

Ely St John's Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018

Enterprise!

Thank you to everyone who bought holly hock and sunflower seeds – the children raised £29.40 for Mr Poli to use in the allotment which is fantastic – a very enterprising group of children we have! ☺

A big thank you to all those who helped with the Xmas Fayre and all who came. It was a super event and so well organised as always thanks to our fantastic Friends Committee.

Our next enterprising event which again has been instigated by a child - Dylan in Year 4. There will be an after school cake sale on Friday 7th December to raise money for the Rosie and Addenbrookes Hospital.

Meeting Royalty!

11 children had the opportunity to meet the Prince of Wales and his wife Camila on 27th November when Prince Charles visited Ely. One of our recorder groups and the Brass Ensemble played in the market square as he walked around and got to meet him close up as he passed by. What a thing to remember in years to come – to meet the future King of England!



Snow Plan

Please see the picture attached for information about the routes in to school in the event of heavy snow. We are changing it this year to try and help Mr Hambley with the early morning work – we want to avoid as much path making as possible and find the best route in to school to avoid carpets getting ruined. Children will now access the school from the side lane gate or front gate and up through the side gate round past the nature garden and in to the fire exit double doors at the back of the hall.

We try to stay open where possible though we do have to ensure we have enough staff to be here for the children – some of our staff travel a long way to get to school. In the event of snow causing a closure we will post this on our school website and local radios will be contacted.

If open we ask you to send the children in appropriate waterproof coats and wellies so they can enjoy the snow at brektimes (if safe conditions). We will only be opening the

school grounds for pedestrians and will not be allowing cars other than staff through the gates so please be aware that the drop off point will not be operational on such days.

Ofsted Visit

We had our routine Ofsted visit on Thursday 29th November. Two inspectors visited us and stayed the whole day. Thank you to every parent and child who contributed their views through the surveys. These views were taken into account as part of the overall judgements. We were very pleased with how the day went. We look forward to the formal report and outcome which is likely to come out in around two weeks time. The children were fantastic and spoke very eloquently and politely to inspectors. They were their usual wonderful selves.

Staff changes

We have recently said goodbye to Karen Quinn, one of our midday supervisors and Mrs Stanford starts with us as her replacement on Monday.

We say goodbye to Mr Lowery at the end of term – we are very sad to see him go but he is moving on to pastures new and we wish him well. He has given so much to the school and will be greatly missed by all.

Mrs Turner, who trained with us a few years ago, is returning to teach in Year 5 after the Christmas break and will job share with Mr Henson. Mrs Thompson will remain with Mrs Jordan's class next term.



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For those of you who don't know me, I am Mrs Anna McGuinness, the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo) here at Ely St John's. I work 3 days a week and am supported in my role by Mrs Karen Johnson (SEND Support Teaching Assistant). I am writing to let you know about some exciting developments that have taken place this term.

Sensory Room News

During the last academic year, the school secured grant funding, which alongside money from the Needham's Foundation, the 25 year Celebration Fund and The Friends Committee, has enabled us to develop a much needed **Sensory Room** for the school. The music centre, CDs and one of the projector wheels were purchased using money bequeathed to the school by Mrs Sandra Stevens, who was one of dear and our much loved Teaching Assistants. Sandra sadly passed away last year and we know that she would have loved the way in which her donation has been spent.

I am very proud to be able to share some photos of this amazing space. A number of children have been benefitting from using the room since October and I am sure it will benefit many more children over the coming months and years.



SEND Lending Library

In addition to the Sensory Room, the grant funding has allowed us to purchase a wide range of SEND books, aimed at both adults and children. We have over 40 books in total and these can now be borrowed from school. The topics covered include Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Child Development and Anxiety amongst many others things. The books are located in the main foyer and there is a signing out sheet for any loans. The list of the available titles is attached, or please contact the office and they will be able to provide you with a copy.



Coffee Morning

In the Spring Term I will be hosting another SEND Support Coffee Morning for any parent who wishes to attend. If there is the demand, this is something I would like to re-establish on a more regular basis, so please keep an eye out for additional information in 2019.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2018

Autumn Term

December

- 6 & 7: KS1 and Foundation Performances
- 11: Flu Vaccinations
- 11 & 12: KS2 Performances
- 13: Christmas Dinner Day
- 17: Outside Carols at 2:30pm
- 18: Christmas Musical Coffee Morning 9am – anyone welcome
- 19: Term Ends

Spring Term starts on Monday 7th January 2018



The school PTA known as The Friends really needs some more volunteers to sign up to our volunteer email list.

If you think you can spare some time to help at our fun events like cake sales, uniform sales, disco, movie nights, Christmas and Summer Fayres then please do get in touch. When we do an email call out for help you say which ones you can do, any help throughout the year is hugely appreciated.

Email Emma at: thefriendsofesj@hotmail.co.uk

We are a lovely bunch and volunteering is a nice way to get to know other parents and feel more involved in your child's school. You will help make a difference, everything we raise goes to enhance our children's learning and environment.

You are not expected to become a member and attend committee meetings but we welcome anyone to pop along to these, we meet once a term on a Monday night.

We hope to hear from you!

The Friends team.