

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 1st September 2026
– INSET Day

Wednesday 2nd September
2026 – First day back for
children.

Monday 28th September
2026 – INSET Day

Friday 23rd October 2026 –
Last day of term 1.

Half term Saturday 24th
October 2026 – Sunday 1st
November 2026.

Start of term 2 Monday 2nd
November 2026.

[Elm Park Primary School -
Term Dates](#)



A note??? OK, maybe an essay from Mrs Bond x

Dear Children, Families, Staff and Governors,

How do you say goodbye to somewhere that has been such a huge part of your life?

For sixteen years, Elm Park has been so much more than my place of work. It has been where I have grown, laughed, cried, celebrated, and found some of the greatest friendships I could ever have wished for. It has been my second home.

When I joined Elm Park in 2010, I could never have imagined the journey that lay ahead.

During my time here, many of my own life's biggest moments have unfolded alongside the life of our school. You celebrated with me when I became a mum and welcomed Lars into the world, 11 weeks earlier than planned! You stood beside me through the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, when together we navigated challenges none of us could ever have imagined. We found new ways to support our children and families, and I will never forget the kindness, resilience and determination shown by every member of this community during those extraordinary times.

Many of you will also remember the incredible day a group of us shaved our heads to raise money for 'Shave with Stan' and The Grand Appeal. It was one of those moments that perfectly captured the spirit of Elm Park—children cheering, staff laughing, families donating so generously, and everyone coming together for something bigger than ourselves. It remains one of the most inspiring moments of my career.

But life also brought unimaginable sadness.

When my husband died, I wasn't just supported by colleagues—I was held by an entire community. The compassion shown by staff, governors, parents and children during the most challenging period of my family's life is something I will never be able to repay. Your kindness, your understanding and your quiet acts of care gave me the strength to keep working. I will carry that generosity in my heart for the rest of my life.

Professionally, this school has believed in me every step of the way. You entrusted me to teach the most remarkable children, to lead so many different subjects, to enhance the inclusivity of our school as SENCo, and then as Deputy Head. I thought this would be the pinnacle of my career, but then one day I suddenly became Acting Headteacher! After leading the school for a year, I was honoured and immensely privileged to become the permanent Headteacher of this remarkable school. To have been trusted with that responsibility has been the greatest honour of my career.

Together, we have achieved so much.

We have celebrated wonderful successes, welcomed children who have grown into remarkable young people, strengthened our inclusive ethos, embraced our Connected Curriculum, moved into our beautiful new school building, celebrated positive Ofsted inspections and, above all else, continued to build a school where every child is known, valued and loved.

None of that belongs to one person. It belongs to every member of this incredible community.

To our children, thank you for reminding me every single day why this role is so special. Your laughter has filled our classrooms, your curiosity has inspired us, and your kindness has given me hope for the future. Watching you grow has been the greatest privilege.

Important notice

We have welcomed an Elm Park Baby – Ms Dykes and her partner welcomed the safe arrival of baby Wylder! He is simply beautiful and we cannot wait to meet him!

Have a safe and very happy holiday!

If you happen to see me out and about, please stop and say hello!



From the bottom of my heart, thank you to every child I have been blessed to teach. Every parent/carer I have worked alongside. Every staff member who guided my way. To the Winterbourne and wider community for accepting me as one of your own.

To Elm Park for memories.

To our parents and families, thank you for trusting me with the most precious people in your lives. Thank you for your support, your honesty and your partnership. Everything we have achieved has only been possible because we have worked together.

To my incredible staff, there simply aren't enough words. You are the heart of Elm Park. Your compassion, professionalism, humour and unwavering commitment to our children inspire me every day. Thank you for standing beside me through every triumph and every challenge. I leave with friendships that I know will last a lifetime.

To our Governors, thank you for believing in me, for challenging me, supporting me and always keeping the children at the centre of every decision. It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated people.

Sadly, over the course of this academic year, I have been diagnosed with Long COVID and several other health conditions, which ultimately led me to make the incredibly difficult decision to say goodbye to a community I love and to a vocation I have dreamed of since I was six years old. I am moving on to a role within the Civil Service and look forward to spending more time with my amazing family.

I want to take a moment to publicly thank them.

To my Mum, Dad and my incredible son, Lars—thank you for your unwavering love and support. Thank you for the croissants and pastries that have kept the staffroom going on so many Friday mornings. Thank you for encouraging me to be the very best I could be and for always being my biggest cheerleaders.

I promise: no more middle-of-the-night alarm call-outs. No more late evenings trying to cool the school down or weekends stood in the carpark trying to sort out the drains. No more late-night meetings. And, most importantly, no more missed school events.

Thank you for being my rock.

As I look back over sixteen years, I realise that Elm Park hasn't simply been somewhere I worked. It has:

- witnessed my life.
- watched me become a mother.
- celebrated with me.
- grieved with me.
- helped rebuild me.
- believed in me.

And together, we have created something truly special.

Although I am leaving my role, a very large piece of my heart will always belong here. Every corridor, every classroom and every playground holds memories that I will treasure forever.

Thank you for every smile, every conversation, every challenge that helped me grow, every hug, every high five, every word of encouragement and every moment we have shared.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your lives.

Most of all, thank you for becoming part of mine.

Elm Park's vision has always been Inspiring Learners, Enriching Lives, Achieving Together. Looking back, I realise those words have shaped my own journey just as much as they have shaped the children we serve.

Goodbye is never easy, but I leave knowing that Elm Park's future is incredibly bright. The children, staff, families and governors who make this school so special will continue to inspire one another for many years to come.

And a final word of advice – Mrs Lugg, I could not have handed over our school to just anyone. I know that you love this place as much as I do. Remember that every decision is made with the children at the heart of it. Every challenge is there to be solved and every high five is someone giving you 5 reasons to be grateful for the part we play in their lives. Thank you for being the world's best deputy – Tag you're it!

Thank you for sixteen unforgettable years.

Elm Park will always be home.

With all my love, gratitude and very best wishes,

Mrs Carol-Marie Bond - A very proud and incredibly blessed Headteacher