

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been another successful and rewarding term at James Elliman Academy. I am incredibly proud of the hard work and achievements of both our pupils and staff.

### Christmas Celebrations

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Christmas activities and our Reception Nativity performance. It was wonderful to see so many of you there, supporting your children and sharing in their joy and excitement. The Reception children worked incredibly hard to prepare for their performance, and your presence made this event truly special. The pride and happiness on the children's' faces as they completed the Christmas activities with you all was a joy to witness, and these are the moments that create lasting memories for our school community.

### Important: Parking and Road Safety

I need to address a serious concern regarding parking and driving behaviour around our school. The safety of our children, families, and staff must be our absolute priority, and I ask for your full cooperation in this matter.

### Dangerous Parking and Access Issues

We have observed vehicles blocking the school gates on multiple occasions. It is also highly concerning that parents and carers are deliberately parking in no parking zone areas, sometimes in the middle of the road and blocking all entrances and exits to the school. This is extremely dangerous as it prevents necessary access to the school in the event of an emergency. On a number of occasions now, both staff and I have personally addressed this with parents/carers and unfortunately there is lack of care for the safety of the children, which is not acceptable! We are now at a stage where we are reporting license plate details directly to the police and encourage families to do the same if they also feel drivers are causing a safety risk. **Please ensure you never park in front of or block the school gates under any circumstances.**

### Driving Behaviour and Pedestrian Safety

There have been concerning incidents of dangerous driving near the school, including speeding and a lack of consideration for pedestrians. Our children and families are walking to and from school, and there is a real risk of serious injury if drivers do not take care. I cannot stress enough how important it is to drive slowly, carefully, and with full awareness of pedestrians, particularly during busy drop-off and pick-up times.

### Unacceptable Behaviour

It has been brought to my attention that some parents have been abusive towards each other when driving near the school, and there have also been instances of staff members receiving abuse when intervening to ensure safety. This behaviour is completely unacceptable and will continue to be reported to the appropriate authorities. As parents and carers, you are role models for our children. We teach our children about respect, kindness, and consideration for others every day in school. It is essential that we all demonstrate these values in our own behaviour, particularly in front of the children.

## Principal's Message Continued

### Council and Police Monitoring

Please be aware that the council and police will be conducting further monitoring of parking and driving behaviour around the school. Any dangerous or illegal parking will be subject to enforcement action.

#### What You Can Do:

- **Walk to school** if possible – this is the safest option and promotes healthy habits
- **Park on nearby roads** and walk the final distance to school
- **Drive slowly and carefully** around the school area
- **Be considerate** of pedestrians and other road users
- **Never block the school gates** or park dangerously
- **Treat others with respect** – whether fellow parents, staff, or members of the public

The safety and wellbeing of our school community depends on all of us working together. I thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

### Academic Progress

This term has seen our children making excellent progress across all year groups. Our teachers have been working tirelessly to ensure every child receives high-quality teaching and support tailored to their individual needs. Thank you for your continued support at home with homework, reading, and learning. Your partnership in your child's education makes a significant difference to their progress and achievement.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are vital for your child's educational success. I'm pleased to report that our whole school attendance this term stands at **95.3%** which reflects the commitment of our families to ensure children are in school every day.

#### Why Good Attendance Matters

Good attendance is one of the most important factors in your child's academic success and wellbeing. Children with good attendance:

- Make better progress in their learning and achieve higher results
- Develop stronger friendships and social skills
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Establish positive routines and habits for life
- Don't miss important teaching and fall behind their peers
- Have more success in employment opportunities in the future

Even a few days of absence can have a significant impact. For example, 90% attendance might sound good, but it means your child has missed half a day of school every week – that's four whole weeks of learning lost over a school year.

#### Punctuality is Essential

The school day begins promptly at 8:45am, and learning starts immediately. **Any arrival after 9:00am is recorded as an unauthorised absence** and will negatively impact your child's attendance record. Late arrivals are disruptive to your child's learning and to the learning of others in the class.

#### Important: Fines for Unauthorised Absence

Please be aware that **more than 10 occasions of unauthorised absence (including late arrivals after 9:00am) in one school year may result in a penalty notice fine from the local council.**

## Principal's Message Continued

### Attendance Monitoring and Reporting

All attendance data is shared with the local authority and the Department for Education on a daily basis. We are required to monitor attendance closely and will take action in line with our school attendance policy and government guidance. This may include:

- Meetings with parents to discuss attendance concerns
- Referral to the local authority attendance team
- Penalty notices for unauthorised absences
- Legal action in cases of persistent absence

### How You Can Help

- Ensure your child arrives at school on time every day (before 8:45am)
- Only keep your child off school if they are genuinely too unwell to attend
- Contact the school office on the first day of any absence to avoid absence being recorded as unauthorised
- Avoid booking holidays or appointments during term time
- Speak to us early if you're experiencing difficulties with attendance

Remember, every day of learning counts. Being in school ensures your child doesn't miss out on valuable learning opportunities, social interactions, and the chance to develop important life skills. If you're facing any challenges with attendance or punctuality, please don't hesitate to contact us – we're here to support you.

### Arbor App Registration - Important Reminder

If you haven't already done so, please register for the Arbor Parent Portal app. This is our main communication platform and allows you to:

- Receive important school updates and messages
- View your child's attendance
- Book parents' evenings appointments

Registration is quick and straightforward. If you need any help setting up your account or haven't received your login details, please contact the school office and we'll be happy to assist you.

### School Uniform

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children arrive at school in the correct uniform each day. Our uniform policy helps foster a sense of pride and belonging within our school community. If you need any assistance with uniform items, please visit our school website or contact the school office for guidance.

### Looking Ahead

As we approach the festive season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all our families. This is a wonderful time to reflect on the term's achievements and celebrate the progress our children have made.

I'm grateful for your ongoing support and collaboration, which has contributed to making this term so successful. Your involvement in school activities and engagement with your child's learning greatly enriches our school community.

I hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy quality time with your loved ones over the Christmas break. May this season bring you happiness, peace, and cherished memories.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, refreshed and ready for another exciting term of learning and growth.

### School reopens: Tuesday 6th January 2026

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warm regards,  
Mrs T Johal  
Principal,

## James Elliman Academy - Early Years News



### Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful and busy Autumn term across both Nursery and Reception, filled with milestone moments and seasonal discoveries. From the children settling into their new routines to exploring the changing colours of nature, the progress they have made in these first few months has been a joy to watch.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your generous contributions to the Toy Fund; these donations are vital to our Early Years setting, as they allow us to purchase ingredients for playdough and provide the high-quality resources that support your child's learning every day.

As we head into the winter break, we hope you enjoy the festive activities in the community and have a lovely time with family members. While you are away, please continue reading with the children and encouraging them to practice their writing skills to keep their progress going. We also ask that you keep the children wrapped up warm over the break so they stay healthy for the new year.

Finally, we are saying a fond farewell to Mrs. Khan in Reception, who will be leaving us to pursue a promotion in another school. We are so grateful for her hard work and we wish her all the very best in her future career.

Seasonal greetings to all our families – we look forward to seeing you back on the Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026!

**Mrs Chander**  
Early Years Vice Principal

### Nursery News

#### Dear Parents/Carers,

What a wonderful second half of the term we have had in Nursery! It has been a privilege to watch the children grow in confidence and independence as they engage in lovely conversations with their teachers and friends. We are incredibly proud of how well they have settled into their daily routines and the fantastic progress they are making every single day.

This term, we introduced a new language intervention programme called Pre-School NELI. Every fortnight we study a new book, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring stories such as Neon Leon, Don't Wake Up the Tiger, and How to Look After a Dinosaur. The children loved bringing these tales to life by making dinosaurs, retelling the stories, and practicing their mark-making skills by drawing their favourite characters. Next term, we will continue exploring more NELI stories, with details sent out every Friday. Please remember to ask a member of the nursery staff to scan your barcode each week so you can enjoy these

stories and activities with your child at home.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our first Stay and Play session, where parents joined us for art and craft activities. We also held our second Christmas Stay and Play on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, where we enjoyed hearing the children sing festive songs followed by refreshments and Christmas crafts. In Maths, the children have been busy exploring 2D shapes and learning about repeating patterns. Next term, we will continue to strengthen these skills through practical, engaging activities that support early understanding of number and problem solving. During the final week of term, the children had a wonderful time taking part in festive activities. We shared delicious food at our Christmas party, wore our favourite festive jumpers, and were all delighted to receive special presents. Their joy made the celebrations truly special for everyone involved.

We look forward to welcoming a new group of children to the nursery in January. We hope you all have a restful winter break and we look forward to seeing everyone back on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2026.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

*Mrs Kaur and the Nursery Team*





## Reception

Autumn 2

We began our second term by diving into the wonderful worlds created by our featured class authors. We started with Judith Kerr's classic, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, where the children loved getting to know the characters and the setting. After the hungry tiger ate all the food in the house, the children put their literacy skills into action by helping Sophia's mum write a brand-new shopping list!

Our journey continued with Nick Butterworth's stories, including *Percy's Bumpy Ride* and *One Snowy Night*. It was a joy to watch the children discover all the different animals living in Percy's park. We then moved on to the world of Julia Donaldson, focusing on the adventures of *Stick Man*. The children were truly moved by his journey and used their creativity to bring the story to life, gathering sticks to craft their own "Stick Man" families, which they then transformed into flags, paintbrushes, and little figures.

In addition to our favourite stories, we have also introduced the children to the exciting world of non-fiction. They have been learning to spot the differences between fiction and non-fiction books while developing their research skills. It has been fantastic to see them eagerly hunting for facts about animals to discover where they live, what they eat, and how they care for their families.

In our recent Maths sessions, the children have been busy exploring numbers through plenty of hands-on activities. They have been using counters to represent numbers up to 5 in various ways, helping them build a deep understanding of what each number truly looks like. It has been wonderful to see them developing essential skills such as touch counting objects accurately, writing numerals, and matching the correct quantity to each number. The children are also gaining significant confidence in using their own unique mark-making to record their findings in fun and exciting ways. To further challenge their thinking, we have introduced positional language and begun investigating how to find one more and one less than a given number.

The children have been busy exploring the world around them! We headed out to the playground to investigate the changing weather and shared some fantastic observations as a group. Understanding the world was a highlight this term; we experimented with how heat and cold can change the shape of objects, helping us master the words 'solid' and 'liquid.' We also talked about how to stay safe when using electrical equipment at home and in school. To round off our learning, we looked at special symbols and discovered why candles play such

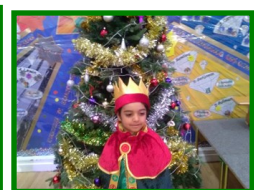
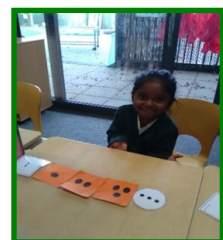
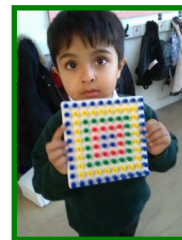
an important role in many celebrations.

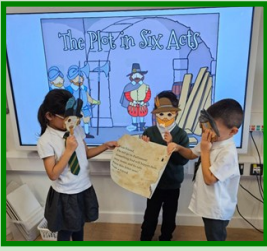
To wrap up our wonderful term, the children poured their hearts into preparing for our "Stable by Starlight" Nativity. They worked incredibly hard to learn all the songs and memorise their lines, showing fantastic dedication and resilience throughout the rehearsals. All that practice certainly paid off, as we were treated to a truly beautiful performance that was enjoyed by both the Reception parents and our staff. We are so incredibly proud of our remarkable students for their confidence and hard work - a huge well done to everyone involved!

In the last week of the term, the children had a marvellous time participating in festive activities. We created well-wishing cards for our school friends, enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch, and had a great time at our class parties.

**Have an enjoyable break and keep safe!**

## Reception Team





As the Autumn term nears to a close we look back on a term that has been full of fun, friends and fantastic learning.

### Key Stage 1 (KS1) Learning

This term Year 1 and 2 have been developing a love of reading. Class teachers have started to introduce a resource developed by Ruth Miskin called 'Talk Through Stories'. Co-ordinated by Miss Hawtree, classes are experiencing high quality texts which are rich in vocabulary. This is helping to broaden their knowledge of a range of vocabulary that will support progress in children's reading, writing and comprehension skills. They are thoroughly enjoying listening to their class teachers reading and bringing the character to life through their excellent story telling skills. The children that have started this in their classrooms absolutely love it and look forward to the sessions. The sessions focus on an initial introduction to the book with rich discussion, followed by a re-read with a focus on unfamiliar vocabulary. At the mid-way point, children engage in discussion around key events in the story before finishing with developing their comprehensions skills through a range of question and answer activities. If you would like to see a short YouTube clip of Talk Through Stories, please click the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apVCu6RqxMM>

### Mrs Pinkney Vice Principal Inclusion & Safeguarding/ Year 1 & Year 2

#### Year 1

#### Celebrating Our Scholars!

What an exciting and busy term it has been for our Year 1 students! Our young scholars have been researching, creating, and diving deep into many fascinating topics. We have focused on cultivating two crucial values in the classroom: Resilience (bouncing back when things are tough) and Integrity (doing the right thing, even when no one is watching). These qualities are so important for helping them grow into confident, capable individuals.

#### Mastering Numbers in Maths

We recently wrapped up a successful unit on addition and subtraction. Our mathematicians enjoyed getting hands-on, using a variety of math manipulatives (like counters and blocks) to solve problems. This practical approach helps make abstract ideas concrete! They continue to sharpen these skills daily through engaging word problems.

Currently, we are moving on to the world of 2D and 3D shapes. They are busy exploring the

differences (like flat vs. solid) and similarities between shapes like squares and cubes. They've also been practicing their sorting skills—grouping shapes by size and color!

### Becoming History Detectives: The Gunpowder Plot

This term, our Year 1 historians became true detectives! We delved into the intriguing question: What is the significance behind the fireworks on November 5th?

Their investigation led them straight into the depths of the infamous Gunpowder Plot. Students were captivated by the story of Guy Fawkes and his failed attempt to destroy the Houses of Parliament. Through engaging reenactments and in-depth study, the children vividly experienced the plot, learning about the key conspirators and the many obstacles they faced.

### Classifying the Animal Kingdom in Science

The children in Year 1 continue to develop their crucial science skills. This term, our focus has been on Animals, including Humans. In our quest to understand the diversity of creatures around us, our budding scientists embarked on an exciting journey of classification. By keenly observing and identifying distinct features, they've enthusiastically begun naming and sorting animals based on their unique characteristics (like mammals, birds, fish, etc.). This hands-on, observational approach has sparked incredible curiosity and engagement, fostering a deeper understanding of the animal kingdom.

### Design & Technology Success

This term, our Year 1 students became fantastic engineers! They tackled a design challenge to create a moving pull-along toy. This hands-on project focused on the mechanics of wheels and axles. Students had to carefully plan and design the shape and size of their moving components before successfully assembling and attaching them to create a functional toy. They also practiced important problem-solving skills by comparing designs and adjusting parts to ensure their final creation rolled smoothly.

### Looking Ahead

As we progress through the year, we are so excited to witness the continuous growth and development of your Year 1 scholars as they embark on new learning adventures!

Thank you so much for your tremendous support this term. We wish you all a happy winter break and a very festive season!

### C Hillarious & Year 1 Team

### Year 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 2 has been busy in all our areas of the curriculum this half term! Here's a snapshot of what your children have been up to:

#### Geography: Where We Live

This term, Year 2 has been on an exciting geographical journey learning all about the United Kingdom. We've been using maps and globes to discover the four countries—England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland—and their capital cities: London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, and Belfast. The children have enjoyed comparing the physical features (like mountains, rivers, and coastlines) with the human features (such as famous landmarks and transport links) across the UK. Ask your child to tell you a fun fact they've learned about a UK landmark, like the towering Big Ben or the stunning Giant's Causeway! We encourage you to continue this learning at home by spotting different UK flags or looking at a local map together.

#### Science: Animals, Including Humans

This term in Science we explored habitats, learning that a habitat is a place where a particular plant or animal lives. We discovered that every habitat provides the living things within it with all the essentials they need to survive, such as food, water, and shelter. A key focus was understanding how living things are suited to their specific habitat, like a fish is to water. The children enjoyed finding out how important it is to care for our local environment to protect the amazing variety of habitats and wildlife around us! Why not go on a "Home Safari" around your garden, local park, or even just looking out a window. Their mission is to identify three different mini-habitats and the animals (or plants) that live there.

#### Art: Observational drawing

This term in Art, our students became observational artists, focusing on developing their drawing skills and using expressive mark making to capture texture and detail. We began the unit by exploring mark making with charcoal and other media. The children learned to use different lines, smudges, and patterns to create texture. A key activity involved creating experimental mark making pieces specifically designed to *replicate textures* they felt by touch - translating the sensation of rough, smooth, or bumpy into visual art. The students then applied these new skills to observational drawing. They worked hard on drawing a soft toy from

observation, using a variety of mark making techniques to accurately represent the toy's texture (like fur or fabric). Building on this, they developed their own original character illustrations, using lines and marks strategically to add expression and intricate detail to their figures.

#### Mathematics: Addition and Subtraction to 100

Our Year 2 mathematicians have been working hard to build their fluency and understanding of addition and subtraction this term. We've moved beyond counting and have been using a range of manipulatives to deeply understand place value and number relationships. The children have been busy using Base 10 to physically represent two-digit numbers, counters to make exchanges, and number lines and hundred squares to visualise jumps and patterns. This practical, hands-on approach helps them solve problems efficiently, especially when crossing the tens boundary. For instance, using Base 10 helps them see that  $34 + 8$  involves swapping 10 ones for 1 ten. We encourage you to continue practising number bonds to 10 and 20 at home to support their rapid recall!

#### RE - Exploring Judaism and Celebrating Light

This term in Religious Education, Year 2 has explored the faith of Judaism. We learned about Jewish beliefs, traditions, and the importance of the Torah. Our learning was truly brought to life by a special visitor who taught us all about the festival of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, and shared the story of the Menorah. Following this, we had a delightful visit from our local Church, where we learned about the significance of Christingles. The children discovered how the orange, candle, red ribbon, and four sticks each symbolise an important part of the Christian story. The highlight was getting to make our own Christingle to bring home! These experiences have helped the children understand different traditions and the importance of light and hope in both faiths.

#### Writing - Instruction Texts

Year 2 has mastered writing clear instructions this term! We started by carefully following steps to make a jam sandwich, learning the importance of sequencing and using strong bossy verbs (imperative verbs). This practical session showed us why words matter! The children then put their skills to the test by writing their own detailed instructions for a truly "disgusting sandwich." Their creative, yucky concoctions were hilarious and proved they now understand how to structure writing so others can follow it precisely.

#### Reading - Instruction Texts

Year 2 readers are making fantastic progress! We've continued with our focused phonics

## Year 2 - Continued

groups to help children sound out words confidently. We've also introduced an exciting technique called 'talk through stories,' which the children love! This approach helps them understand, discuss, and remember stories better by focusing on vocabulary and retelling. It's a great way to boost their comprehension skills. You can find more details on this strategy here: <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/talk-through-stories/>

We are heading into the most festive weeks of the term. We can't wait for our final fun activities, including the Parent Christmas Craft Afternoon, Christmas Lunch, and Christmas Class Parties. We are excited to see what the rest of this term brings!

**Thank you for all your amazing support!**

## The Year 2 Team

## Year 3

Dear Parents / Carers,  
Another amazing and busy term has passed. Year 3 children have continued to wow us! They have also worked hard to show our school value of integrity. We are so proud of the progress they are making.

It was great to see so many of you at the 'Parents Christmas Craft session' event this term. It was a lovely opportunity to see the creativity. We know that not all parents/carers can make it every time, but do not worry, as there will be other opportunities in the year for parent events .

This term in year 3 we have ....

### Science

We have been exploring skeletons. Year 3 have particularly loved learning about the human skeleton and labelling the different bones. They enjoyed learning facts about the human body. Did you know there are 206 bones in your body? Well done year 3!

### DT

Year 3 have been busy cooking in DT. They have been developing their cutting and peeling skills and applied these when they made their very own seasonal tart using their plans. Yum! (A huge thank you for your contribution that allowed us to make DT very hands on)

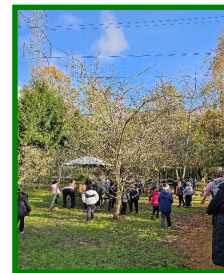
## PE

This term, the chn have been focusing on working as a team. This was particularly highlighted this term in PE with Mr Ellington. The chn had a lot of fun playing dodgeball! Super!



## Trip

We had a BRILLIANT time at the Iver Environment Centre. We enjoyed exploring the grounds. We used the map to do orienteering, building dens as well as lighting a fire using a flint. The chn displayed excellent behaviour and did the school proud! The adults at the centre were very complementary. Well done year 3!



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). All of this really does make a big difference!

Merry Christmas and Seasonal Greeting to you all. We hope you enjoy the break and we cannot wait to see you in the New Year! I wonder what your New Year school resolutions will be ...

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



## James Elliman Academy Year Group News

### 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

#### Ready for the Test! Times Tables, Google Classroom & a Dinosaur Trip!

Dear Year 4 Parents and Carers,

We are immensely proud of the tremendous effort your children have put in this term! Following their latest assessments, we are thrilled to confirm that **every child has made measurable progress** in Reading, Writing, and Maths. Let's look at the fantastic learning highlights and how you can continue to support their success at home.

#### Crucial Focus: Times Tables and the National Test!

The most important goal this term is mastering **Multiplication and Division**, which directly prepares your child for a critical exam.

**⚠ ATTENTION: Year 4 National Times Table Check (Summer Term)** Your child needs to know all their times tables (2x to 12x) and be able to answer any question **within 6 seconds** to pass this mandatory government test. **This requires consistent, focused practice!**

#### How to Succeed at Home:

- **Practice Kit:** Use the **times table learning sheet and parent's recording sheet** we provided.
- **Strategy:** Focus on mastering **one times table at a time** before mixing them up.
- **Daily Use:** Ensure they use **TTR Rock Stars** and **Mathsframe** regularly. This continuous practice is the most effective path to speed and success!

#### New Learning Hub: Google Classroom is Live!

We've embraced the future of learning! Every Year 4 child has received their **Google Classroom password** and a Chromebook for school work.



## Year 4 - Continued

- **Maths Homework:** All Maths homework is now uploaded directly to **Google Classroom**. Please encourage your child to complete these assignments using the online platform at home.
- **Catch-Up:** If your child is absent, Maths **classwork is uploaded** so they can easily catch up and prevent knowledge gaps.
- **Spelling:** Continue using **Spell EDshed** to learn new spellings.

## Curriculum Adventures & Inspiring Trips

### Design and Technology

**Design & Technology (D.T.):** Our pupils turned into bakers! They investigated and then designed sweet and savoury breads. They used great **kneading, rolling, and shaping skills** to create interesting, flavoured breads based on their design criteria.

### Natural History Museum Expedition!

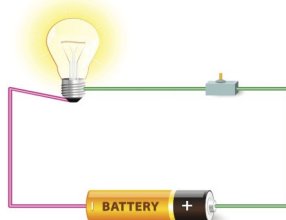
The children had an incredible time on their trip to the **Natural History Museum!** They were completely fascinated by:

- **Dinosaurs!**
- Investigating **vertebrates and invertebrates**.
- Learning about the powerful forces of **volcanoes and earthquakes**. They loved reading and investigating the life-like animal exhibits.

### History & Science in Action!

- **Romans:** The impact of the Romans on Britain was brought to life through an **immersive virtual reality show** and workshop using headsets.
- **Electricity:** We explored the topic of electricity, carrying out experiments to create simple circuits, making bulbs light up and buzzers sound! We also focused on the essential lesson of electrical safety.

#### SIMPLE ELECTRIC CIRCUIT



### Literacy & Reading Focus

Our young writers have been crafting thrilling **Adventure Stories!** They are focusing on advanced techniques to make their writing descriptive and powerful:

- Using **adverbials** (e.g., *Quietly, In the distance, Suddenly*)
- Mastering **expanded noun phrases** (e.g., *the crumbling, moss-covered, ancient bridge*)
- Incorporating **figurative language** like personification and similes.

### Parent Action Point: Writing Homework

Please help your child turn the picture prompt they bring home into a real **story, full of adventure**, rather than just a description. Encourage them to use all the fantastic techniques listed above! **Please add more paper if they need it!**

### Reading Comprehension Boost:

- Encourage your child to read **both their school reading book AND their library book** each week.
- The key to comprehension is questioning! Please **ask your child questions** about what they have read—Who was the main character? Why did that event happen? What do you think happens next?

### Celebration Corner: Spelling Stars!

A massive congratulations to our top three spellers - **Isa Janjua, Nida Kayani, and Keeran Jeyavathanan** - who represented James Elliman Academy in the Federation Spelling Competition! They faced incredibly sharp competition and we are so proud of how well they performed!

### Thank You & Happy Holidays!

Finally, a sincere thank you to all the parents who supported our **fundraising efforts** and who came in for the wonderful **Christmas Activity Day**. The children absolutely loved designing their Christmas trees with you!

### Have a fabulous Christmas break!

**Mrs Routledge**  
**Year 4 Lead.**



## James Elliman Academy Year Group News

### Year 5

The term is coming to an end and the children have been working exceptionally hard. They have engaged with their learning journeys and embraced the opportunities to grow and excel. In writing, the students are completing their third-person recounts, where they focused on using a formal tone and writing events in a chronological order. They thoroughly enjoyed the creative process of coming up with their ideas and reporting them accurately. This unit has helped reinforce many Year 5 punctuation skills.

In maths, we have been working hard on multiplying and dividing. We are also learning about factors and multiples. Division can be tricky, so it's very important for the children to know their times tables well—this will make everything much easier for them! The children had a wonderful time with a special VR session. They took a virtual trip to see what life was like in the trenches during World War I (an upcoming topic that we will be looking at later on). The children absolutely loved how real the experience felt and couldn't stop talking about it afterwards!

They have asked many questions and always show the desire to extend their knowledge further. This was facilitated through our trip to the Science Museum where the children saw many links to the topics that we will be learning throughout the year. The children saw many of the exhibitions and undoubtedly the overall favourite was the Earth and Space section. Children could see a holographic display of some of the celestial bodies in our solar system as well as full-size space suits worn by NASA astronauts.

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, year 5 hosted the Christmas activity afternoon with parents invited. We made cross-stitched designs in the shapes of stars, stars, snowflakes, trees and wreaths. It was enjoyed by all including parents who attended.

The Year 5 children have been enjoying our amazing and varied library! We are making sure they discover lots of different authors, both classic and new. The students love visiting the library and are always excited to check out new books. Since these books are from our special collection, please remind your child that they need to bring them back in the same good condition they were when borrowed. The children will be given some homework to complete over the break to keep their brains active. This work will be sent home on paper and posted on Google Classroom.

**Stay safe and have a good break!**

**Year 5 Team.**

### Year 6

Dear Parents/Carers,  
As we reach the conclusion of this first term, the Year 6 team has taken a moment to reflect on just how far the children have come since September. Stepping up to be the oldest students in the school brings new responsibilities, and we have been incredibly proud to watch them embrace this transition with maturity and enthusiasm.

A major focus this term has been emotional and social development through our RHE and 'Votes for Schools' sessions. The children have engaged with the challenging reality that not everyone will share their views. In a world of differing opinions, they learned that disagreement is natural. Crucially, they listened to each other with patience and respect. By using their moral compasses, they made choices that ensured they remained true to themselves while acting in line with our JEA values.

Academically, the highlight was undoubtedly our World War II Enrichment Day. It was fantastic to see the cohort arrive in costume, eager to immerse themselves in the past. By taking part in hands-on activities and simulating life during the Blitz, the children moved beyond textbook learning. They engaged with the history of the era with deep empathy, gaining a better understanding of the resilience required during such difficult times.

We also wish to extend well done to the students for their exemplary conduct outside the classroom. During our two major visits - to Eton College and St. Paul's Church - their integrity truly shone through. They approached these experiences with respect, responsibility, and genuine curiosity, asking insightful questions and acting as outstanding ambassadors for our school community.

Leadership has also been front and center this month. The House Captain elections have successfully concluded following a fully democratic and engaging process. We want to commend every single candidate who ran a campaign; standing up in front of peers takes immense courage. The successful candidates from each house are now ready to embark on this empowering journey, and we are excited to see them lead by example with honesty and commitment.

Finally, the term ended on a high with our Christmas Activity Afternoon. We were especially proud of the children on Monday; they supported the adults responsibly during the setup and showed deep respect to the parents and carers who joined us. Their behaviour was amazing, ensuring a lovely end to the term. Well done, Year 6!

**We wish you a restful break.  
The Year 6 Team**



## James Elliman Academy - Safeguarding News

### JAES ELLIMAN ACADEMY

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.org

We're on the web  
[www.jameselliman.academy](http://www.jameselliman.academy)

Thank you for your  
continued support.

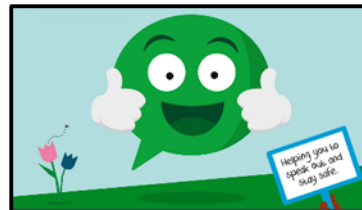
**Mrs Tajinder Johal**  
Principal  
James Elliman  
Academy

### Safeguarding Awareness

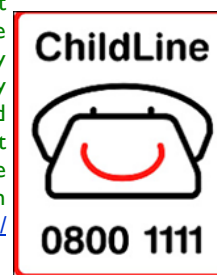
We maintain regular discussions on safeguarding through our weekly assemblies. These short, frequent messages ensure children remember how they can keep themselves and others safe, and who to talk to if they are worried or upset.

Topics covered this half-term included:

- Be Bright Be Seen - Road Safety
- NSPCC Speak Out. Stay Safe
- Bike and Scooter Safety



In November, we completed our Speak Out. Speak Out. Stay Safe programme with the NSPCC. The NSPCC's 'Speak out. Stay safe.' programme is a child-friendly programme for ages 5-11 that helps children understand different forms of harm and teaches them to speak out to a trusted adult, or Childline if they are worried. The programme started with an assembly led by Mrs Pinkney (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Miss Morgan (Child and Family Support Officer). It introduced the children to the toys of harm that can be experienced and approached how difficult times can impact on our wellbeing and safety. The assembly concluded with a discussion on the trusted adults we can talk to at home and in school if they find themselves in need of help. They also learnt the Childline number, **0800 11 11**, a free number for young people to call if they need help. Following this, classes engaged in a PSHE lesson around safety led by their class teacher and at the end of the programme, Years 2, 5 and 6 engaged an NSPCC workshop to draw together everything they had learnt about speaking out to stay safe. Class teachers gained some positive feedback from the classes and children have been referring to the motto Speak Out. Stay Safe in school. Please help your child to navigate the Buddy Zone online at <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/buddy-zone-under12service/>



We wish all our families a well-deserved and restful holiday. Thank you for everything you do to support the school and your child's progress. We look forward to seeing everyone back in 2026 and we wish you a year of good health and happiness.

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

## James Elliman Academy - Dates for your Diary

### 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**
- **Friday 13th February 2026 - School Finishes for the Half Term Break at 3:15pm**

**Half Term Break - Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026**

- *Monday 2nd March 2026 - Year 5 Parents Phone Consultations - 12:30pm to 6:00pm*
- *Wednesday 4th March 2026 - Year 1 Parents Phone Consultations - 12:30pm to 6:00pm*
- *Thursday 5th March 2026 - Year 3 Parents Phone Consultations - 12:30pm to 6:00pm*
- *Monday 9th March 2026 - Year 4 Parents Phone Consultations - 12:30pm to 6:00pm*
- *Tuesday 10th March 2026 - Year 6 Parents Phone Consultations - 12:30pm to 6:00pm*
- *Wednesday 11th March 2026 - Year 2 Parents Phone Consultations - 12:30pm to 6:00pm*
- *Thursday 12th March 2026 - Reception Parents Phone Consultations - 12:30pm to 6:00pm*

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