please continue to help us achieve 96% attendance this academic year.

Reminders for Parents:

- **Uniform:** Please ensure your child returns after the break in full school uniform. Adhering to the uniform policy helps promote a sense of belonging and equality among pupils. For guidelines, please refer to our website or contact the school office.
- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is crucial for your child's educational success. We appreciate your efforts in maintaining excellent attendance rates. If your child is unwell or unable to attend school, please inform the school office as soon as possible.

Warm regards,
Mrs T Johal

James Elliman Academy - Early Years News



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all well as we settle into the busy rhythm of the school year! We have some great news about the children and a few key updates for the month ahead.

Settling Into School Life

We are so proud to report how wonderfully the children have settled in this term! They are already showing impressive independence, enthusiasm for learning, and are fantastic at following our behaviour expectations. Watching them confidently embrace the new routines and take responsibility for their work and behaviour has been a joy. Please keep up the great support at home by reinforcing these positive routines.

Get Ready for Cooler Weather

As the autumn weather brings those chilly days, please make sure your child is prepared! We kindly ask that you send them to school with a warm coat and appropriate footwear, especially on days with planned outdoor play. Layers are always a great idea to help them stay comfortable as the temperature changes throughout the day.

Attendance Reminders

A quick, important reminder on attendance: if your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please call the office on the day to let us know the reason. If you are ever unsure whether they are well enough to be in school, please don't hesitate to call our Senior Welfare Officer for advice and support.

Phonics and Reading at Home

The children are thoroughly enjoying their **daily phonics sessions** every morning. They have also received their first reading and library books. Remember that some of these books focus on **pictures only**—this is a crucial step to build their storytelling skills! **Please remember to return reading books, wallets, and records every Monday.**

Thank You for Your Support!

A huge thank you to everyone who has already contributed to the **Reception Toy Fund** this term. Your donations are invaluable, helping us purchase resources for fun, hands-on activities like cooking and making playdough!

Thank you for your ongoing partnership. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

Mrs Chander Early Years Vice Principal

Nursery

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Nursery's first newsletter of the year. This term we have welcomed new children who have all settled in well, following new routines and they have become part of the Nursery family. Last year's children have been a great support in settling the new children and are developing good friendships. Our main focus has been to develop their confidence and independence as they explore their new learning environment. We are pleased to say that they are confident when choosing their own resources, and are getting much better at tidying up too!

We have been learning the importance of sharing and taking turns. The children are working together to follow the nursery routines, golden rules and the 'days

of the week'.

Our Topic focus is 'All about me, my family and learning about our feelings'. Nursery children have enjoyed listening to new stories; I Like Myself, I Like Me and Diwali Celebrations. The children have shared their feelings linked to real life experiences. Children loved making fireworks and rangoli patterns. We drew pictures of our families, which are proudly displayed in the Nursery.

The children have been actively developing both their **gross and fine motor skills**. Outdoors, they've been strengthening their **gross motor skills** by **riding bikes** and **climbing** on the nursery playground equipment. This has been especially fun as they enjoy **racing** their peers. Indoors, they've also been practicing their **fine motor skills** through **mark-making** and imaginative **roleplay**, like taking their toys "shopping." We would like to thank you for your continued support at home throughout the first half term and for your generous donations to the Toy Fund so far; this will allow us to purchase new resources for the Nursery.



Next term, the children will explore the NELI stories. Details will be sent out after half term. Please remember to ask a member of the nursery staff to scan the barcode every week. Enjoy reading stories and doing activities with your child at home.

Please continue to support your child with their reading for 10-15 minutes a day, write some comments in the yellow book, and return the books back every Monday. We hope you have an enjoyable, restful October half term break and we look forward to the children returning on Monday the 3rd of November.

Mrs Kaur & the Nursery Team

Reception

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are so pleased with how well the children have settled into Reception this term. Over the past few weeks, our main focus has been helping them feel happy, confident, and independent as they get to know their new environment and routines. It has been lovely to see them forming friendships, exploring the different areas of the classroom, and learning how to share and play kindly with others. Many children are already showing great independence when choosing activities and tidying up after themselves—well done, everyone!



Reception - Continued

In Literacy, the children have been enjoying some well-loved traditional tales, including *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *The Gingerbread Man*. They have taken great delight in retelling the stories, acting them out, describing the characters and settings, and making predictions about what might happen next. A real highlight was cooking and tasting porridge and baking their own gingerbread men—fun and delicious learning experiences!



In Maths, the children have taken part in lots of practical activities to develop their understanding of numbers and problem solving. They have been counting through songs and actions, comparing and ordering numbers, sorting objects, and working together to build/measure towers and making repeated patterns.



In Science, the children have been busy exploring the world around them. They started by learning about their natural environment and then moved on to finding out about farm animals and the products they provide, such as milk, cheese, and butter. We also explored the difference between living and non-living things and talked about where birds live and what they need to survive.



Phonics and Reading Books

Our daily phonics sessions are now well underway, helping children to build their early reading and writing skills. The children have also started bringing home their reading books. Some of these are picture books designed to encourage storytelling and language development—an important step in learning to read.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our induction day in July. Thank you for attending and showing such interest in your child's learning. We hope you found it helpful to learn more about how children learn in Reception and how you can support your child at home.

Finally, a big thank you to all parents who have contributed to the Reception toy fund. Your support helps us buy materials for cooking, playdough, and other hands-on learning experiences that the children love.

We're looking forward to a fantastic year ahead, full of exciting learning and happy memories for your children.

Mrs Khan and the Reception Team

Dear Parents/Carers,

The first half-term has come to a swift close, and it has been a fantastic start for our Year 1 and Year 2 students! The children have settled extremely well into their new routines and class environments. I have visited all KSI classes and am very impressed by the children's **focus, concentration, and motivation** for learning.

Key Stage 1 (KSI) Learning

This year, we have introduced a KSI wide approach to Phonics. We have assessed and grouped children across KSI based on their ability, and this is proving to be very successful. The children are enjoying the new group structure, meeting different staff and peers, and are making excellent progress in their decoding skills, reading speed, and accuracy.

A Huge Thank You: The support you provided last year was essential to your child's success. Please continue to practice reading and phonics at home; your involvement makes a real difference.

Mrs. R Pinkney
Vice Principal for Year 1 and Year 2,
Inclusion and Safeguarding

Year 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had an exciting start to the year in Year 1, filled with engaging activities and plenty of learning opportunities! Here's a snapshot of what your children have been up to:

Honouring Rosa Parks in History

We began the year by celebrating the life and legacy of the civil rights activist, Rosa Parks. Our young historians delved into her story, learning how her brave actions continue to impact the world today. They re-enacted pivotal moments from her life in class,



Year 1 - Continued

which brought history to life and helped them understand important terms like "boycott," "freedom," and "protest." To wrap up the unit, the children worked together to create a poster honouring Rosa Parks and wrote heartfelt thank-you notes to her for the lasting change she brought to society.

Science: Exploring the Four Seasons

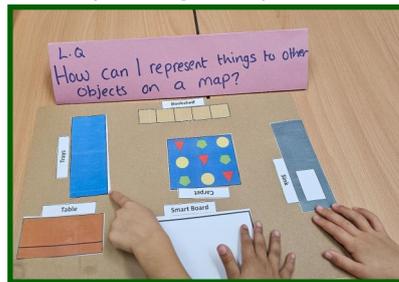
Our young scientists have been busy investigating the changes in the seasons. They've explored how autumn is setting in by observing the changing colours of the leaves on the trees around our school. They've noted that the leaves are beginning to fall—a clear sign that autumn is here! This hands-on learning has helped them understand how our world shifts with the seasons.

Religious Education: Discovering Hinduism

In Religious Education, our students have been learning about the Hindu *Festival of Light*. They re-enacted the story of *Rama's rescue of Sita* from Lanka, which conveys the message that light conquers darkness and good triumphs over evil. The children were enthralled by the story and had great fun taking part in the reenactment and making Rangoli, which helped them connect with the themes of the festival.

Geography: Mapping the World

Our Year 1 explorers have had a blast learning about maps! They began by exploring physical maps and taking virtual tours with Google Earth. They now understand how important maps are for guiding people. The students also learned how to represent objects on a map using the correct 2D shapes and scale. At the end of the unit, our young cartographers put their skills to the test by creating 2D maps of our classroom!



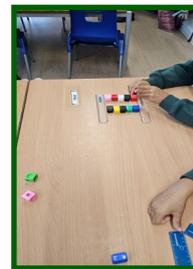
Reading and Writing: Partnering Up for Success

In Reading and Writing this term, we've been promoting collaborative learning by working in partnerships. Our young readers have been diving into short fiction and non-fiction texts, focusing on high-frequency words, or as we call them, "snap words" because they should be read in a snap! Please continue practising these words with your child at home. If you need a list of snap words, feel free to reach out to your child's classroom teacher.



Mathematics: Mastering Place Value

Our Year 1 mathematicians have been investigating the concept of place value. They've been counting forward and backwards from 1 to 10 using tools like unifix cubes, ten-frames, and number lines. Additionally, they've started working with part-whole models to help them solve addition and subtraction problems. We are so proud of the progress they are making in their understanding of numbers.



As we look ahead to more learning adventures, we kindly ask for your continued support in reading with your child for 20 minutes each day. Your partnership is instrumental in ensuring our young learners have a successful and enriching year ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support! We are excited to see what the rest of the term brings.

Mrs C Hillarious and Year 1 Team

Year 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

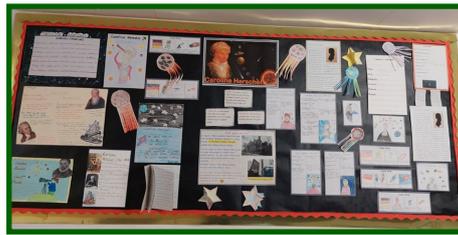
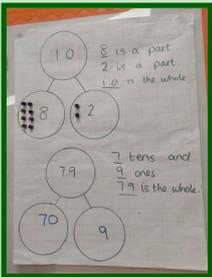
We've had an exciting start to the year in Year 2, filled with engaging activities and plenty of learning opportunities! Here's a snapshot of what your children have been up to:

History

This term, Year 2 has been delving into the fascinating history of Slough by learning about two remarkable people with local connections: James Elliman and

Year 2 - Continued

Caroline Herschel. We discovered that James Elliman was a respected Slough resident whose legacy lives on in our very own school, James Elliman Academy! We explored how his family's famous 'Elliman's Embrocation' became a household name. We also journeyed into the stars with Caroline Herschel, an incredible astronomer who lived nearby. Her dedication to science and discovery taught us about the importance of perseverance, while her work in Slough helped us understand the town's surprising link to significant scientific advancements. Learning about both of these figures has given us a deeper appreciation for the rich history right on our doorstep and how it connects directly to our school community!



Tens and Ones to 100: Children can now tell you that in a number like 47, the '4' is 4 tens (which is 40) and the '7' is 7 ones. We use practical resources (like tens sticks and ones blocks) to build and take apart any two-digit number.

Representing Numbers: We have used a variety of methods to show a number, making sure children can see a number written as a numeral (63), in words (sixty-three), and using a Part-Whole Model (showing 63 as 60 and 3).

Comparing and Ordering: The children have learned to look at the tens digit first to decide if one number is bigger or smaller than another. We are now using the important symbols: < (less than), > (greater than), and = (equal to).

Counting in Steps: We have been practising counting forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s, and 10s from any starting number. This is a great skill that speeds up mental arithmetic!

We are so impressed with the hard work and enthusiasm the children have shown for mastering these big numbers!

How you can help at home:

The best way to support your child is to keep maths fun and practical:

- **Count Everything**: Count steps up the stairs in 2s or 5s. Count coins in 10s.
- **Challenge Them**: Ask your child, "Can you make the number 32 using only pencils and crayons?" (Pencils = tens, Crayons = ones).
- **Spot the Digits**: Write down a two-digit number, like 59. Ask: "What does the 5 mean? What does the 9 mean?"

RE

Get your dancing shoes ready! This term we learnt about the vibrant festival of Navratri which is all about celebrating the triumph of good over evil. Navratri, which means "nine nights," is a Hindu festival of colourful traditions, music, dance, and delicious food. We learnt about the rich history and beautiful traditions of Navratri in a special, hands-on way! Using bright colours, children created their own artwork inspired by the special colours of each day of Navratri. The children made their own dandiya sticks, created decorative Puja Thalys plates and graceful dancing dolls.

Reading and Writing - Character Description

This term, our pupils have been putting their creative skills to work. They wrote their own endings to *Dumpling* by Dick King-Smith and crafted detailed character descriptions, showing real imagination and flair. Next, we're looking forward to exploring the fascinating world of reptiles as the children prepare to write non-chronological reports. Their excitement and enthusiasm for learning is wonderful to see!

We are tackling our '100 books to read' in KS1. We aim to read an array of these books weekly. The children in year 2 absolutely love story time and it is such a joy to see. We use a big chart to keep track of our progress. This has really instilled the love for reading amongst the pupils.

Black History Month

A Slough Superhero: Lydia Simmons OBE

October is Black History Month and Year 2 has celebrated Lydia Simmons who was a very important local leader right here in Slough! She worked hard to help Slough for many years. She did something amazing that no one had done before: she became the first black woman from the Caribbean to ever be a Mayor in all of England! That is a huge achievement, and we are so proud that she was from Slough. She showed everyone that if you work hard, you can be a leader and make a difference in your community.



Science and DT: Healthy Eating

Our recent lessons have been a feast of practical learning! In Science, we explored healthy eating, discussing the essential role of the right foods for survival and investigating the critical importance of hygiene. Building on this knowledge, in DT the children became chefs for the day! They put their learning into practice, developing essential food preparation skills while creating their very own fresh, healthy wraps. This hands-on activity was a fantastic opportunity for the children to apply their understanding of nutrition and develop important cooking skills they can use at home. Their completed wraps looked amazing!

Mathematics: Mastering Place Value

What We Have Been Learning:

James Elliman Academy Year Group News

Year 2 - Continued

As we look ahead to more learning adventures, we kindly ask for your continued support in reading with your child for 20 minutes each day. Your partnership is instrumental in ensuring our young learners have a successful and enriching year ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support! We're excited to see what the rest of the term brings.

The Year 2 Team

Year 3

Dear Parents / Carers,
Year 3 have had a brilliant start to year 3! We are all so very proud of them all! The children have settled into the year 3 rules and routines very well and have demonstrated resilience (our school value). I cannot believe how much we have accomplished this term.

It was great to see so many of you at the 'Meet the Teacher' event that was held earlier in the term. It was a lovely opportunity to answer your questions and set out expectations for the year ahead. If you did miss it, all the information is available on the website.

This term in year 3 we have

Tea Party

We kicked off the term with a tea party inspired by our class authors. 3 Carroll had a tea party with the 'mad hatter', 3 Child had a tea party with 'Charlie and Lola' and 3 McNaughton has a tea party with the 'aliens'. The children enjoyed juice and a cupcake.

French Afternoon

This year, the children will be learning the French language. To inspire the children, we had a French afternoon, where the children dressed up in the colours of the French flag, located France on a map, read about the different landmarks, listened to French music and the best bit, took home a pain au chocolat or croissant to taste. Ooo la la!



Football

On Friday afternoons, the children had the opportunity to have Coach Ben who has been teaching Year 3 Football in PE. The children showed great enthusiasm and were well behaved. Well done!



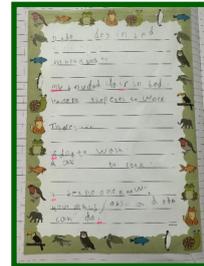
Drama

The children have loved exploring stories through drama in different lessons. A particular favourite of the Year Group's was acting out the story of Lord Ganesh in RE.



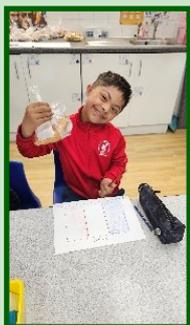
Writing

The children became poets this term, where they published their own humorous poem based on the poem 'Teacher's Day in Bed.' The children came up with excellent ideas and tried hard to use expanded noun phrases in their poems. Keep it up!



Black History Month

October is Black History Month. To celebrate this, Year 3 have been focusing on exploring poems written by two special writers; Maya Angelou and Benjamin Zephaniah. We started off with an online assembly. The children rehearsed and read the poems aloud in small groups. We explored the themes of being brave, kind, strong and celebrated what makes us all different.



James Elliman Academy Year Group News



Year 3 - Continued

Fundraising

Thank you for all your support during fundraising week. Year 3 have managed to raise a lot of money! We love donuts!

Home Learning

A huge thank you to you all for all your brilliant support over the summer holidays helping the children produce wonderful home learning work on the Stone Age. We were so impressed with the quality of work! The children confidently talked about their projects. Many staff and visitors in school have also positively commented at the year 3 Stone Age display in our corridor! We are looking forward to seeing more home learning projects throughout the year.



These are just some of the main highlights of this term; it was difficult to pick our top ones, as there were so many! I am sure the children can fill you in on all the other subjects.

Please continue to support your child with their homework and reading this year. We expect all children to read at home every day. Please sign their book so we know this is happening, initials is enough. They also need to complete their spellings on the Spelling Shed, and practise their maths on TTRS (logins stuck in reading records). Something we have noticed this term is that we need to focus on handwriting. All of this really does make a big difference.

Enjoy the half term break and we cannot wait to see you soon. We are looking forward to the next term, anticipating the different topics coming up ...

**Best Regards,
Mrs Raja & Year 3 Team**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the beautiful autumn leaves are all around us, I am very happy to share some of the great learning and achievements of our Year 4, 5, and 6 students here at James Elliman Academy.

Our Year 4 students have been very busy writing exciting adventure stories. They have used their imaginations to create tales about brave explorers and long journeys to faraway places. In science, they have

learned about the states of matter. Through simple experiments, they investigated how solids, liquids, and gases act. They learned to make good guesses (predictions), write down what they saw (observations), and explain their results (conclusions) - these are important skills for science. They were very excited to watch water freeze and melt in their experiments!

Our Year 5 students have been writing different kinds of stories - fantasy stories. They used powerful words and ideas to build their own imaginary worlds, like magical forests and strong castles. The work of planning, writing, and fixing their stories has helped them become more confident and stronger writers. In science, they looked up at the sky and learned about Earth and space. They studied the solar system and the different phases of the moon. Their curiosity about the universe has been wonderful to see.

Our Year 6 students have been using the famous book, Alice in Wonderland. They have taken parts of the story and written their own new stories inspired by Alice's adventures. From the Mad Hatter's tea party to the Queen of Hearts' garden, their stories are full of creativity and original ideas for the characters and the plot. In science, they studied the animal world, learning how scientists group (classify) living things into categories based on what they have in common. This unit helped them understand the many types of life on Earth (biodiversity) and encouraged them to ask questions about how different animals live and survive in their homes.

We also have some important news from Year 6 about leadership! We recently held a whole-school election to choose our new House Captains and Vice Captains. All the candidates worked very hard, but only 2 from each house won these important roles. The winning candidates created an amazing campaign and truly deserved to win! We look forward to their leadership this year.

It has been a pleasure to see how well all the students across Year 4, 5, and 6 have started the school year. They have quickly learned their routines, happily accepted new challenges, and helped each other with their work. Our school is a happy place full of discovery and learning, and we are extremely proud of the positive attitudes and hard work of every child.

Finally, I want to give a gentle reminder about the importance of coming to school every day (regular attendance). Every school day is important because it helps children build a strong foundation for their learning, social development, and emotional health.

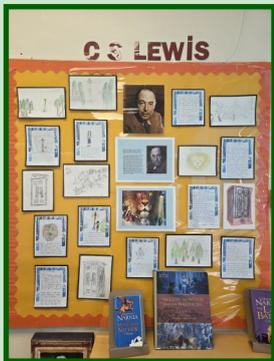
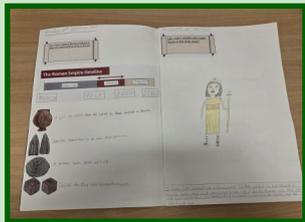
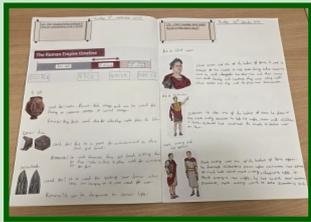
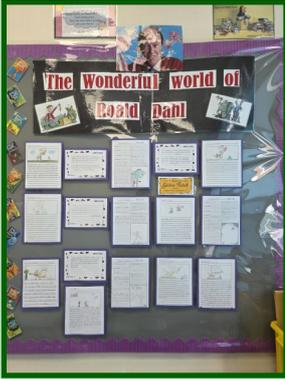
Thank you again for your strong support and partnership in your child's education. I hope everyone had a very relaxing and fun break filled with time with family and good memories!

**Warm regards,
Miss Devshi
Vice Principal for 4, 5 and 6**

Year 4

Year 4 News: A Thriving Start to the Term!

The children of Year 4 have **brilliantly settled** into their new classes and are demonstrating fantastic focus and commitment. They are working incredibly hard, making excellent strides in their Reading, Writing, and Maths. We are so proud to see their work on the



Year 4 - Continued

class author proudly displayed—a testament to their effort! Crucially, the children are also developing essential **resilience** towards their learning challenges.

Core Subjects Spotlight ✨

English: Crafting Powerful Poetry

In Writing, the children have been immersed in **Poetry**, focusing on painting vivid pictures with words. They've been mastering the use of **expanded noun phrases** and exploring the magic of **figurative language** like **rhyme** and **similes** (comparing one thing to another using 'like' or 'as').

To truly cement these skills, we encourage all parents to continue helping us by ensuring your child completes their **weekly writing homework**. Please urge them to incorporate a variety of **figurative language, conjunctions** (connecting words), **adverbials** (phrases that describe *how, when, or where*), and those powerful **expanded noun phrases**.

Maths: Mastery of Number

Our Maths journey began with a deep dive into **place value up to 10,000** and strengthening **multiplication skills**. We have now successfully transitioned to **addition and subtraction of up to four digits**, including working with **exchange** (borrowing and carrying). A strong grasp of these fundamentals is key to future mathematical success!

Topic & Creative Arts 🎨

History: A Roman Adventure

Our current topic has transported the children back in time to the **Roman Empire!** They've been using **secondary resources** to investigate how people lived, constantly drawing fascinating **comparisons** between our modern way of life and that of the Romans. Ask your child to share a surprising Roman fact!

Art: The Science of Colour

In Art, the children have become brilliant colour scientists! They've been **experimenting with mixing colours** and moving on to painting **still-life pictures**. They've mastered adding **tints** (lighter shades) and **shades** (darker tones) to their work and have been practising diverse painting techniques such as **dabbing, pointillism, wash, and stippling**.

Science: States of Matter in Action

The children have been captivated by the topic of **Changing States**, confidently identifying **solids, liquids, and gases**. They are absolutely loving the **hands-on experiments!**

- They've investigated how **temperature affects the rate of evaporation** (liquid turning into gas).
- They've also explored how temperature influences the process of **melting ice**, observing the change from a solid state to a liquid state.

Significant Figures & Community Support

Malala Yousafzai: A Beacon of Hope

In Year 4 at James Elliman Academy, we study significant global figures, and our main focus this term is **Malala Yousafzai**. The children have researched her inspiring life to understand **why she is important, what she advocates for**, and how she is actively **changing the lives of girls** around the world.

Community & Thanks 🙏

Already this term, the children have successfully raised money in a **cake sale!** We extend our sincere thanks to all parents for your generous contributions. It was also wonderful to connect with so many of you at the **'Meet the Teacher' afternoon**, where we outlined the Year 4 expectations. Please remember: **we are here for you**. If you have any issues you would like to discuss, please feel free to catch us at the end of the school day.

Homework and Online Learning Platforms



Reading at Home 📖

All children have been set up with a **reading book**, which they will change the following week. We kindly ask that parents not only ensure their child reads their book but also **sign the reading record** each week to confirm this essential practice.

Times Tables and Spelling Mastery

Once again, all children have their **Times Table Rock Stars passwords**. Please make it a priority for your children to learn **all their times tables, from 2 to 12**, both in and out of sequence. The **Times Table Rock Stars platform** is a fun and effective way to achieve this mastery, and we strongly encourage its regular use throughout the academic year. Please also use **EDshed**, which will be instrumental in focusing on **spellings**.

Google Classroom

All Year 4 children have been given their **Google Classroom passwords** and a **Chromebook** to work on in school. Please look out for **Maths homework** that will be uploaded to Google Classroom after half term, and encourage your children to complete it using the online platform at home. It has been a productive and encouraging start to the term! We are fully committed to your child's progression and development, and we look forward to your continued support in ensuring their success.

Mrs. N. Routledge Year 4 Lead

Year 5

What an exhilarating start to the school year it's been! The Year 5 students have truly hit the ground running, bringing an infectious enthusiasm and a real drive to learn into the classroom every day.

We're dedicating time to bolstering the essential academic skills that underpin success across all

Year 5 - Continued

subjects. This involves rigorous work on teamwork, effective collaboration with peers, and the crucial skill of generating high-level questions that push their understanding beyond the surface.

In writing, our young authors are deep into the thrilling process of fantasy story crafting. They're focused on mastering descriptive language and various literary techniques to conjure up truly vivid, imaginative worlds, including detailed descriptions of fantastical creatures and settings. In maths, we're currently establishing a rock-solid place value foundation. This is a vital concept in Year 5, serving as the blueprint for tackling more complex mathematical problems. The children have shown tremendous resilience as they navigate these concepts.

In science, we're studying Earth and the solar system. The children have learned about the planets and why Pluto was reclassified years ago. We will also explore various BAME scientists and astronauts who have contributed to the moon landing and advancements in modern science – we also looked at Chris Hadfield and his antics aboard the International Space Station!

Additionally, we've been discussing the movement of the sun and time zones. The children are curious and consistently seek to expand their knowledge.

Our Diversity Library continues to be a vibrant hub. It's fully stocked with books that celebrate a vast array of cultures and experiences. By featuring diverse characters and narratives, the library actively encourages empathy, understanding, and creativity, helping students build a meaningful connection with the wider world.

A huge thank you to all parents for signing the Digital Strategy forms. The children have already received their Google Classroom passwords and Chromebooks to use in school. In the meantime, they have their Times Table Rock Stars to use when practising their times tables and also Ed Shed which will help with their spellings. The children will also be receiving three pieces of homework per week: **maths**, **reading** and **grammar**.

Please make sure to ask your children about their homework and if there are any concerns, then please ask their class teacher.

I hope you all have a wonderful half-term and we will see you after the break!

Mr M.Ali
Year 5 Team Leader

Year 6

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term has been busy as always for year 6! The year 6 team have been working tirelessly to build a strong foundation in children by covering key areas in maths, reading, writing and SPaG. We focused on building a strong foundation in maths by looking at place value closely before introducing reasoning questions and challenges each lesson to ensure children are given the opportunity to meet their full potential.

In a powerful exercise in rhetoric and real-world application, our Year 6 students recently honed their argumentative skills through a unit on Persuasive Letters of Complaint. To make the learning tangible and fun, the unit centred on the scenario of experiencing poor service at a restaurant. Students were tasked with vividly describing the subpar meal or service and then meticulously articulating their grievances and proposed solutions, such as requesting a refund or a complimentary meal. By mastering the art of persuasive language, they learned to construct compelling arguments, support their claims with detail, and maintain a formal, authoritative tone. Their letters not only demonstrated a sharp understanding of how to structure a formal complaint but also showcased their ability to advocate effectively for a better outcome. We're incredibly proud of how these young writers leveraged their skills to become articulate and assertive communicators. Well done, Year 6, for finding your voice and arguing your points with such clarity and conviction!

The focal figure of inspiration for our Year 6 students this year is none other than the iconic Martin Luther King Jr. As we commenced the academic journey, our young learners immersed themselves in a profound exploration of the transformative legacy left by this remarkable figure. Martin Luther King Jr.'s indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment to justice and equality left an indelible mark on our students. An advocate for fairness and an end to racial discrimination, he was not only a brilliant orator but also the youngest recipient ever to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Year 6 students enthusiastically undertook a variety of tasks closely tied to Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideals and life's work. The results of their efforts were nothing short of awe-inspiring, culminating in a year group display that pays homage to their dedication and the enduring influence of Martin Luther King Jr.



This term, our history lessons have focused on World War II, and the children have been deeply engaged in learning about the experiences of evacuees. As part of a cross-curricular project, they linked their history studies to design technology by designing and creating toys that an evacuee might have packed in their suitcase.





James Elliman Academy - Year 6 Continued

Using felt and stitching, the students have developed their sewing skills while crafting their toys, gaining hands-on experience with a valuable, lifelong skill. It has been wonderful to see their creativity flourish as they learned practical skills in such an immersive way!

Our school recently took part in the nationwide celebration of the NSPCC Kindness Week. This was a wonderful opportunity for all students to focus on the powerful impact of empathy and goodwill. Throughout the week, students engaged in a variety of activities—from creating compliment chains for their classmates and designing 'Kindness is...' posters to performing thoughtful, random acts of kindness for staff and peers. This initiative helped reinforce the idea that a small, deliberate gesture can create a powerful ripple effect, boosting the well-being of both the giver and the receiver. We encourage our students to carry this spirit of compassion with them all year long!

It has been a rewarding first half term and we wish you all a restful half term break.

Mrs Ramzan
Year 6 Team Leader

James Elliman Academy - Safeguarding News

Kindness Challenge and NSPCC

Thank you to everyone who supported our Kindness Challenge by participating in the whole school mufti day on Thursday, October 9th. All money raised will go directly to the NSPCC, a vital charity that provides us with resources to support children's safety and wellbeing. During Kindness Week, the children engaged in various kindness activities: Year 1 focused on the importance of kindness in their PHSE lessons, and Year 2 explored the meaning of generosity.

Safeguarding Awareness

We maintain regular discussions on safeguarding through our weekly assemblies. These short, frequent messages ensure children remember how they can keep themselves and others safe, and who to talk to if they are worried or upset.

Topics covered this term included:

- The NSPCC PANTS Underwear Rule message.
- Looking after our own mental health and wellbeing.
- Identifying trusted adults in school and the role of Childline.
- School safety procedures and the importance of 'Be Bright, Be Seen'.

Important Programme: We are pleased to announce that we will be participating in the NSPCC's 'Speak out. Stay safe.' programme next half-term. This is a child-friendly programme for ages 5-11 that helps children understand different forms of abuse and teaches them to speak out to a trusted adult or Childline if they are worried. The content is delivered in an engaging, age-appropriate way with the help of the NSPCC mascot, Buddy. Please visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout for more information.

Online Safety Updates

Ms. Carolyn, our Digital Lead, successfully held an online safety workshop for parents titled 'Talking to your child about device use and ownership.' Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended; the feedback was excellent. Please watch the app for announcements regarding our next workshop.

Free Resources: We strongly encourage all parents and carers to use the free online safety information and courses provided through **The National College**. This platform is a great way to build your knowledge and stay current with your children's online activities. You can sign up for free using this link [Parent and carer sign up for National Online Safety](#).

Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

James Elliman Academy is broadening its provision for mental health and wellbeing. We are delighted to announce that the **Slough Mental Health Support Team** will be joining us for our next parent coffee morning. The focus of this coffee morning will be:

- An introduction to the MHST and the support they offer.
- Discussion on behavioural difficulties and the 'Two Hand Approach' to parenting.
- Key principles from the 'Incredible Years' parenting programme (including praise, limit setting, and time out/in). A Q&A opportunity for parents.

Date and Time: Tuesday, November 11th, from 9:00 am - 10:00 am at James Elliman Academy. Please sign up in the school office if you wish to attend. We wish all our families a well-deserved and restful half-term holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone back for the second half of the Autumn term.

Mrs. R Pinkney - Vice-Principal for Year 1 and Year 2, Inclusion and Safeguarding

JAES ELLIMAN ACADEMY

Elliman Avenue
Slough
Berks
SL2 5BA

Phone: 01753 810686
E-mail:
jeaoffice@theparfederation.org

We're on the web
www.jameselliman.academy

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Tajinder Johal
Principal
James Elliman
Academy

Parent Governor Fact Sheet

WHAT DOES THE ACADEMY COUNCIL DO?
Academy Council (Governing Bodies) play a vital supporting and strategic role in the effective planning and decision making of the school. Governors at our Academy are very important members of our school community.

NEED FOR 2 PARENT GOVERNORS?
Parent Governors bring a range of skills and personal experience to the role and they get to see things from the school's perspective and how the school is managed. They'll also gain an in-depth understanding of how decisions are made and the pressures on school leaders, while playing an integral part in deciding what happens.

WHO ARE THE OTHER PEOPLE MAKING UP THE ACADEMY COUNCIL?
Councils are required to have Governors with a range of skills, knowledge and experience. Apart from Parent Governors, there will be Staff Governors and Community Governors together with the Principal and the Clerk to the Governors. Parent Governors have an equal status and set of responsibilities, we all work together for the benefit of the whole school community.

HOW OFTEN DO THE GOVERNORS MEET?
There are usually six meetings each school year – term time only. Additional time in school may be needed for specific areas that a Governor needs to focus on.

HOW ARE PARENT GOVERNORS CHOSEN?
The school will tell parents that there vacancies and that they may nominate themselves or other parents who wish to stand. Those with the most votes will be appointed Governors for the term of four years.

WHAT SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED?
You will be part of a very large group of volunteers that bring their life experiences and commitment to education to the role. Training and mentoring are part of the induction Governors receive.

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."
Wesley Ketter*

James Elliman Academy - Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 13th November 2025 - Year 3 Trip to Iver Environment Centre
- Tuesday 18th November 2025 - Year 5 Trip to Science Museum
- Wednesday 19th November 2025 - Year 4 Trip to Natural History Museum
- Tuesday 2nd December 2025 - Year 6 Trip to Eton College
- Monday 8th December 2025 - Y3 Christmas Activities with Parents - 10:15am to 11:00am
- Monday 8th December 2025 - Y2 Christmas Activities with Parents - 2:15pm to 3:00pm
- Tuesday 9th December 2025 - Y5 Christmas Activities with Parents - 9:45am to 10:30am
- Tuesday 9th December 2025 - Y6 Christmas Activities with Parents - 2:15pm to 3:00pm
- Tuesday 9th December 2025 - Christmas Lunch - EYFS/KSI
- Wednesday 10th December 2025 - Y4 Christmas Activities with Parents - 10:30am to 11:15am
- Wednesday 10th December 2025 - Y1 Christmas Activities with Parents - 2:15pm to 3:00pm
- Wednesday 10th December 2025 - Christmas Lunch - KS2
- Thursday 11th December 2025 - Christmas Jumper Day
- Thursday 11th December 2025 - Year 6 Trip to the Curve - Christmas Production
- Friday 12th December 2025 - Christmas Class Parties in the Afternoon
- Friday 12th December 2025 - Reception Nativity Play 9:30am to 10:15am
- Friday 19th December 2025 - **School finishes for the Christmas Break at 1:00pm**

School Closed from Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

- Monday 5th January 2026 - **Staff Inset Day (School Closed)**
- Tuesday 6th January 2026 - **School Open at the normal Time of 8:30am**

Please see our website for the rest of the Academic Year dates.