

Ely St. John's Standard



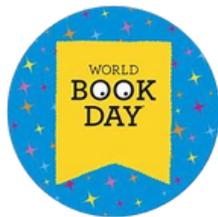
Friday 6th March 2026



Headteacher's Notes:

Being able to open up school and invite parents, grandparents and friends in for World Book Day and some shared reading is always one of my favourite sharing opportunities of the school year. Yesterday's sunshine even meant that some of the afternoon sharing sessions were able to spill out onto the playground and field.

There were so many positive comments and smiling faces from pupils (and staff) at the end of the day thanks to all of the wonderful activities, shared reading and book character



costumes that were on show throughout the day. We are very appreciative to everyone for all of the time, enthusiasm and help with the work we do to support reading and, of course, World Book Day itself!

All academic research on the matter points to the massive impact of parental engagement and support with reading on enjoyment and attainment in the subject. It all makes a massive difference - thank you! Please do speak to me on the playground or see you child's class teacher if you would like any advice on books or reading to support your child.

Mr. Henson

ESJ at a Glance

- Both Y1 classes visited Ely Museum this week as part of their history work looking at toys from the past.
- The Y6 trip to the O2 Arena in London for the 'Young Voices' concert last week was a great success. All who went had a fantastic time and now have some wonderful memories of performing in this amazing venue!
- Lots of pupils enjoyed the opportunity to dress up as a favourite book character as part of World Book Day yesterday - there were some amazing outfits on display!
- There has been lots of preparation going on for British Science Week next week (9th - 13th March). We have science-themed visits, assemblies and activities taking place across all year groups.

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✕ @ESJ_Primary

Updates and Information



COMMUNITY FAMILY DAY

★ Ely St John's Primary School ★

Sunday 22nd March | 10:00 – 12:30



WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Clean windows



Paint fences & doors



Clear grounds



Stain woodwork

Local Businesses – Can You Help?



Window cleaners



Carpenters

Painters & decorators

Waste removal



RSVP via social media or email

thefriendsofesj@hotmail.co.uk

Refreshments provided ☕ Even one hour makes a difference!



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Updates and Information

Year 6 English Challenge Competition

A huge well done to the team of three pupils from Year 6 who represented the school in the Cambridgeshire 'Year 6 English Challenge' competition here at ESJ on Wednesday. Competing against seven other schools, the team finished in an excellent 3rd place after answering questions on everything from classic literature and famous book characters to spotting incorrect grammar usage and spelling errors! Well done team!



Tag-Rugby Success for ESJ

The school tag-rugby team took part in the Ely Area Active Play tournament today and came home with the trophy after blitzing all the opposition and winning all eight of their matches. With that outstanding 100% record, the team finished well clear as competition winners. Congratulations to the whole team!



Foundation Stage Courtyard Development



The next stage of the development of the Foundation Stage courtyard is now underway - with the creation of a Reading Nook area. The landscaping is now complete and the planting will follow on the Friends Community Day later this month. A huge thank you to Ben and Lucy Conochie for their time and work in making this happen! We can't wait to get using it!

Parent Coffee Morning - Smartphone Free Discussion



Our latest Parent Coffee Morning event is taking place on Friday 20th March (9:00am). The focus of discussion will be on the topic of smartphone and social media use by young people - something that is a very current topic of debate in the media and in parliament in recent months. The coffee morning will offer a chance to ask questions to representatives of the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign and aims to be informative and supportive for all. We hope to see you there! If you would like to attend, please email the school office to book your free place - thank you!



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Calendar

Upcoming Dates:

March

w/b Mon 9th Mar

- British Science Week

Wed 11th Mar - Fri 13th Mar

- Y4 Residential Trip (Burwell House)

Tue 17th Mar

- Y4/5 Performance (p.m.)

Wed 18th Mar

- Y4/5 Performance (p.m.)

Wed 18th Mar

- Y6 Dodgeball Team - Competition

Fri 20th Mar

- Parent Coffee Morning Event
(Smartphone Free Childhood) 9:00am

Sun 22nd Mar

- Friends Community Day (10am)

Fri 27th Mar

- Last day of Spring Term

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