

Ely St. John's Standard



Friday 18th September 2026



Headteacher's Notes:

During the course of this week, I have been able to spend time in each and every classroom in the school - with a focus on inclusion and listening to pupils and staff talk about engagement in learning. From Reception all the way up to Year Six, I have consistently observed children actively and purposefully engaged in what they are doing, supported hugely by the wide variety of techniques and resources that staff use. When learning gets more difficult, it was great to see so many pupils independently able to find support through the resources in their classroom, talking to their peers or persevering themselves with the challenge.

One thing that was very evident in all my visits to classrooms was our approach of requiring all pupils (suitably supported) to have responses and ideas ready to share during class discussion - and avoiding using 'hands up' to answer a question. Use of individual mini-whiteboards, partner talk and shared thinking time was really great to see, everywhere I went. I was also particularly impressed with how quickly all of our classes have settled back into the expectations and routines of school learning. I had to remind myself that it is only the end of the second full week of term - and the first week for our new Foundation Stage pupils. Well done everyone!

Mr. Henson

ESJ at a Glance

- 18 after-school clubs started this week - sports, art, performance, languages, martial arts and lots more!
- All staff have completed their update Safeguarding training and 'Keeping Safe' has been an assembly theme for pupils this week.
- Curriculum overviews covering this term have been sent out to families of pupils in all year groups.
- Our new Foundation Stage have just completed their first full-time week in school! Well done everyone!
- Dates have been finalised and shared (see page 3) for prospective parent tours for new intake Reception (September 2027)



office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk



01353 612780



www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk



@ESJ_Primary

Updates and Information

Ely College – Open Evening for Y6–Y7 Transition

Tuesday 22nd September 2026 +

Wednesday 23rd September 2026, 5.30pm – 6.30pm



Ely College are hosting two parent open evenings for prospective parents next week on Tuesday (22nd) and Wednesday (23rd). These are always great events for finding out more about the school. Book your place using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/getting-to-know-ely-college-tickets-2001045696545>



From the Friends



The Friends of Ely St John's

NEW & PRELOVED UNIFORM SALE

PRELOVED JUMPERS AND CARDIGANS	£2
NEW JUMPERS AND CARDIGANS	£8
NEW DRAWSTRING BAGS	£2
NEW YELLOW T-SHIRTS AND PE SHORTS	£2.50

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER, 3PM
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

CARD OR CASH

The Friends of Ely St John's

AGM

Come along. Have your say. Get involved.

Join us for our AGM and find out more about what the Friends do, what we've achieved over the past year and our plans for the year ahead.

Whether you'd like to get more involved (we're particularly keen to hear from those interested in a Treasurer or Comms role), have ideas to share, or simply want to know more about how we support the school, everyone is welcome.

7pm, 12 October 2026
School Staff Room

Friends Website

Don't forget to visit our webpage for any further Friends information or to purchase tickets for our events - <https://www.pta-events.com/esj/>

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

Updates and Information

New Intake Reception 2027 Parent Tours

Please see the poster opposite for a reminder of the dates and times for upcoming tours for our new intake Reception for September 2027.

We would very much appreciate it if you could share this information with anyone you know who has a child starting primary school next September.

Just contact the school office in order to book a place.

The application window for September 2027 starters is already open - further information and how to apply for a school place can be found at...

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/primary-reception-junior-or-middle-school>



Tours for Prospective Parents at
Ely St. John's Primary School

Do you have a child starting Reception in September 2027?
The team at Ely St. John's Primary School warmly invites prospective parents to join us on one of the dates below to tour our school and see for yourselves what makes our school community special.

Wednesday 30th September at 9:30am
Thursday 1st October at 1:30pm
Wednesday 7th October at 9:30am
Thursday 8th October at 1:30pm and 6:15pm
Wednesday 14th October at 9:30am
Thursday 15th October at 1:30pm and 6:15pm

We look forward to meeting you!
Each tour has limited places, so please book in advance.

01353 612780
office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk
www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

Contact the school office to book your place now!



Mobile Phones + Smart Watches - A Reminder



As you already know, ESJ is a mobile phone and smart device free zone for pupils - before, during and after the school day. Our policy is very clear and we appreciate the support of parents and carers in ensuring that this is followed.

We have worked closely with other local primary schools and our main feeder secondary school (Ely College) to have a consistent approach to ensuring our schools are mobile free - we know that our policy aligns directly with them. If you do have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

For further info - please visit the mobile phone page in the Safeguarding section of our website...
www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk/mobile_phones



For any parents who are interested in finding out more about this issue, the '[Smartphone Free Childhood](http://parentpact.app.smartphonefreechildhood.org)' campaign have lots of resources and information to promote discussion and thinking. ESJ currently has 96 parents signed up to the 'Parent Pact' on the site - just visit:
parentpact.app.smartphonefreechildhood.org

Calendar

Upcoming Dates:

Mon 21st Sept

- Raptor Foundation visiting Y2

Tue 22nd + Wed 23rd Sept

- Ely College Open Evenings (5:30pm)

Fri 25th Sept

- Friends 'New + Pre-loved Uniform Sale' (3:00pm)

Tue 29th Sept

- Flu Vaccination Day for pupils
- EYFS Parent Information Event (Phonics) 6:00pm

Fri 2nd Oct

- Harvest Festival Donations for Ely Foodbank

Mon 12th Oct

- Friends AGM - 7:00pm

w/b Mon 19th Oct

- Autumn Term Parent Consultations this week

Term Dates 26/27:

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

Spring Term 2027

Training Day (School Closed)	Monday 4 th January
Spring Term opens	Tuesday 5 th January
Half Term	Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February
Spring Term ends	Thursday 25 th March

Summer Term 2027

Training Day (School Closed)	Monday 12 th April
Summer Term opens	Tuesday 13 th April
May Day (School Closed)	Monday 3 rd May
Training Day (School Closed)	Friday 28 th May
Half Term	Monday 31 st May - Friday 4 th June
Summer Term ends	Wednesday 21 st July



Term dates and staff training days for the 2026/27 academic year can be found on our website:

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



office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk



01353 612780



www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk



@ESJ_Primary