

Ely St. John's Standard



Friday 30th January 2026



Creative



The Friends

Headteacher's Notes:

There has been much in the media (both national and local) in recent months about the use of mobile phones and other smart devices in schools. Politicians, parents and educators are all increasingly recognising the potential negative effects of excessive phone and social media use by children and young people - on education, on development and on well-being.

I am very pleased to be able to share with you that Ely St. John's and our phone free policy and its implementation has been recognised by the Smartphone Free School Ratings organisation - 'Silver Award'. Please see...

<https://www.smartphonefreerating.org/>

As you know from our school policy, we have a no mobile phone rule for pupils - and we are proud to have this in place and being monitored. For more details visit

https://www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk/mobile_phones

If you do have any questions on this or would like further information about any aspect of phone or device use, please do get in touch.

Mr. Henson



ESJ at a Glance

- Over 250 families have attended Parent Consultations this week - thank you!
- Over 200 tickets have been sold for tonight's Friends 'Film Night' - we look forward to seeing so many of you there later!
- All the Y6 pupils had a very informative visit from local Fire Safety Officer Hilary Brill last week - learning about important safety rules and keeping yourself safe.
- Rev. Matthew from St. Mary's Church was in school today working with both of our Y2 classes as part of their work on finding out about the lives of Christians today.
- We are very excited for our first ever 'Bring a Tin' week next week (see later in the newsletter).



office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk



01353 612780



www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk



@ESJ_Primary

Updates and Information



Spring Term Parent Consultations

It has been fantastic to welcome so many parents in to school this week for our Spring Term Parent Consultations. As well as the opportunity to look at work in books, I know that the conversations have been really beneficial to identify all of the many success for each pupil alongside the next steps for development in certain areas.

If you did not book a consultation for whatever reason, please email the school office so that we can arrange a suitable time for you to speak to your child's teacher.

'Bring a Tin' week - next week..!

As you will know from the communication shared earlier this week, next week (Mon 2nd - Fri 6th February) is 'Bring a Tin Week' in aid of Ely Foodbank.

During this week, children are encouraged to bring in tinned food items to donate to Ely Foodbank. These donations can be brought in on any day throughout the week and will be counted and collected by their School Council member. The class that donates the highest number of tins by the end of the week will be awarded a certificate from the School Council in recognition of their fantastic effort.

This is a great opportunity for our pupils to learn about kindness, generosity, and supporting others in our local community. We also hope it continues to remind our school community of our newly opened Foodbank donation point, which has already been filled up once since the beginning of January.



Thank You, Mrs. Webb!

After a fantastic 25 years of dedicated service to Ely St. John's, we have today said good-bye to Mrs. Debbie Webb - who is retiring from her role as a Teaching Assistant. The school governors and I would like to express our thanks for the dedication, commitment and care that she has given us throughout her time at ESJ. Mrs. Webb has worked across all areas of the school in her many years with us and has supported hundreds and hundreds of children to improve and flourish. Thank you Debbie!



 office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

 01353 612780

 www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

 @ESJ_Primary

Updates and Information

Parking Pledge



Just a reminder for those of you driving your children to school and parking in the nearby streets, please can we ask that you give due consideration and care to our local residents - and their access to their properties.

We have had a small number of reports in recent weeks of inconsiderate parking that has led to some problems for residents exiting their driveways. Whilst we recognise that it does get busy at peak times around the school, please continue to set a thoughtful example to others in how and where you are parking. Thank you!

Book Donations

At present, we are at capacity in terms of books for the school library and would kindly ask that no new donations are made until further notice. Thank you!

As and when we are in the position to process and shelve any good quality 'pre-loved' book donations, we will let everyone know.



From the Friends



Film Night - Tonight!

For those of you coming to our Film Night tonight - please see opposite for a few key reminders. We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children to the event - we have record numbers attending this time around!



Friends Website

Please do visit our webpage for any further Friends information or to purchase tickets for our events - <https://www.pta-events.com/esj/>

Information about other upcoming events for this term will be shared very soon!

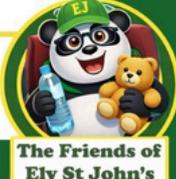


FRIENDS OF ELY ST JOHN'S

MOVIE NIGHT

Checklist

- Feed the kids beforehand
- Comfy clothes/pyjamas
- Water bottle
- Drop off at 17:15
- Pick up at 19:15



The Friends of Ely St John's



office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk



www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk



01353 612780



@ESJ_Primary

Calendar

Upcoming Dates:

February

w/b Mon 2nd Feb

- 'Bring a Tin' challenge from Ely Foodbank

Tue 10th Feb

- EYFS + Y1 Dental Checks (selected pupils)

w/b Mon 16nd Feb

- Half term break

Wed 25th Feb

- Y6 'Young Voices' Trip to O2 Arena

March

Tue + Wed 3rd/4th Mar

- Y1 class visits to Ely Library

Wed 4th Mar

- Y6 English Challenge Event (4:00pm)

Fri 6th Mar

- Y6 Tag Rugby Team - Ely District Competition

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 2026/27 academic year have now been released and can be found on our website:

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