

Ely St John's Newsletter

Autumn Term 2020

Dear all,

Well – this is an Autumn start like no other!

We hope children feel positive about their first days and we can quickly get back in to the swing, with COVID safety procedures just becoming a part of normal life but not taking over usual school activity. The children are good at adapting to routines and as we move forwards, we want the COVID aspects we are instilling, to become procedural, but the focus to be back on education in school. The children have been very settled in class and seem to have taken everything in their stride.

A big thank you to parents for following all our guidance for the start and end of the day. Following the first, understandably busier drop off, the mornings have been very calm and settled and children got into class quickly. There was less crowding and the systems in place worked well. The end of the day is likely to be busier but thank you for remaining distanced and leaving the site promptly. Please remember not to gather in groups to chat and to keep your children (school age and younger) close. The play equipment on the front and back playgrounds **is not to be used before and after school by anyone.** Please remember to wear masks and to keep young siblings with you while waiting, not allowing them to run around at the end of the day when it will be unavoidably busy.

We ask parents **not to enter cloakrooms please (unless necessary during the settling in period for the new children coming in to the Early Years).**

Another reminder please not to access the school through the car park gates – the in gates are the lane gate (the other side of the hedge on St John's Road), or the Beresford Road gates.

Please try not to arrive on site before 8.35am and where children are coming to school on their own please do not allow them to arrive earlier than 8.35am. Staff are not on duty in the mornings as children are now coming straight in to class at 8.35am.

Early Parent Consultations

As we could not have much of the face to face transition with new teachers and children during last term, and we are settling back after a long period off school, we want to have this term's Parent Consultations earlier than usual with the focus on teachers and parents touching base and ensuring children are feeling settled with needs met. Teachers will be able to talk about how children have settled both socially and with regards their individual needs.

We will be holding Year 1 to Year 6 Parent Consultations in the week of 21st-25th September – the usual two evenings of 3.30-7.30pm and the other 3.30-5pm.

There will be some changes – we will be asking parent's to wait outside in the playground by classroom doors at the time of their appointment and for only one parent to attend, if possible please, with a face covering to wear during the appointment. Appointments will only be ten minutes and if there are lengthier things to discuss teachers will arrange a follow up appointment.

We will be putting sign up sheets outside classrooms on a flat desk surface, the week before (next week), in the mornings. Please remember to queue and wait, socially distanced, to sign up. You may wish to use your own pen but hand sanitiser will be provided with a pen also.

Please be advised that the Parent Consultation appointment sheets will be going up in the class cloakrooms on Monday 14th September 2020. If you are unable to get into school to sign up for an appointment yourself, it would be helpful if you could either ask your child or a friend to do it on your behalf. **Only if this is not possible**, please email cgodfrey@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk **on or after Monday 14th September.** However, please be aware that there may be a delay for booking of appointments if emailing.

TERMLY REMINDERS

To help our new parents in particular, but also to remind everyone, what follows are a few operational reminders, to ensure the smooth and safe running of the school. Please do ask if there is anything else you wish to know. An Events list of dates will follow but there will be less this term. We hope some clubs will be up and running after half term.

Ultimately our aim is to ensure all parents have the information needed and the children are safe and settled.

Website

Our Closure Curriculum is still accessible but teachers will be using the Year group pages now for information and will put up blogs and photos of learning times under the year group pages and in the latest news section.

Newsletters are posted on the website as well as being emailed to you. Our latest results are under SATS test results in the key information section but we did not of course publish anything for this last academic year as statutory tests were not taken. Dates are also posted on the website. Happy reading ☺

Break and Lunchtimes

Please remember to send your child every day with suitable wear for the cold and rain – we do not always have the children inside if it is wet – they need a raincoat with a hood and suitable shoes for the outdoors.

Nut allergies

We have a number of children with nut allergies in school. For some it is not just eating nuts but the touch of something also. Please do not send your child with nuts or any largely nut based products such as Nutella or peanut butter. We also wish to discourage parents from providing sweets or cakes for birthdays via the classrooms as we cannot ensure they are safe for the number of children with allergies. It would be best to provide any birthday treats directly to the parents for their children and during this COVID time best to avoid this completely. Teachers will not be giving out birthday treats at the end of the school day.

Cyclists

There are bike racks / scooter stands at the front and round the back and along the side outside our staffroom for adults. **There is to be no cycling/scootering on school premises (including the car park) between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm** and we ask adults to wheel their bikes also. The side gate into the little lane is the entry for cyclists using the back bike racks and remember to collect your child's bike when entering the playground to collect your children, as the narrow corridor is one way. I understand the side lane can be cycled along.

Access to the car park

Parking in the school grounds is still for staff and daytime visitors only. There is just not enough spaces to allow all parents to park before and after school. The Drop-Off point is just that – cars can pull in and stop for a couple of minutes but drivers cannot leave their cars and it is not an area to wait in – **drop off and go**. If children need escorting into the playground, parents must park outside on the road. Please refer to the site map for entry and exit points.

We are moving forwards with the changes to Beresford Road and the council are moving through procedures to provide a crossing and double yellow lines near roundabouts. Please remember there is a general rule about not parking near roundabouts in the meantime.

Lost property

Please ask at the office if you have lost anything.

Please make sure all items of clothing are named as it makes it easier for us to retrieve and return items found around the school.

Communication with class teachers

Please remember that first thing in the morning is not the best time to talk to teachers about issues that require discussion. Teachers are there for the children at that time and need to focus on their classes. It is best to briefly ask them if you can arrange an appointment in order to discuss things more successfully and fully. Teachers are always happy to ring parents to arrange such appointments. Please email the office with any daily messages for teachers as we are not currently using the message books due to COVID precautions.

If you need to speak to teachers about a confidential matter or something more lengthy, please speak to Mrs Marston, Mrs Godfrey or Mrs Turner in the office, and they will ensure that the teacher calls you to speak or to arrange a meeting. I am also free to meet parents and I am usually around at the start of the day. If I am not free, the office will take a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please inform us, via a call or email about changes to pick up arrangements for your child or changes to club attendance. It is vital we know where children should be at the end of the day and we will not let a child go home with someone unless we have heard directly from their parents.

Best wishes,

Liz Bassett