Ely St. John's Standard

Friday 6th November 2026



Headteacher's Notes:

As we start the new half term together, I am already excited about the many opportunities coming up in the next few weeks for our pupils to be able to perform, share work and showcase everything that they've been doing. The second half of the Autumn Term is always one of my favourites!

There are too many events and activities for me to mention all of them in one go, but I would urge everyone to keep a careful eye on the calendar page of this newsletter and email communication from school between now and Christmas. I would like to highlight just a few upcoming events though, in particular our Carol Service at Ely Cathedral (for Y2 - Y6) taking place on Tuesday 8th December (9:45am). This was a very successful and enjoyable event last year and we are very lucky to have had the support of the Ely Cathedral team to run it again this year. Further information will be shared with you nearer the time about specific details and timings.

Other highlights coming up this half term include our Foundation Stage Nativity performance (Tue 15th Dec), our fabulous choir performing at the Ely Cathedral Christmas Fair (19th Nov) and, of course, our Friends Festive Fair on Saturday 28th November (2pm - 4pm) here at school. It promises to be a very busy few weeks and we look forward to sharing even more information shortly.

Mr. Henson

ESJ at a Glance

- *Y1 had a great time with the team from St. Mary's Church this week, making Christingles and finding out about what they represent.*
- *We welcomed prospective Foundation Stage parents on two more tours this week. In total, over the last few weeks, nearly 70 families have visited to see all of the amazing things our school has to offer!*
- *Y2 enjoyed a visit from the team at Thalia Waste Management on Monday this week - learning all about the importance of recycling and what we can all do to help.*
- *We are looking forward to a busy week next week - including non-uniform Thursday (for Children in Need) and Photograph Day on Friday!*

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

Updates and Information

Children in Need 2026



Ely St. John's will once again be supporting the BBC 'Children in Need' fundraising campaign by holding a non-uniform day - this time **on Thursday 12th November**. The reason for holding our non-uniform day on Thursday is that we are having our individual and sibling photograph day on Friday 13th November - the day of the Children in Need celebrations.

Cash donations for the charity can be handed in to class teachers on Thursday morning at registration. Thank you in advance for your support with this! For more information about the national event, visit the website: www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk

School Photographs – Friday 13th November

A reminder that individual and sibling school photographs are being taken on Friday 13th November. For any classes with P.E. that day, please ensure that pupils are wearing normal school jumpers on their top half - and P.E. shorts/bottoms and trainers. Thank you.

Parent Consultations

Thank you to all families for attending our first Parent Consultations of the school year in the week before half term.

If, for any reason, you were not able to attend, please contact your child's class teacher via the school office to book an appointment. It is very important that no one misses out - thank you.

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.



Updates and Information

From the Friends

Festive Fair – Saturday 28th November



Our Festive Fair is coming up on **Saturday 28th November, 2–4pm**, and we'd love your help to make it a really special afternoon for the children and families at our school.

We're looking for volunteers to help with selling refreshments, running games, helping on the tombola, as well as a few people to help with setting up beforehand and clearing away afterwards. You don't need to commit to the whole afternoon — even an hour of your time would make a huge difference.

These events are only possible with the support of our wonderful school community, so if you can lend a hand, we'd be incredibly grateful. **Please join our Festive Fair volunteer chat in our WhatsApp Community, or email the Friends of Ely St John's at thefriendsofesj@hotmail.co.uk.**

Thank you for helping us make the Festive Fair a lovely afternoon for everyone! ❤️

Festive Fair 2026
WhatsApp group

Please scan the QR code above to join the Friends Festive Fair volunteer WhatsApp group.



'My Child's Art' – Christmas Cards

A reminder that the deadline for returning Christmas card designs on the 'My Child's Art' template is rapidly approaching. We know that lots of families are keen to get cards printed.

Please ensure that all designs are handed in to the box in the school entrance by the end of school on Wednesday 11th November. Thank you.

Designs are being collected and sent off for printing the following day



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

Calendar

Upcoming Dates:

Mon 9th Nov
- Cambridgeshire Wildlife Team visiting Y2

Thur 12th Nov
- Non-Uniform Day for Children in Need

Fri 13th Nov
- Individual Photograph Day

Thur 19th Nov
- Choir performing at Ely Cathedral Christmas Fair (10am)

Fri 20th Nov
- Parent Coffee Afternoon event (2pm)

Sat 28th Nov
- Friends Festive Fair (2pm - 4pm)

Tue 8th Dec
- Carol Concert (Y2 - Y6) at Ely Cathedral (a.m.)

Tue 15th Dec
- EYFS Nativity Performance to parents (a.m.)

Term Dates 26/27:

Autumn Term 2026

Training Day (School Closed)	Friday 23rd October
Half Term	Monday 26th Oct. – Friday 30th Oct.
Autumn Term ends	Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2027

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

Summer Term 2027

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