



Ely St John's School

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Year 3 Newsletter: Spring Term 2019

Dear parents,

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone! We hope you all had a relaxing holiday. Accompanying this letter is the spring term topic web and homework project. Please read it and use it over the term to support your child with their learning. You will also find further information and many photos on the Year 3 blog page on the school website.

Year 3 Staff

We are very pleased that Mrs Thompson will stay on to teach in Year 3.

Topic and trips

Our main topic is Britain in the Victorian Age, so lots of our learning in different subjects will link to this. To get the children excited about our new topic, Year 3 will be holding a **Victorian Art Day** in school on **Friday 11th January**.

Next half term we will be visiting **Great Cressingham Victorian School** (www.victorianschool.com) in Norfolk. Mrs Jähnigen's and Mrs Pitt's class will go on **Monday 18th March** and Mrs Thompson's class will go on **Tuesday 19th March**. A letter with more information will be sent shortly before the trip. Children will experience an authentic day at a Victorian school. Therefore, they will need to be dressed like a poor Victorian child.



English:

We will base our first literacy unit on the short historical story 'Chimney Child' by Laurie Sheehan. We will be looking closely at historical clues to describe characters and setting and explore character speech and speech punctuation in detail. Eventually, we will write our own **historical stories** based on our learning about the Victorians.

Then we will move on to **recounts** and use our research on Queen Victoria's life to write a biography about her life. We will look closely at extending sentences with conjunctions.

Maths:

Last term the children learnt written methods for all four operations (called our maths tools). They can be found on the new homework sheet so that you know how we solve calculations that can't be worked out mentally and can practise methods your child still feels insecure with at home.

Thank you for supporting your child in their times tables practice at home. Most children are now able to recite the 2, 3, 5, 10 times table by heart and answer quick fire questions. We will now include the **4 x table** as well. Useful games for your child to practice times tables online can be found here:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables> (some are tablet-friendly)

We will continue with weekly CLIC tests on Fridays, which will be sent home the following week so that you get a good idea of how your child is doing at school. Going over CLIC tests with your child is a useful activity if your child is struggling.

What children should bring to school

Just to remind you that children need:

- a water bottle;
- only **ONE small** pencil case that will fit into your child's tray
- long-sleeved shirts, tracksuit bottoms and well-fitting trainers for outdoor PE as well as shorts and T-shirt for indoor PE

Class	Indoor PE	Outdoor PE
Mrs Pitt/Mrs Jähnigen	Wednesday	Tuesday
Mrs Thompson	Friday	Thursday

- recorders every Tuesday
- 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

Our new **termly homework** project will be based on the Victorians. As usual, children are asked to complete at least four different tasks (writing, art/DT, maths, research & presentation) from a selection of activities. Last term we could see many examples of fantastic and creative homework – some completed independently and some with support. We were especially impressed with their engaging 3-minute-lesson which showed a great deal of confidence and knowledge.

We will continue to give children **weekly spellings on Mondays** which will be tested the following Monday. Please make sure that the red spelling book comes back to school each week.

Diary Dates

- Victorian Art Day Friday 11th January
- Sharing assembly Mrs Thompson's class Friday 25th January
- Trip to Great Cressingham Victorian School on Monday 18th March for Mrs Jähnigen's and Mrs Pitt's class and Tuesday 19th March for Mrs Thompson's class
- Sharing assembly Mrs Jähnigen's and Mrs Pitt's class Friday 22nd March

Best wishes,

Mrs Jähnigen, Mrs Pitt and Mrs Thompson