



Ely St John's School

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Headteacher: Miss Liz Bassett
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Year 3 Newsletter: Autumn Term 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Ely St John's and greetings from the Year 3 team. We hope that you had a wonderful summer and that you and your children are as excited about the new school year as we are. Do look out for our Topic Web, which will be sent out shortly, with details about your child's curriculum this term. Our main topic is Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, so lots of our learning in different subjects will link to this. This letter sets out some key information for the term and year ahead.

Year 3 Staff

Our teachers in Year 3 are: Mrs Helen Pitt, Mrs Karin Jähnigen and Miss Christie Hooper. Mr David Aston is also the Year 3/4 team leader. Children are also taught and supported by Mrs Allison Brown, our teaching assistant.

What children should bring to school

Our cloakrooms are small, so please consider this when bringing bags in. We recommend the following items for school:

- water bottle;
- a small pencil case with a pencil, ruler, sharpener, gluestick (really useful!) and some colouring pencils;
- PE kit: we strongly encourage children to wear the school PE kit of green shorts and yellow t-shirt. Otherwise, plain shorts and t-shirts are fine. No football kits or big logos please. Children also need trainers and something warm to wear as the weather gets colder. PE kits should be in school all week.
- clothing that is named
- a coat, so your child feels comfortable going outside in the weather. We like to get outside in (almost) all weathers, just like in the Foundation Stage!
- a fruit snack – as your child had last year, there will usually be a 'snack and story' time straight after morning break, so children aren't running around while eating.

Homework

By far the most important and valuable thing for children to do everyday at home is read. We expect them to read for at least twenty minutes a day, and children of all ages still enjoy hearing stories read aloud to them, or from a CD recording (or internet streaming). Please write comments for us regarding significant developments about enjoyment or skills in the green home-school book. In addition, children are given spellings and maths 'learn-its' each week. We hope children will learn the CLIC learn its at home and continue to learn their times tables. We will be reinforcing x2, x5, x10 and will learn x3, x4 and x8 this year. We start the term off with a Stone Age Project and more details of this will follow on a separate sheet. Please work on homework tasks with your children and help them to feel confident and successful. They need to develop some independence now but also still may need guidance and support. Homework can sometimes cause tension at home, and if your child has difficulty in doing their homework, please let their teacher know. This way we know to be understanding towards your child and can work with you to see if we can overcome any particular difficulties together. If your child finds a piece of homework tricky, we ask them to try and have a go at beginning it, and ask their teacher for some help.

Reading Books

In Year 3, we move away from the KS1 system of choosing a banded book and start to show children how to choose books from our class bookshelves. We hope you will continue to support your child's reading by hearing them at home regularly which will help them continue to develop their fluency, understanding and confidence. The children

will need to develop the skill of judging books and choosing them for themselves. This skill may take a bit of time to acquire! Please discuss your child's book choices with them. If they can read the blurb, title and check the text inside the book then they can proceed with reading it. If they struggle to decode the words in the blurb and they are finding the book hard going, please ask them to return the book and make another choice. Initially, we will be encouraging the children to choose a fiction book. We will be reading non-fiction books in literacy and during reading times.

Getting in touch

There are several ways of getting in touch with us. You can write a message in your child's green Home School Journal and ask your child to hand it to their teacher at the start of the day. You can also email the School Office, who will forward your email on to the relevant member of staff. The start of the day is often a busy time and it's important for teachers to be there to settle the children into the start of their day, so if there is something you wish to discuss, please ask to see us at the end of the school day, or ask to arrange an appointment. For most questions or concerns, the class teacher will be the first port of call. If you feel like your question hasn't been answered, or if something is still ongoing, then this can be followed-up with a meeting with the team leader (Mr Aston), and then the headteacher (Miss Bassett).

PE Days

Although children should have their PE kits in all week, as timetables may change due to weather and in-school events, the scheduled days for PE lessons are as below. Children should not wear earrings and any long hair should be tied back for these lessons.

Class	Indoor PE	Outdoor PE
Mrs Pitt/Mrs Jähnigen	Wednesday	Tuesday
Miss Hooper	Wednesday	Tuesday

Performances

We have reviewed our Key Stage Two performances, and thank those parents who came to have a conversation with us about this last winter. Due to the large number of children in KS2, we have decided to break with tradition, and do something different with Year 3 and Year 4. Instead of joining in the KS2 production at Christmas for a short scene, each class will prepare their own performance of a topic-linked play. This has the advantage of allowing all children to develop their speaking, listening and drama skills, and providing them all with a chance to have a greater role. Linking the play to one of our topics also encourages a deeper level of learning in the subject. This will be performed later in the year, in either the Spring or Summer Term. Each class will do their own performance in the hall, and as many family members as you wish can come to watch. We hope that children get even more out of this, and that it gives them the confidence and aspiration to take part in the bigger scale, evening productions in Year 5 and 6. Year 3 and 4 will also have a special part in our Christmas Carol Singing at the end of this term. Again, feedback following these performances will be welcomed.

Diary Dates

Sharing Assemblies this term:

- Miss Hooper: 6th October
- Mrs Pitt/Mrs Jähnigen: 3rd November

Parent Consultations: 16th and 18th October

Please come and say hello over the next week or so, and let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you all over the next year to ensure it's the most successful one possible for your child.

Best wishes,

The Year 3 Team