



# Elm Class Update - Week 6

## Autumn 1

Dear parents and carers,

This week Elm Class will be sharing story books retold and illustrated by Australian Aboriginal children from Western Australia to highlight Black History Month from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October to the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2022. We will be reading some traditional Aboriginal 'Dream time' stories such as Dunbi the Owl and How the birds got their colours during schools 'Dream time' story book time at the end of each day.

**Guest teachers Reading** – On Monday afternoon Miss O'Neil will be Elm Class Guest reader sharing a story during 'Dream time' to Reception children. Ms Lilley will be reading a story to Year 3 and 4 children.

**We're going on a leaf hunt** – We are very excited to share with families that on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October we will be visiting Hardwick Park. We will be engaging with their afternoon educational workshop 'We're going on a leaf hunt' specially designed for reception child. We will be leaving after the children have had their lunch and will be back for normal pick-up routine at 3.20. If you can spare the time to volunteer on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October in the afternoon, we would value your help with our youngest children. Look out for a letter with more information to follow this week.

**Scooter Friday** - If would like your child to participate in scooter Friday then they're very welcome to bring a scooter / balance bike plus a helmet with them every Friday morning and park their scooter/ balance bike in the MUGA until lunchtime play.

**Self Managing Skills** –

### Coats

Just to say a big thankyou to families that have shown their child how to 'put on their coat' and 'how to fasten their coat' independently. If you haven't done so already you may like to take some time over the coming weeks to show your child at home how to do these life skills all by themselves. Zips are tricky and children need time to practice - to be shown how to bring a zip together then how to zip it up by themselves. The weather is getting colder and children need to know how to keep themselves warm during outside and lunchtime play. Adults are here to help however we would love to see more children independently helping themselves.

### Toileting

Again, a big thank you to families that have worked hard to toilet train their child before starting school. Elm class staff are finding that they are changing children more frequently during the last 5 weeks than ever before. Changing children takes adults away from learning time. If you know your child needs further help with toileting, we would appreciate your support working with your child at home regarding this skill over the coming weeks and half term break. If your child comes home in a 'fresh change of underwear, socks and clothes' we would appreciate them being **returned back to school asap** washed and dried ready for the next child who may need them. Thank you to the families that have already done this 😊

**Adventures in the molar System** – An ‘Oral Health Education Kit’ has been given to me this week from ‘Bright Smiles, Bright Futures’ to share stories about good oral health with our youngest children. It’s been lovely to see and read examples of good oral health being shared and practiced with the children during Barnaby Bears ‘Healthy Adventure Visits’ with families so far this half term. This week look out for a free pack in your child’s blue bag from ‘Colgate’ containing a tooth brush and mini toothpaste that your child may like to use at home.

**Homework on Dojo** – Its lovely to see photos uploaded to dojo from families that have completed Phonics homework with their child. Phonics homework is put on Dojo every Friday. Completing phonics homework consolidates learning from the week for your child with their family. I look forward to seeing more photos of wonderful homework soon. Thankyou 😊

**Play matters** in Elm class - Guiding learners’ explorations of personal passions, interests and questions this week have ranged from:

**Reuben** - Exploring the Lego area. Making Robots and investigating measurement (height) Using the mathematical language of ‘more’.

**Olivia** - Exploring the Lego area. Building a ‘big’ house ‘my house’ she shared. Good use of new vocabulary – ‘Bungalow’ and investigated drawing ‘A Plan’ of her model (after) she made it. Great attention when observing to draw an Architects Plan!

**Lucian** - Investigating the loose parts ‘bottle tops’. Demonstrated good understanding of the mathematical concept of ‘sorting’ Playing through Cuddles the puppet to ‘sort’ blue and then white bottle tops.

**Josh** - Enjoyed being in the role play kitchen area cooking food for Miss Hall. Yum!

### **Areas of Learning**

#### **Literacy**

##### **Reception**

\*Phonics - Unit 2 n, p, o

##### **For the children to:**

\*Be encouraged to use a triangulation grip when holding a pencil.

\*Be encouraged to hear the sounds they now know (Unit 1 and this week unit 2) when making makings.

\*Demonstrate understanding of blending letters together to read simple words

\*Continue Sounds-Write Programme of work: Initial Code - Unit 2 n, p, o

#### **Mathematics**

**Reception** – Phase 1 ‘Just like me’.

This week mathematical learning intentions include – Compare amounts

For the children to:

\* Understand that when making comparisons a set can have more items, fewer items or the same amount of items in another set.

\* Make comparisons between the sets when the difference is greater.

Warmest regards,

**Ms Lilley**