

Ely St. John's Standard



Friday 1st May 2026



Headteacher's Notes:

In my notes today I would like to focus on the importance of developing the skills of play and effective collaboration with others - and how central they are to so many aspects of school life and learning. Spending time with different year groups at lunch-time yesterday, I witnessed examples of guided, shared and independent play in many and varied contexts.

Supported by staff and by each other, our pupils are constantly learning the skills of resilience, sharing, co-operation and developing their emotional awareness.

The power of purposeful play, both in curriculum time as well as unstructured social time, should never

be underestimated. We firmly believe, alongside much evidence-based research, that opportunities for thought through play hugely supports positive academic and social outcomes for all pupils.



Mr. Henson

ESJ at a Glance

- Y2 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Sikh Gurdwara in Peterborough on Thursday as part of their R.E work. All pupils took part brilliantly and learned lots!
- The Friends 'Bookfest 2026' took place on Sunday afternoon and was a great success - illustrator Matty Long, the Usborne travelling book fair and storytime with staff all meant lots of fun and fundraising at the same time!
- Thank you to everyone who took part in our 'Breakfast Boost' challenge for Ely Foodbank this week. All of the donations have been collected by the foodbank today.
- There was lots of great discussion and conversation at our Coffee Morning event last Friday on the topic of childhood smartphone use. Many thanks to all who attended.

✉ office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

☎ 01353 612780

🌐 www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

✂ @ESJ_Primary

Updates and Information

ESJ Sports Days and Healthy Lifestyles Week (Monday 1st June - Friday 5th June)

We are excited to be able to share that the ESJ 'Healthy Lifestyles' week, including year group Sports Day events, will be taking place in the week after half term - Monday 1st to Friday 5th June. It is always one of the most action-packed weeks of the school year and we are very much looking forward to sharing further details with you next week about this and inviting parents into school for the Sports Day events.

The theme of our Healthy Lifestyles week this year is 'Mission Me' - our mission being to learn more, do more and understand more about healthy diet, exercise and all aspects of physical and mental well-being.

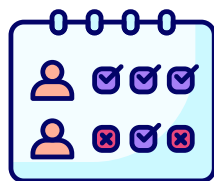


Reporting Pupil Absence



We would like to remind all parents that, if your child is unwell and off school, please phone the school office (**01353 612780**) by 9:15am on the day of absence to leave a message. **Please also include a reason for the absence so that we can code the attendance correctly.** Thank you.

Failure to do so will mean that the school office will need to contact you to find out the reason for absence. In the event that the school office has not been able to ascertain the reason for absence, our policy is to conduct a 'Live and Well' check by sending a senior member of staff out to visit your home to check that all is ok.



Safe Access to the School Site

A polite reminder that the drop off parking bay in the school car park is not for short stay parking (unless with prior permission). No vehicle should be left unattended in this area and any pupils being dropped off should walk themselves onto the school playground. We have noticed that this area has become very congested on occasions recently and been used as a car parking spot. Please help us to ensure our site is as safe as possible by adhering to the 'drop off' only expectations here - thank you.



Updates and Information



From the Friends

Bookfest 2026

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to Bookfest 2026 on Sunday last week. As well as raising significant sums of money for our projects, it was great to have so many pupils in attendance - the illustration session with Matty Long was a real highlight!



See below for our upcoming events. Tickets are bookable via the website for **Movie Night** on Friday 15th May and for anyone interested in having a 'seller table' at the **Summer Fair**... <https://www.pta-events.com/esj/>

Movie Night - Friday 15th May

Non-Uniform Day - Friday 22nd May

Summer Fair - Sunday 14th June

MOVIE NIGHT

Option 1

★★★★★

DOG MAN

Option 2

MIGRATION

15 May
17:15-19:00

The Friends of Ely St John's

Book your tickets at [pta-events.com/esj/](https://www.pta-events.com/esj/)

FRIDAY 22 MAY IS
Non Uniform Day
WHOO! WHOO!
£1 donation at drop off

ELY ST JOHN'S SUMMER FAIR
Sunday 14 June
11am - 2pm
Free Entry

BBQ
PLENTY FOR EVERYONE!

Calendar

Upcoming Dates:

May

Mon 4th

- May Day Bank Holiday - school closed

Fri 8th

- Year 5 Swimming session for selected pupils

Mon 11th - Thur 14th

- Y6 KS2 National Test Week (each morning)

Fri 15th

- Friends 'Movie Night' (5:15pm)

Wed 20th

- Y2 Great Fire of London Day (in school)

Thur 21st

- Y3 Singing Event - The Maltings (a.m.)

Fri 22nd

- Friends 'Non-Uniform' day
- Y5 Swimming Session
- Final day of the half term

Long Term Dates:

June

w/b Mon 1st June

- Healthy Lifestyles Week + Year Group Sports days

Wed 3rd

- Class Photographs

Summer Term 2026

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

Autumn Term 2026

Training Day (School Closed)	Tuesday 1 st September
Autumn Term opens	Wednesday 2 nd September
Training Day (School Closed)	Friday 23 rd October
Half Term	Monday 26 th Oct. – Friday 30 th Oct.
Autumn Term ends	Friday 18 th December



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