

Ely St John's Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019

Dear all,

A big welcome to all the new families at the start of this new term - all the new children in the Early Years classes (Mrs Powell/Sutcliffe and Mrs Lloyd) and a few new faces dotted through the other year groups. We hope your children have enjoyed their first few weeks here and that they are beginning to settle in.

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.

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

Website

Our policies and procedures and information about the curriculum etc are all on our website: Have a look at our website, www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk - on the top tab that says *Curriculum*. We have a drop down menu. Click on *Curriculum* which then shows the curriculum for each subject in each year group. We hope the information will be useful. Our key principles for teaching, learning and assessment can be found in our Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy and other key policies can be found in the policies section of the website under the *About Us* tab). Please do ask if there is anything you cannot find. Teachers also try when possible to put up blogs and photos of learning times under the year group pages and in the latest news section. Newsletters are posted on there too. Our latest results are under SATS test results in the key information section. 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. Our cake break has set ways of ensuring this but adhoc times of giving out cakes and other food is more difficult and has to be carefully organised to ensure inclusivity and the safety of all. It would be best to provide any birthday treats directly to the parents for their children. 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 for KS1 children and round the back for KS2 children 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 on the pavements. The side gate into the little lane is probably the best entry and exit for cyclists using the back bike racks. I understand the side lane can be cycled along.

Access to the car park

Parking in the school grounds is 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.

The pedestrian pathway is now not used at drop off and pick up times – a reminder please to take those extra few steps to use the side lane and gate or the Beresford Road gate.

Puzzled about parking

In these first few weeks of term, we have been monitoring the before and after school access to the school site and car parking in the vicinity of the school.

We would first like acknowledge the considerate behaviour of the vast majority of the school community who continue to help make these busy times of day as safe and smooth as possible for not just themselves, but others around them. Thank you!

Overall though, parking remains a problem and a puzzle. The situation around the mini roundabout and along Beresford Road is dangerous but this is really down to parking habits. I am puzzled about a few things:

- Why do so many cars park on Beresford Road? Could you leave a few minutes earlier and park along St John's Road? There is much more space and the road is wider which means cars can get past both ways.
- Why do some people continue to park on pavements and driveways when it is clearly unsafe and not allowed?
- Why do a number of people who live in all the roads around the school and in catchment drive to school? Why not walk which encourages your child to take a healthier lifestyle and would avoid the congestion and create a safer environment around the school?
- Why create a situation where your child is late because of waiting until the last minute to park where someone else has already dropped off and is leaving? It would be easy to park further away and get your child to school on time.
- Why use the path through the car park when the school has asked all parents to follow our new procedures – procedures which have ensured safety on the school site?
- Why do some people park so close to the roundabout when they know it obscures view and makes it more dangerous?
- Why do a small number of people park in the middle of the road to let children out thus creating more congestion and creating an unsafe situation for their children?
- Why do some people let their child sit in the front seat so they have to get out of the car on the road side, when they could sit in the back and get out on the pavement side?

The school has done all it can to create a safer entry and exit into school – we have avoided the dangers associated with the car park while still enabling use of the drop off point. We have consulted and requested a crossing on Beresford Road. This is part of the City of Ely Council's minor highways bid for this year and has been submitted to the Highways Department at County Council, as part of their procedure. The bid is assessed along with all the other bids and we hope that it will be successful. If successful, it would be funded by the County Council and the City of Ely Council. The process takes a while and we will not know until the New Year.

Let's make our school site and local area as safe as it can be for all our community!

It is your turn now to make little changes to ensure the safety of everyone and to encourage healthier and safer lifestyles.

Pushchairs

In order to cope with large numbers and to protect our internal environment (carpets/paintwork) we would ask people to ensure scooters and pushchairs/prams are left outside the building wherever possible.

Play Equipment

The play **equipment** on the front and back playgrounds is **solely for use during the school day when a member of staff is supervising its use**. Please do not allow your children (including toddlers) on the equipment before or after school. The risk assessments do not include the use of our play equipment under the supervision of parents. There are signs stating that it should only be used when supervised by a staff

member. Any staff member out on duty first thing in the morning is not supervising the play equipment. We know it is difficult when waiting with toddlers and younger children, especially as the KS2 children come out of class five minutes later, but we have to take care with equipment that holds potential risks. The park across the road provides large play equipment for public use and thus has a public liability licence for the supervision of parents.

Please stay off the field before and after school and keep your little ones close. The playground is very busy and there are a number of entrances which cannot all be manned.

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. Teachers in FDS and KS1 also have a message book in their cloakrooms where you can write any non-confidential messages for the teacher to read. Some teachers use the green home/school book for messages too.

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 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 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



The Book People

We are now registered for their Big Book Boost. Online orders over £10 qualify for a Boost of £1 which the school can spend on books. Just choose Ely St John's to donate after the checkout.

<https://www.thebookpeople.co.uk/bigbookboost>

Shopping online?

Whether you're shopping for food, clothes, a holiday or for utilities you could be earning money for the school while you shop. All you have to do is register with EasyFundraising, then log in to their website or use their app to shop with your favourite retailers. The list of retailers registered with EasyFundraising is huge and includes Amazon, eBay, Argos, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Waitrose, John Lewis, Booking.com, Apple, Staples, the AA, BT, plusnet, Sky, Aviva and many more!

Follow this link to register to raise money for the Friends of Ely St John's while you shop:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.co.uk/causes/foesj>

Times Table Rockstars



All pupils in Key Stage 2 have access to the fantastic 'Times Table Rockstars' resource for improving those times table facts!

www.ttrockstars.com

The children will be familiar with the site from last year – or from introductory sessions in school this September.

The site allows children to improve their times table knowledge and intuitively works on those calculations that a child finds most tricky. As well as an engaging interface, the children can earn virtual coins to 'spend' on their rock star avatar – with a limitless array of cool accessories and funky fashion!

It is a particularly useful platform for children in Year 4, who are working towards the national 'Times Table Check' next summer term.

If you haven't seen it, please do check it out! The site can be accessed from any internet-enabled device and has an app available for Android and Apple devices. We would encourage all children to have a go at home and work on those times table skills.

We already have nine children who have earned over 100,000 coins and a top of the charts 'leader' with an average answer speed of 1.15 seconds! Can they be beaten? Please speak to your child's class teacher if children are not sure of their username/password.

Happy rocking!



A note from the Chair of Governors

Welcome to the new school year from the Governors.

Firstly, a few changes to the Governing Body; I have been elected Chair of Governors for a 2-year term with Rebecca Denness elected as Vice-Chair. In addition Andy Turpin has been elected Chair of Resources Committee with Caroline Marshall remaining as Chair of Standards.

As ever, we have a busy year ahead. In particular we are excited about the Parent Curriculum evenings being planned for each year group - these are for parents to come along to and find out a little more about what the end of year expectations for Maths and Literacy look like. You should have received details from the school via the Events Chart (*see below*) so we would encourage you to come along and learn more about what the children are learning.

Thanks

Matt Leach

Mr Potato Heads!

If you have any Mr Potato Head's complete or incomplete at home which you would not mind donating to the school please send them in to the office. We are gathering them to make a big mix of bits and pieces for use outside at lunchtimes. Thank you.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

Autumn Term

October

- 1: Family Worker drop-in (Appointments available via office) (9-11am)
Year 3 Stone Age Day
- 3: Year 5 to have CPR Training workshop
- 7: Harvest Assembly – Foodbank Donations please (with 6 month expiry use by date)
- 8: Year 6 Play (2pm & 6pm)
- 9: Year 6 English Challenge (3:45 – 6pm)
- 10: Open Afternoon for Sept 2020 Foundation parents (booking required)
Foundation Phonics & Early Reading Skills meeting for parents (6pm)
- 11: Friends' Film Night (Years 1 to 6 only)
- 12: Ely Potato Race (11am)
- 14: Light & Life Assembly for Year 1 & 2 with Christian group
Parent consultations (3:30 – 7:30pm)
- 15: Year 5 to Fire Station re Safety Zone (9:30 – 11:45am)
- 16: School Photography day
Parent consultations (3:30 – 5pm)
- 19: Family Portrait day
- 21 to 25: Half Term

November

- 1: Tag Rugby for selected Year 5&6 – Ely Hockey Club (9:30 – 12noon)
- 4: WWII Museum trip for Year 5
Family Worker drop-in (Appointments available via office) (9-11am)
Year 2 Curriculum meeting for parents (6pm)
- 5: East Cambs & Fenland Careers Event at Ely Cathedral (9:15 – 10:15am)
Family Worker Workshop – Helping Children with Anger (9:15 – 10:45am) booking required
- 6: Flu Vaccinations
- 7: Vision Screening – Foundation
- 12: Year 3 & 4 Curriculum meeting for parents (6 – 7pm)
- 21: Open Afternoon for Sept 2020 Foundation parents (booking required)
- 23: Friends' Christmas Fayre
- 26: Year 5 & 6 Curriculum meeting for parents (6 – 7:30pm)

December

- 4: Year 5 Performance for parents (pm)
Family Worker drop-in (Appointments available via office)
- 11: Family Worker Workshop – Helping Children with Sleep (9:15 – 10:45am) booking required
- 12: Foundation, Year 1 & 2 Play (9am)
- 13: Foundation, Year 1 & 2 Play (9am)
- 19: Term Ends

SHARING ASSEMBLY DATES

4 th Oct	11 th Oct	18 th Oct	1 st Nov	8 th Nov	15 th Nov	22 nd Nov	29 th Nov
Mr Sinfield	Miss Jordan	Mrs Pruitt/ Mrs Droniuk	Mrs Pitt/ Mrs Thompson	Mrs Byrne/ Mrs Sutcliffe	Mrs Geeson/Mrs Pixley	Mr Poli	Mrs Hambley/Mrs Grant
Miss Goodman	Mr Preston	Mr Killick	Mrs Ban	Mrs Turner/ Mr Henson	Miss Lloyd	Ms Fellows	

Spring Term starts on Monday 6th January 2019

Last Updated 25th Sept 2019