

# Ely St John's Newsletter

## End of March

Dear Parents,

The Easter term has flown by and it is hard to accept that the holidays are in a week! We wish you a happy holiday.



### **Young Musicians and the Maltings Concert:**

A huge well done to all the children who chose to enter The Young Musician of the Year qualifying round at Soham Village College this week. We had an unprecedented 12 pupils entering. Three have got into the final and will play again in the evening of Tuesday 2nd July. We also had a brilliant evening at The Maltings on Monday night where our choir, Orchestra and Brass Ensemble played - 68 children took part and we were so proud of their performances. Well done to all our musicians for their hard work, dedication and clear enjoyment of ensemble playing.

### **NB: Change of organisation for entering the school grounds:**

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Governors have discussed the ongoing concerns for safety outside in the car park area. We will be trialing a change to the entry points in to school next term as we have continued to monitor and observe many dangerous situations involving children and some parents in those busy drop off and pick up times of the day. Just recently, in one week of a survey, many parents and children were observed stepping into the drop off point as cars were pulling in; children running across the zebra crossing without parents with them where the access to the pre-school car park is; parents walking out of school through both the entry and exit gates and not sticking to the paths (despite signage); parents and children walking in to school through the exit vehicle gate.

We have had a number of reports of near misses from parents too.

So the first safety measure will be to stop the front school entrance gates from being for pedestrians at the start and end of the day, (except currently for pre-school access during the day until we consider possible changes to gates). **We will be closing the front KS1 playground gate** and ask parents, after the Easter holidays, to use either the Beresford Road entrance or the side lane access off St John's Road - we will be sign posting these more clearly. From the side lane gate parents and children will then walk round the back of the school to get to KS1/EYFS and KS2 playgrounds and classrooms. Please can Mrs Thompson's Year 3 class parents wait with their children in the KS2 playground rather than just outside the classroom door, until 8.45 when the doors open, to help ease the passage where the path is narrowest.

For the time being, we will retain the drop off point for cars as we do not want to add to the congestion on the nearby roads. Children getting out of cars on the drop off point will need to walk round the path, past the office entrance and round the back of the school to access their classroom doors (as most do already).

We continue to follow through the results of the survey the governors completed and are currently recommending to the City Council that a pedestrian crossing be placed on Beresford Road.

We will trial this new arrangement for half a term then the governors will review the situation. We hope you will



support us in putting in these additional safety measures.

## **Congratulations**

A congratulations to Mr Preston and Mrs Tipping who are getting married over Easter. Mrs Tipping will be returning as Mrs Byrne after Easter.

## **Sport Report:**

As well as all the sport that happens here in school we have taken part in a few events in other places so far this year:

- 11.1.19 Circus Skills. Miss Jordan's class at Littleport College learning all sorts of new skills such as juggling, balancing, catching.

- 8.2.19 Trampolining. 30 year 6 children went to Ely College to learn how to use the trampolines safely and to try new moves. This event was also great for those who may be attending Ely College next year to get familiar with their new surroundings.
- 15.2.19 Speed Stacking. 12 year 6 children (3 teams of 4) at Littleport College. We held time trials at school to decide which children attended. The 12 quickest then spend several lunchtimes practicing in the multi suite. On the day, one of our teams came 2nd overall in one of the events out of 16 teams.
- 8.3.19 Football. 10 children (7 x yr 4 & 3 x yr 3) at Kings Ely. We came 3rd in our group out of 6 teams. We won 1 game, drew 3 games and only lost 1 which was against the eventual winners of the event.
- 14.3.19 Girls Football friendly. 9 children (6 x yr 6 & 3 x yr5). After school the children travelled to Wilburton to play their girls team. We gave experience to some girls that haven't played together before and despite the windy conditions the game finished 0-0.

### **Anti-social behaviour:**

We have recently had our PCSO in to school to talk to Year 5 and 6 in assembly about anti-social behaviour in the local community. Following a number of different reports school have had about children involved in anti-social behaviour as far afield as Pocket Park and the Sainsbury car park as well as on our local parks, we felt it necessary. The school is committed to the following aspect of our policy:

*If a member of staff witnesses or is made aware of criminal, anti-social behaviour or bullying off the school premises, or such behaviour is reported to the school, the school will seek to support in addressing the behaviour. Where a child is taking part in a school organised or school related activity, the usual school rules and sanctions will apply. Where the child is travelling to or from school, wearing a school uniform or is in some way identifiable as a pupil, the school may become involved in the management of such behaviour where it could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or where it may pose a threat to another pupil or member of the public, or where it might adversely affect the reputation of the school. The headteacher will consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police (if it is criminal or poses a serious threat to another child or member of the public) or liaise with and support parents. If the behaviour is linked to child suffering or where a child is likely to suffer significant harm, the school will follow its safeguarding policy.*

Please do consider how far afield your child is roaming; whether your child has the right skills to manage any problems that may arise either with their peers or with other adults or teenagers before you give them free rein. We have also had a number of occasions where an adults and children have used their phones to take pictures or videos of occurrences – this is not advisable as it can cause others to become angrier but can also lead to the uploading or sharing of material without the consent of all those involved. It is not appropriate for adults to photograph or video other people's children and we advise the children not to become involved in this either. We try hard in school to teach children the EJWay – a code of conduct for use within and outside of school and ask parents to continue to support us with the same messages from home. We have concerns that some of our older children are allowed to go to the park unattended but are making wrong choices. Please have a discussion with your child about how they should conduct themselves when out and how to ensure they and others have positive experiences. Thank you.

**Apparatus in the playgrounds** – please remember that before and after school there is signage clearly stating that the equipment should not be used.

**Time of arrival in school** – there has been recent concern from staff that a few children are arriving very early in the playground and are there unattended until staff come on duty at 8.35am. Please be aware of the time your child is entering school. Thank you.

**World Autism Awareness Week** – this week we have been participating in this initiative to raise the global awareness of autism and to celebrate difference. Your child may have participated in a PSHE lessons or class assembly looking at this subject. If you would like to find out more about autism please visit the website [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)



## Message from Lis Every, Chair of Governors – April 2019

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Easter and holiday break!

This has been a very busy term and the governors have learnt with interest the progress that has been made. We have had two Full Governing Body meetings, as well as our Standards and Resources Committee meetings so far this year.

We have been spending some time talking about the role of the governor and how best to recruit, induct and train new governors. We realise that we are really lucky with the Governing Body that we have, all of whom spend many hours involved in governor work in addition to attending meetings. We also know that unless one is involved in education in some way, it is quite a daunting task to learn how schools operate, never mind the acronyms! However, there is lots of training and governors continue to pursue this on identified areas, from the Local Authority termly briefing to using performance data, budgets, head teacher appraisal and managing staff performance.

We currently have two governor vacancies and if you know of anyone who would be interested in joining us, please let Chris Ashley know and she will pass this on to me. We have been delighted to welcome Mary Wade as a new Parent Governor. She currently serves on the Resources Committee.

At our meetings we continue to discuss and monitor the Single Plan that drives further improvements in the school and the head teacher's report. Each governor has an area of responsibility on the plan and it is their responsibility to monitor their own area and report back to the relevant Committee and ultimately the FGB. We always discuss the impact of the Pupil Premium funding and at the last meeting had a detailed report following a visit from the responsible two governors from the perspective of both the Standards and Resources Committees. We also looked at how the Olympic Legacy Sport Premium Funding has been spent and were delighted to note how many young people are involved not only for the enjoyment of participating but also for those who enjoy competing in their chosen sport. A report was received on the writing moderation of Year 6 pupils. We have learnt that members of staff are looking for and establishing consistencies in moderation across the school and the Ely Partnership. A SEND visit has been undertaken and we will receive a report at the next FGB.

Safeguarding is a standing item on all agendas and this year's audit has now been completed. This is a vital piece of work which links into the regular checks for the Single Central record which is the 'spot check' on our safeguarding processes for staff, volunteers and those contracted to undertake work at the school. We received a glowing report about our process in the last Ofsted.

In a recent survey, we understand that parents expressed their concerns about potential safety issues outside the school particularly on arrival. This has been passed to the City of Ely Council for consideration for a Minor Highways Initiative which could fund an appropriate solution.

One of the highlights for me so far this year was the performance of our young singers and instrumentalists who performed at the Ely Festival Concert yesterday at the Maltings. The children were absolutely wonderful and performed so well. We all know how much work goes into the preparation for such an accomplished performance and would like to thank all the staff who taught the young people, the parents who have listened to all the rehearsing and, of course, the children who so obviously enjoyed themselves.

Have a wonderful Easter break! Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and we can look forward to a really positive Summer Term

Yours sincerely  
Lis Every  
Chair of Governors