

ELMS BANK NEWSLETTER



ElmsBank
School & College

Spring 2026



A WARM WELCOME



As we bring the Spring term to a close, I am delighted to reflect on the wide range of opportunities, achievements, and experiences that have made this term so memorable for our Elms Bank community.

Our pupils embraced curiosity and creativity during STEM Day, taking part in activities such as building Airblast rockets, exploring NASA's Artemis mission, and constructing geodesic domes. Their engagement

and enthusiasm were wonderful to see, especially as they discussed the inspiring true story behind Hidden Figures. This term also provided powerful moments of reflection. Two of our pupils represented the school with confidence and maturity at National Holocaust Memorial Day, reading eloquently in front of a large audience at Bury Town Hall. Their participation highlighted our school's ongoing commitment to respect, inclusion, and community cohesion. We were also incredibly proud of the pupils who performed in this year's Alfa Music Festival. Their dedication and love of performing shone throughout, and they represented Elms Bank with confidence and joy.

Our enrichment opportunities continued throughout the term. Students attending the JDUP event in Manchester explored career pathways with great enthusiasm, and their exemplary behaviour made us incredibly proud. Our annual visit to Bendrigg once again challenged pupils to push themselves whether climbing, caving, canoeing, or developing new skills in a supportive environment. World Book Day was a highlight, bringing colour, imagination, and creativity across school. From author workshops to paint-pouring art sessions, competitions, themed projects, and storytelling activities, pupils had a fantastic time celebrating their love of reading.

Our sports teams impressed too, particularly at the Eccles Football Tournament, where they demonstrated outstanding teamwork and determination. And visits such as the wonderful day at Smithills Farm gave pupils the chance to connect with nature, show kindness, and build confidence in new surroundings. As always, I would like to thank our dedicated staff, supportive families, and of course, our brilliant pupils for making this term such a success. Wishing everyone a restful break and best wishes as we look forward to the Summer term.

Ms Catherine Dent
Headteacher

Term Dates

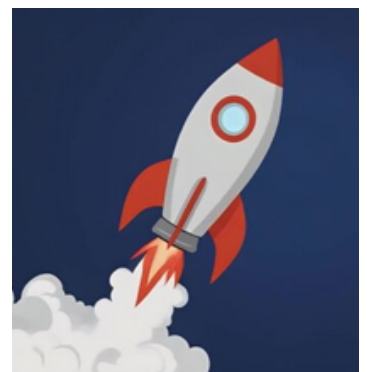
School and College opens on
Monday 20 April 2026
at 8.50am

Summer Term
May Day - Closes Friday 1 May
(normal Finish - 2.55pm)
Opens Tuesday 5 May

Mid Term
Closes on Friday 22 May
(2pm Finish)
Opens Monday 1 June

STEM DAY

Pupils at Elms Bank enjoyed an inspiring STEM Day, taking part in activities including building Airblast rockets, exploring NASA's Artemis mission, and creating geodesic domes. They also watched Hidden Figures, sparking discussion about the vital contributions of three African-American women at NASA during the 1960s space race.





JDUP EVENT

We had an incredible day in Manchester at the JDUP event with a group of our school and college students. The experience was packed with energy and inspiration from start to finish. Students had the chance to see "Angry Ginge" in action, enjoy an amazing performance from a talented dance crew, and dive into a wide range of career pathways within the JD business.

Opportunities like this are invaluable, and we're extremely lucky to have JD's headquarters right on our doorstep. Our young people represented us brilliantly throughout the day—their exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm made us proud. A fantastic trip all round, and an experience our students won't forget anytime soon.



NATIONAL HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

We were proud to mark National Holocaust Memorial Day. Two pupils represented the school at Bury Town Hall, reading confidently and eloquently in front of more than 300 attendees.

This important occasion reflects our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and strengthening community cohesion, with many secondary schools from across the borough involved.

The event brought together survivors, faith leaders, and students to share remembrance, personal testimonies, and a united stand against modern-day antisemitism and hatred.

Their families and staff were incredibly proud, and the pupils were thrilled to capture a selfie with the Mayor afterwards.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Your child may be able to get free school meals.

If you think your child may be eligible, please visit www.bury.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



ROBLOX

Roblox remains hugely popular with kids, offering tools to build and share custom games. The guide outlines essential safety advice, from handling in-app purchases to steering clear of online daters and unsafe stranger contact.



For more information and the full leaflet visit: our website - www.elmsbank.com > **Key Information > E-Safety > Guide to Roblox Safety**



WORLD BOOK DAY



I must start by saying a huge THANK YOU to all the staff, parents and pupils at Elms Bank School for making World Book Day such an amazing event this year.

We were fortunate enough to welcome Mr Ian Douglas back for another year to work with some children on creating fantastical creatures that both shocked and amazed many of the adults working alongside them. It was really encouraging to see how inspired the pupils were as they became authors themselves for the day.

The wonderful Artists from "DaisyLime" also came in school to successfully help Thrive and Connect pupils bring the colours back when the "Crayons Quit" in the story they were using as their theme! The two ladies supported the children in creating some beautiful paint pouring artwork that they got to keep as a memory of the day.



Alongside that, there were bookmark competitions, online Scholastic workshops, a book fair, "Books Stands" being made in Radcliffe, "Hedgehog Books" in Parr and Lawrence, "Bear Toast" making in Discover, "Story Writing" in Heathfield, and so much more! Bring on next year for even more excitement and book-based fun.

BENDRIGG

At the beginning of February, we took 31 hardy students on our annual pilgrimage to the Bendrigg Outdoor Trust residential centre! Bendrigg is a purpose-built outdoor activity centre specialising in providing incredible adventures for people of all abilities.

Although the weather was a little chilly this year, it certainly didn't hold us back. We tackled on-site indoor climbing, explored caves in the Yorkshire Dales, and even braved canoeing on Lake Windermere! Back at the centre, students loved crawling through the (dry and warm!) indoor cave, testing their aim on the archery range, and unwinding in the sensory room.

All this activity was powered by the delicious meals prepared by the brilliant kitchen team, who made sure no one ever went hungry.

Next year's trip will take place from 1-4 February 2027, so keep an eye out for letters coming home soon!





SMITHILLS FARM



The students had an absolutely incredible day at Smithills Farm! From start to finish, they showed outstanding manners, representing themselves brilliantly. Their kindness truly stood out as they gently fed

and held the animals, treating each one with such care and respect. Smiles were everywhere—it was a day filled with joy, laughter, and unforgettable moments!



COLOURING COMPETITION

To finish this term, the whole school took part in our colouring competition for Eid and Easter.



ECCLES FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

A fantastic day had by all at the Eccles football tournament in March. The team played 5 games winning 1, drawing 2 and losing 2. All players showed excellent teamwork, commitment and worked together to try and score as many goals as possible! A big shout out to Kenzie for scoring an amazing goal!



COLLEGE COFFEE MORNING



Elms Bank College hosted an amazing Spring Coffee Morning. We had some amazing donations from our College community and Tesco's. Stalls included 'guess the weight of the cake', a super sized Easter egg raffle and our famous hamper raffle! There were numerous stalls and drinks and biscuits a plenty!

The famous Elms Bank College Crooners performed a range of songs and did a brilliant job! We also had our College Thrive pupils delivering a fantastic sensory performance too!

We raised over £300 which will go towards activities decided through our college pupil voice. Thank you to all who donated, helped out and attended.