# Dear Eldene...

Term 1- October 2026

Dear Eldene Families,

As we reach the end of Term 1, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and partnership. It has been a fantastic start to the year and I have been incredibly impressed by how well the children have settled back into school. They have returned with enthusiasm, positivity and a real readiness to learn, making a wonderful start to the academic year.

It was lovely to welcome so many families into school for Parents/Carers' Evenings. These meetings are such an important opportunity to celebrate children's successes and discuss their next steps - it was wonderful to see such positive engagement from our families.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended our Family Reading sessions. It was wonderful to see so many children sharing stories with their family members. The children absolutely loved having their special adults in school and spending time reading together. It was lovely to see so many smiles, conversations and shared moments of enjoyment.

A huge thank you also goes to all those who shared their views during our recent Ofsted inspection. The positive feedback from families was greatly appreciated and reflected the strong sense of community that makes Eldene such a special place.

Our September Fair was another highlight of the term. Thank you to everyone who attended or contributed in any way. I am delighted to share that we raised £305.97.

We were also incredibly proud of the children who recently represented Eldene at the exciting Compass Sports Day, alongside pupils from other schools within the Compass Collaboration. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship throughout the event and were fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the winner of our 'Headteacher for the Afternoon' prize, drawn from the September Fair raffle tickets, is Jovanni from Hawk Class. I am looking forward to seeing the ideas he brings to the role and working alongside him during his afternoon as Headteacher!

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I wish all of our families a restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term.

Warmest wishes,
Mrs C Pellew

Mrs Pellew, Headteacher

# Community Updates

## PE Kits

Please Make Sure Your Child Has a PE Kit in School!
Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school every day, ready for their PE lessons.
Having a PE kit helps children feel comfortable, confident and included when taking part in PE with their friends.
A simple PE kit is all they need:

Black shorts

White T-shirt

Daps or trainers

These can be kept in a named PE bag on your child's peg, ready for when they need them.
Need a PE kit? We're here to help!

We have a selection of free, pre-loved PE kits available for families. Please pop into the Acorn Building every Friday between 9:00am and 9:30am to pick one up. There's no need to feel worried or embarrassed if you need a little help. We're always happy to support our families!

An information poster was sent out to parents/carers.

## Healthy Lunchboxes and Allergy Reminder

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in helping us implement our new allergy policy this term. This can be found on the school website.
https://eldeneschool.greenhousecms.co.uk/News/Letters/
Your cooperation plays an important role in keeping all children safe and ensuring we maintain a healthy school environment.
Please also take a moment to revisit our recommendations for healthy lunchboxes to help promote healthy eating habits across the school.

A further reminder from school staff: if your child is at risk of choking, whether due to their age, developmental stage, or a medical need, please ensure that foods which may present a choking hazard are prepared appropriately. For example, small fruits such as grapes should be cut into smaller pieces before being packed in lunchboxes. This simple precaution can significantly reduce the risk of choking and help keep all children safe throughout the school day.

# Family Support

## Saving Money on Your Food Shop

With the cost of living continuing to rise, we know that making the weekly food shop stretch further can be a challenge for many families. There are lots of simple ways to save money, such as planning meals ahead, writing a shopping list, choosing supermarket own-brand products and making the most of leftovers. Small changes can make a big difference!

Take a look at the poster for more helpful tips on keeping your food shopping costs down while still enjoying healthy, tasty meals as a family.

# Inclusion and support: nurturing every learner

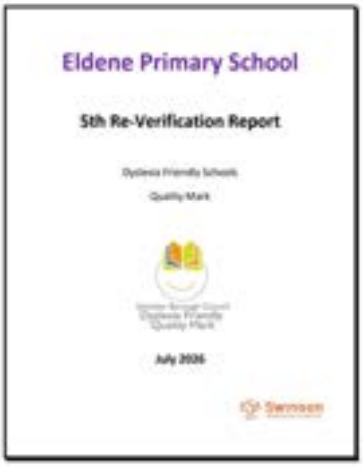
## Dyslexia Friendly School Award

At Eldene, we have been working hard towards renewing our Dyslexia Friendly School Award. We are proud to have held this award for almost 10 years and are committed to maintaining the high standards that support all of our learners.

If you would like to find out more about dyslexia, what it is, and how both home and school can work together to support children with literacy difficulties, please visit the Useful Information section of our school website.

For more information, please visit:

https://www.eldeneprimaryschool.org.uk/Useful-Information/




## World Mental Health Day 2026

To mark World Mental Health Day, we welcomed BeU Swindon into school to deliver a special assembly for the whole school.

The theme for 2026 was "Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change." The assembly provided an opportunity for our children to think about the importance of mental health and wellbeing, the value of listening to others and how sharing our experiences can help us to understand and support one another.

We would like to thank BeU Swindon for delivering such an important assembly and helping us to continue raising awareness of mental health across our school community.

# Keeping our children safe

## Changes to guidance

## Department for Education (DfE) statutory requirements for Relationships and Health Education (2025)

From September 2026, schools are required to teach the 2025 revised guidance for Relationships and Health Education which can be found here:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6970e7e67e827090d02d42e0/Relationships_education_relationships_and_sex_education__RSE__and_health_education__for_intro_1_September_2026_.pdf

From September 2026, schools are required to follow the updated Department for Education guidance for Relationships and Health Education. This includes an increased focus on areas such as online safety, wellbeing, healthy relationships, consent, privacy and keeping safe. At Eldene, we will be using myHappymind Plus to support this learning in an age-appropriate, inclusive and supportive way.

A separate letter will be sent to families shortly with further information about the changes, our updated RSE policy and how parents and carers can share their views.

## School Places- Apply!

Secondary school admissions for September 2027 | Secondary school places and admissions | Swindon Borough Council

## Robins

Robins have been having fun mark making in different ways so we can get ready for writing. We also created some amazing art work- the children drew showing what they would like in their sacred forest including things that are special to them.

## Little Owls

During Art Week in Early Years, the children enjoyed exploring the artwork of Japanese artist Hiroo Isono and pondering who they might find in their own 'Sacred Forest'... One long trunk, two big ears, four stomping feet... it's an elephant! The children brought their ideas to life through paint, collage, sculpture and more! It's amazing what you can do with a paper plate and some creative thinking.

## Wren

Wren class made their own 'Sacred forest' picture for Art Week. We have been learning about animal groups in Science and did a sorting activity where we demonstrated our expertise in recognising the different groups of animals.

## Goldfinch & Chaffinch

Goldfinch and Chaffinch class have really enjoyed their work for art week based on the Japanese artist Hiroo Isono. They designed lanterns and painted them. We also enjoyed seeing our work on display for the whole school 'art gallery' and looking at all the other amazing work shown!

## Sparrows

Children in Sparrows take part in the Curiosity Approach every afternoon, supporting their EHCP targets while providing opportunities to explore, investigate and develop a sense of curiosity about the world around them. It's always lots of fun, and we love exploring, discovering and learning together!

## Starlings

Starling Class thoroughly enjoyed the art week activities, creating paper lanterns inspired by Japanese lanterns and creating their own beautiful blossom trees.

## Kingfisher, Puffin and Dove

This term Year 3 and 4 learnt about the Greek Olympics and held our own mini Olympic event. In science the children investigated which surfaces created the most friction using cars and ramps and testing materials. Art week was enjoyed by all and the children produced some amazing work using oil pastels and 3D foliage.

## Eldene Football Team!

It's a new season for the School Football Team. With the new season, comes a brand-new football kit. The team has already played three games and has shown incredible resilience and teamwork. The support, as always, has been brilliant and everyone can be really proud of their development so far. With an incredible improvement across the three games, we are all excited to see how the team builds as a group over the course of this academic year. Well done everyone!

## Hawk, Parrot and Woodpecker

Year 5 and 6 have been learning about shadows in their 'Light' science topic. We experimented with using different materials and having the light source at different distances to the object.

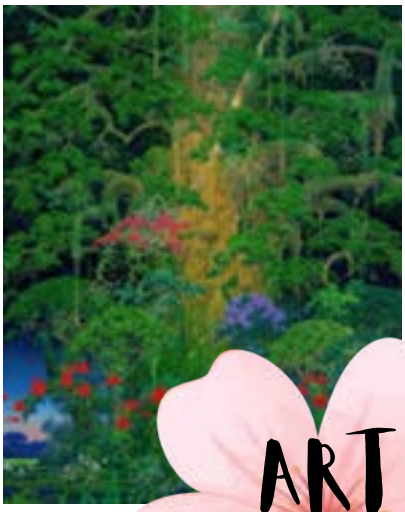
As part of our history topic about the Victorians, we had a hook day at the beginning of term. We had to have our shoes and finder nails inspected for cleanliness and then we did activities such as embroidery and calligraphy.

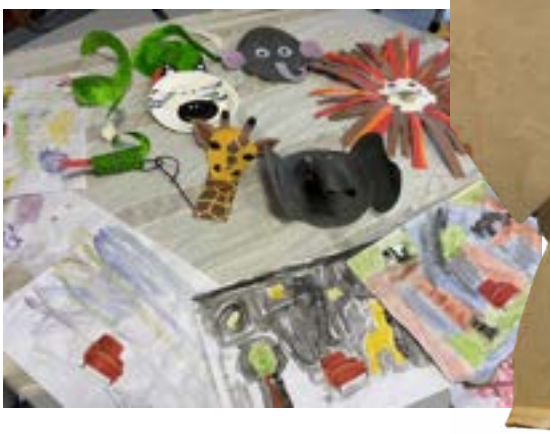
Year 5 and 6 children were very lucky to be invited to Ramsbury Manor. They enjoyed learning about how trees communicate, used natural materials to make paint and worked together to create some poetry. We are very grateful to Ramsbury Manor for funding this trip for us.

# ART WEEK

## Art Week

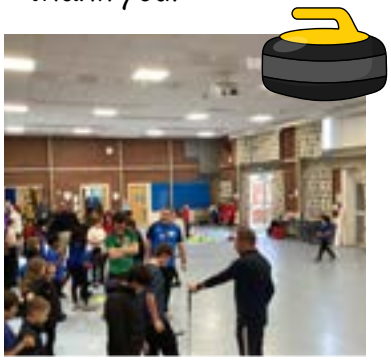
For Art Week, the whole school explored the art work of – Hiroo Isono. a Japanese artist who uses print, drawing, painting. The art work features jungle animals, flora and fauna; he painted the soul of the forest!





## Compass Sports Event

This year, Eldene once again hosted the annual Compass Sports Event. It was a great success and the children from the various schools within the Compass Group enjoyed a wide range of activities. The children enjoyed tasks that were linked to golf, curling and archery (which was a favorite as always). Everyone was impressed by the determination, resilience and friendly competitiveness of all the children. Each child was awarded a medal for their participation, and they can be incredibly proud of themselves. Additionally, the Eldene house captains, joined by the head boys and girls, supported the event and ensure that all children were able to access the tasks, enjoying themselves and modelled the high expectations of the school at all times - thank you!



# Upcoming dates

Monday 2nd November- First day back
Monday 2nd November- School Nurse in for YrR and Y6- Height and weight
Tuesday 3rd November- Monday 9th November- Book Fair
Thursday 12th November- School Disco (Y3/4 - 4:30pm-5:30pm Y5/6 - 5:45pm-6:45pm)
Friday 20th November- Individual School photos
Monday 30th November- Y4 Christmas Unwrapped
Wednesday 2nd December- Christmas Fair
Wednesday 9th December- Starlings and Sparrows- Platform visit
Thursday 10th December- Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 10th, Friday 11th December- Nursery and Reception Nativity Play
Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th December- Y1/2 and Starling Nativity Play
Friday 18th December- Open Afternoon
Friday 18th December- Last day of term for children