



# Ely St John's School

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Headteacher: Miss Liz Bassett  
Deputy Head: Mr John Henson

September 2020

## **Year Two Newsletter - Autumn Term 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We are delighted to report that the children have settled in really quickly and seem to be enjoying their learning and seeing their friends. They have responded positively and sensibly to the new routines, particularly those around keeping safe.

This letter is to let you know about a few important things that will be happening this term.

Our topic this term is Habitats. We will be learning about homes for different creatures and thinking about how different creatures have adapted to survive in their habitat. We'll be using a key to learn new geography words, as well as thinking about our own homes and how they have changed. We will also be doing some RE work on Harvest.

Later in the term, children will be building their own habitats inside shoe boxes. It would be much appreciated if you could hold onto a shoe box or similar small box, as well as other junk modelling materials until nearer the time. We will be sending home the 'All about Me' boxes once everyone has had a chance to share them, so you could re-use the same box if you wish.

Some things will stay the same as they were in Year One. We will be having daily Literacy, Numeracy, CLIC and Phonics sessions. We will also continue to do Guided Reading in the same way, so your child will be assigned a reading day and will change their home reading book on that same day. Please remember to read with your child every day if possible. We have decided not to use the green reading record books this year, as most parents don't find it useful. However, if you would like one, please ask your child's teacher.

Homework will take the form of a weekly newsletter (as it was in Year One). However, we are going to trial putting it on the school website, rather than sending it out by e-mail. As usual, if you do require a paper copy, please let the school office know. Homework will include reading, CLIC Learn-it's, spellings and either a Literacy or Maths activity. There will also be a list of optional topic based tasks and you can complete these in any order (one per week). Homework books should be handed in no later than Wednesday and will be returned on Friday. At the end of each half term, homework certificates will be awarded for children who have completed (and handed in!) every piece.

Children will need to bring book bags and water bottles daily. They can bring a pencil case, which should stay in school.



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Our P.E. days are Monday and Thursday. Children should come to school dressed in their P.E. kit, which they can wear all day. P.E. will mostly be outdoors this term and while shorts and T-shirt are fine for now, the children will need warmer clothing when the weather starts getting colder (e.g. track suit bottoms). The alternative is to just ensure your child is wearing trainers on PE days. On P.E. days, children will need earrings to be taken out and long hair tied up.

Children can also bring welly boots to school and can leave them on the shelf in the cloakroom for use at playtimes, lunchtimes and for outdoor learning activities. Quite a lot of wellies were left at school last year. Those that were named were delivered to the Year 2 classrooms and have since been placed in our cloakroom (of course they may not fit now!).

Parent consultation evenings will take place in the week beginning the 21<sup>st</sup> September. The late one will be on the Monday and the earlier one will be on the Tuesday. Sign-up sheets will be placed outside next week.

In the Summer Term, Year Two children will sit the SATs tests, including reading and maths tests. Please be reassured that your children will be well prepared for these tests and that they will be administered in the classroom environment with the teachers and teaching assistants that the children know. Children in Year One usually take the Phonics Screening check in June. Obviously this did not take place, so we will be administering the check in Year Two. We will provide more specific information about this in due course.

One final message is just to remind people that we are a 'nut free' school. We have several children in school with severe nut allergies, so we ask that you don't include products containing nuts in your child's packed lunch. Please read the ingredients as nuts are often found in items such as cereal bars. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation regarding this.

We hope that all of your questions have been answered. However if you need to ask about anything at all, please don't hesitate to catch us briefly at the end of the school day. You can also send in a note with your child or contact us by e-mailing the school office. For lengthier discussions, appointments with class teachers can be made through the school office. We look forward to getting to know you and working with your children throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,  
Miss Jordan, Mr Killick and the Year Two Team.