

Ely St. John's Standard



Friday 16th October 2026



Headteacher's Notes:

At the centre of a Headteacher's job of making sure that a school flourishes is ensuring all its different elements work well together. In order to maximise pupil progress, to support staff and maintain a continued drive for improvement there needs to be a clear strategic overview. One vitally important part of this is our school governing body - a group of dedicated and skilled volunteers who support the school leadership team. Governors play a vital role in the leadership of the school by providing both support and challenge to school leaders. This includes oversight of statutory obligations, approval of significant changes, monitoring of progress as well as visits to see the school in action.

The school governors and I are currently looking for any parents in our school community who might be interested in finding out more about the role of a governor and potentially putting themselves forward for a position within the team. If there is significant interest we may need to run a parent governor election - watch this space!

If this does interest you, please contact the school office via our email address - office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk It would be helpful if you could share a bit about yourself, why you are interested in becoming a governor and what skills you would be able to bring to the role. Thank you!

Mr. Henson

ESJ at a Glance

- A quick reminder that next Friday (23rd October) the school is closed for a Teacher Training day - our final day for pupils this half term is Thursday 22nd October.
- Well done to our Y5/6 Girls Football team who won the Ely District competition today. Thirty goals scored - none conceded!
- Y2 have been excitedly rehearsing for their Harvest Performance to parents next week. The stage is up and ready!
- We conducted three more parent tours this week for new intake EYFS pupils for September 2027 - extra tour dates are now available after half term.
- We are looking forward to welcoming all of our families into school next week for our Autumn Term Parent Consultations.



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Updates and Information



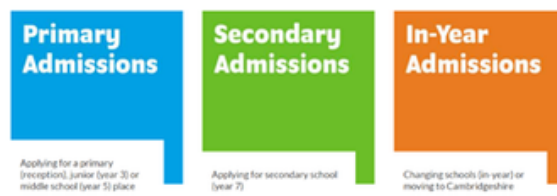
Parent Consultations

As you know, our first Parent Consultations of the school year will be taking place next week on Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd October.

The booking system is still open until 10:00am on Monday morning for you to book an appointment. After that time, please contact the school office for any booking queries.

Please aim to arrive at school, via the main entrance, five minutes before your consultation time in order to help us to keep to time as much as possible. Thank you!

Secondary School Applications for September 2027



A final reminder for all of our Year Six parents that the application window for applying for a secondary school place is ending soon - the **deadline is 31st October 2026**. If you have any questions or concerns about the process, please don't hesitate to come and speak to us. We are always here to help. If you have not yet applied for a place, please visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions

ESJ Girls Football Team

Congratulations are in order to our Y5/6 Girls Football team who competed in the Active Play Ely District tournament earlier today. The team finished as competition winners!

Not only did the team win all of their seven matches at the tournament - they scored thirty goals and conceded none! What a performance girls!



New Intake Reception 2027 Parent Tours

Due to demand, we have scheduled two additional parent tours (see opposite) for prospective parents for new EYFS intake in September 2027. Please share this with any families you know who have a child starting school next September.

New Tour Dates

Wednesday 4th November (9:30am)

Thursday 5th November (1:30pm)

To book - contact office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk



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Updates and Information



From the Friends



Friends AGM + Disco Night

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Friends AGM on Monday - it was fantastic to feel so much support and volunteering spirit, thank you!

And - of course - we hope everyone has a great time at tonight's Halloween disco!

Coming up...



Thursday 22nd October - Donation Day!



Saturday 28th November - 2 - 4pm

Parent Coffee Afternoon

On Friday 20th November we are holding our first parent Coffee Afternoon event of the school year - 'Kids, phones + social media'.

All are welcome at the event here in school, which runs from 2:00pm until 2:55pm. To book a place, just contact the school office.

Pupil 'Leave of Absences'

Should you need to request a leave of absence for your child, please do so at least seven days in advance - thank you. It helps us to ensure that all our registers are updated and you are informed in time.

A copy of the form can be found on the school website and here -

<https://www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk/forms>



Informal Coffee Session for ESJ Parents & Carers

KIDS, PHONES & SOCIAL MEDIA - LET'S TALK!

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER
Arrival 1.45pm | Start 2pm | Close 2.55pm

Guest Speaker
Understanding Human Behaviour:
Why a Smartphone Free Childhood Is Easier Together

With Miriam Blyth - Behaviour Change Coach & Mum
Explore how our thoughts and feelings shape behaviour, and how shared boundaries can help families navigate the challenges of smartphone and social media use.

Come along for a relaxed, friendly conversation about the challenges families face, share experiences and learn more about Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC).

TEA, COFFEE & BISCUITS PROVIDED
Ely St John's Primary School, via Reception

Please let us know you're coming
01353 612780 · office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

Everybody Welcome!



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Calendar

Upcoming Dates:

Tue 20th - Thur 22nd Oct

- Autumn Term Parent Consultations this week

Wed 21st Oct

- Y2 Harvest Performance (2:15pm)

Thur 22nd Oct

- Friends Non-Uniform Day
- Y2 Harvest Performance (9:30am)

Fri 23rd Oct

- Teacher Training Day - school closed

Half Term Break

Mon 2nd Nov

- School re-opens - Autumn 2

Fri 13th Nov

- Individual Photograph Day

Sat 28th Nov

- Friends Festive Fair (2pm - 4pm)

Term Dates 26/27:

Autumn Term 2026

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



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