



St. John's Standard

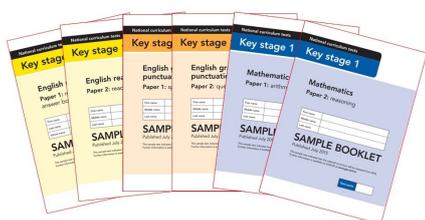
Friday 12th May 2023

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Headteacher's Notes:

There has been considerable conversation and debate in the media in the last few days about the role of formal testing in primary schools as it has been the national Key Stage 2 (Year 6) test week this week. A week in which Year Six pupils across the country take tests in Reading, Grammar and Punctuation, and Maths.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you all our school belief and approach to all elements of formal testing, whether that's the Y6 KS2 Tests, Y2 KS1 Tests, Foundation Stage 'Baseline Assessments', Y1 Phonics Check or the Y4 Multiplication Check.



At Ely St. John's, we always expect pupils to work hard, try their very best and bring a positive attitude to all that they do. Assessments are no different and we always are hugely impressed with the attitude and application of all our pupils no matter what their year group. Testing is, however, only one very tiny part of our broad and balanced curriculum offer. All staff place the emphasis very much on learning opportunities, curriculum engagement, personal progress and individual development in all areas of school life. We aim for ESJ to embody the values, attitudes and behaviours that we feel create in all pupils the foundation for life-long learning. Ultimately, we wish to create a school where everyone feels that they can succeed and belong.

We take on the challenges that the government asks of our pupils and staff with enthusiasm and commitment, but certainly never let it steer us away from what we believe is our core purpose - to provide the very best education that we possibly can.

A massive well done to all of our Year Six pupils for their efforts this week - you should all feel very proud of yourselves! I know that there is so much still to come for our oldest students in their final term with us. Watch this space!

Mr. Henson

Find out more at...



@ESJ_Primary



www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

Email any questions to...



office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk



head@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk





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Nature Garden + Allotment 'Big Help Out'

If you are able to spare a couple of hours on the morning of Sunday 21st May (10:30am - 12:30pm), we would love your help as part of the 'working party' tidying, building, weeding and clipping in the Nature Garden and Allotment. Mr. Poli and his team of Nature Club volunteers have been doing a fantastic job already over the past few weeks and months - but there's lots more that needs doing!

If you are interested in helping out, please email the school office to confirm your attendance (all children must be supervised by a parent/adult). We hope to see lots of you there!

For further details, please see the parent email message sent out yesterday ('Nature Garden Working Party' email)



For your diary...

Please see below for some key highlights for the upcoming term.

Mon 22nd - Fri 26th May: Sports Day + Healthy Lifestyles Week

— Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June (Half Term) —

Monday 5th June: Staff Training Day - School Closed

Tuesday 13th June: New Foundation Stage Parents 'Welcome Evening'

Friday 16th June: Friends 'Summer Disco'

Mon 19th - Fri 23rd June: Y6 Residential Trip to Caythorpe Court

Wednesday 21st June: Y1 Trip to Cambridge Arts Theatre

Tuesday 27th June: New Y4/5 Parent Information Event (6:30pm)

Friday 14th July: Friends 'Summer Picnic' event

Tuesday 18th July: Last Day of Summer Term



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Sports Days and Healthy Lifestyles Week

The ESJ 'Healthy Lifestyles Week' is fast approaching (Monday 22nd - Friday 26th May) and has a 'Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, Healthy World' theme - with a focus on 'Taking Action' to encourage the children to think about how they can be responsible themselves for different aspects of a healthy lifestyle.



As well as related learning in class each day that week, we are inviting all pupils and staff to come to school wearing their own 'fitness clothes' on Friday 26th May. This could be a sports kit or uniform they wear as part of a club or team they attend, or just their own exercise kit.

Year group 'Sports Day events' will also be taking place throughout that week, led by our brilliant Year Six sports leaders - parents and families are welcome to attend.

Foundation Stage:	Tuesday 23rd May (1:30pm – 2:45pm)
Year One:	Tuesday 23rd May (9:15am – 10:15am)
Year Two:	Wednesday 24th May (9:15am – 10:15am)
Year Three:	Monday 22nd May (9:15am – 10:15am)
Year Four:	Monday 22nd May (11:00am – 12:00pm)
Year Five:	Monday 22nd May (1:30pm – 2:30pm)
Year Six:	Wednesday 24th May (1:30pm – 2:30pm)



Reminders and Updates...

Staff Car Park



It has come to our attention that a number of parents and families are continuing to use the staff car park as a place to park just before the end of the school day.

Please can I remind everyone that the staff car park and drop-off zone is not for parking in when collecting children at the end of the school day. We have after-school club leaders and other school visitors needing access to the car park and school at this time of day and they are frequently unable to park.

We do not wish to have to close the school vehicle entrance gate to prevent this from happening but will review matters in the coming weeks and will do so if necessary in order to allow staff appropriate access to school. Thank you for your co-operation with this.



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Dates for your Diary...



Term Dates 2022-23



Summer Term opens	:	Monday, 17 th April
May Day (School Closed)	:	Monday, 1 st May
Half Term	:	29 th May to 2 nd June
Training Day (School Closed)	:	Monday, 5 th June
Summer Term ends	:	Tuesday, 18 th July
Training Day (School Closed)	:	Wednesday, 19 th July

Please note: **Monday 8th May 2023** is an additional Bank Holiday and school will be closed that day.

Term Dates 2023-24

2023

Training Day (School Closed)	:	Friday, 1 st September
Autumn Term opens	:	Monday, 4 th September
Half Term	:	23 rd October to 27 th October
Autumn Term ends	:	Wednesday, 20 th December

2024

Training Day (School Closed)	:	Thursday, 4 th January
Training Day (School Closed)	:	Friday, 5 th January
Spring Term opens	:	Monday, 8 th January
Half Term	:	19 th to 23 rd February
Spring Term ends	:	Thursday, 28 th March

Summer Term opens	:	Monday, 15 th April
May Day (School Closed)	:	Monday, 6 th May
Training Day (School Closed)	:	Friday, 24 th May
Half Term	:	27 th May to 31 st May
Summer Term ends	:	Friday, 19 th July
Training Day (School Closed)	:	Monday, 22 nd July

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