

Ely St. John's Standard



Friday 5th December 2025



Headteacher's Notes:

The build up to the festive season is always a wonderful time to be working in a primary school and ESJ over the last couple of weeks has certainly been no exception! In amongst the continued curriculum teaching and learning, pupils and staff are busy preparing for a whole host of different performances, assemblies and special events in the coming days and there is a definite excited 'buzz' around the whole school. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming school events or just in the playground over the last two weeks of term. Please do always come and find me with any thoughts, suggestions or questions that you may have about anything school related.

I would also like to say a massive thank you to all who visited our Friends Festive Fair last weekend and helped us raise an amazing amount of over £3,000! Thank you everyone - especially the fabulous Friends volunteers who put in many, many hours of hard work to ensure that everyone attending had a great time! Every penny raised will help enrich school life and extend opportunities for the pupils of ESJ.

Mr. Henson

ESJ at a Glance

- Our fabulous Friends 'Festive Fair' raised over three thousands pounds last weekend and was really well attended - thank you to all who came!
- Both classes from Year 2 have visited St. Mary's Church this week as part of their R.E. studies.
- Foundation Stage put on a wonderful Nativity performance to parents on Thursday this week. All of the children were fantastic - well done EYFS!
- A team of pupils from Y5/6 attended the first ever Ely Area Korfball festival for schools last week. Korfball is a great game to learn - a cross between netball and basketball!
- Y1 and Y2 have been busy rehearsing for their Christmas performances to parents taking place next week.



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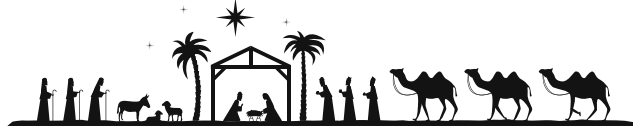
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Updates and Information

Christmas Performances – Year 1 and Year 2

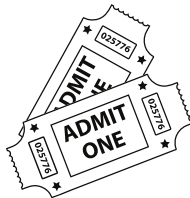


We are very much looking forward to welcoming our audiences for the Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas performances next week. The children have been rehearsing hard and are very excited to be able to step onto stage in front of a grown up audience! We hope to see lots of you there!

Please arrive five or ten minutes before the performance start time so that we are able to seat everyone safely and ensure that the performers are not disturbed by late arrivals. Thank you.

Year 1 Performances

- Monday 8th December (2:15pm)
- Tuesday 9th December (9:00am)



Year 2 Performances

- Wednesday 10th December (9:00pm)
- Thursday 11th December (2:15pm)

ESJ at Ely Cathedral – Christmas Celebration Service

As you will know from the letter shared with families earlier this week, Years 2 - 6 will be attending a Christmas Celebration Service at Ely Cathedral on Monday 15th December (9:45am).



We are very excited to be able to have this wonderful opportunity to bring our school community together and share in a Christmas Celebration Service. Parents and families are invited to attend the event (there are no tickets required) - the cathedral will be open from 9:30am. Our school orchestra will be playing before the service, so please do arrive in plenty of time to hear them!



Christmas/Jolly Jumper Day – Friday 19th December

On Friday 19th December, we would like to invite all pupils to come into school wearing a Christmas/Jolly Jumper instead of the normal school uniform jumper. It is the final day of the Autumn term day that day and we will be having festive themed activities in all year groups.

Updates and Information

'Art for Schools' Competition

A reminder that the 'Art for Schools' vouchers (published each week in the Ely Standard) competition has now come to an end. **Please hand in any remaining vouchers that you have by Wednesday 10th December at the latest.** Collected vouchers can be posted into one of the Friends boxes - located in the school foyer or outside on the wall between Y2 and Y3.



The more we can collect, the more chance ESJ will have in receiving a share of the £10,000 of fantastic art resources! Thank you!



From the Friends



A huge thank you thank you to everyone who attended the Friends 'Festive Fair' on Saturday 29th November. It was a fantastic event and helped to raise over three thousand pounds for Friends funds - amazing!



Amazon Wishlists

If you are looking for a way of spreading some festive cheer and purchasing a gift for classes/the school this Christmas, please look no further than the Amazon Wishlists below... all gifts are very gratefully received!

Foundation - https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/17614BX6UR6UW?ref=wl_share

Yr 1 - https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/9B8JW3ZMVK6?ref=wl_share

Yr 2 - https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/17JP9WB7PX006?ref=wl_share

Yr 3 - https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/MS2Q6UD0HZ3P?ref=wl_share

Yr 4/5 - https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3EZLBBHKTCCC7?ref=wl_share

Yr 6 - https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2WFRT1SIQCN5Y?ref=wl_share



Where possible, please add a 'gift message' when you order which indicates which year group the gift is intended for. That really helps speed up the delivery process here in school!

Hot Dog Sale - Tuesday 9th December



The Friends are holding a Hot Dog sale after school next Tuesday (9th) - 3pm at the outdoor classroom on the school playground. Please do come and collect a snack for your journey home! Cash and card accepted.

Calendar

Upcoming Dates:

December

Mon 8th Dec

- Y1 Performance to Parents (2:15pm)

Tue 9th Dec

- Y1 Performance to Parents (9:00am)

Wed 10th Dec

- Y2 Performance to Parents (9:00am)

Thur 11th Dec

- Y2 Performance to Parents (2:15pm)

Fri 12th Dec

- Staff from St. Mary's Church visiting Y1 (Christingle)

Mon 15th Dec

- ESJ at Ely Cathedral (a.m.) - Christmas Celebration (Y2-6)
- Christmas Lunch day at ESJ

Wed 17th Dec

- ESJ Music Concert (3:15pm)

Fri 19th Dec

- Jolly Christmas Jumper Day

Long Term Dates:

Spring Term 2026

Training Day (School Closed)	Monday 5 th January
Spring Term opens	Tuesday 6 th January
Half Term	Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February
Spring Term ends	Friday 27 th March

Summer Term 2026

Training Day (School Closed)	Monday 13 th April
Summer Term opens	Tuesday 14 th April
May Day (School Closed)	Monday 4 th May
Half Term	Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May
Summer Term ends	Friday 17 th July
Training Day (School Closed)	Monday 20 th July



Term dates and staff training days for the 2025/26 academic year can also be found on our website:

www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk/website/term_dates/232278



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