

Ely St John's Newsletter

Spring Term End of January 2020

Dear all,

It is a while since we have sent out the newsletter, missing the end of December last term. For that reason I have added in again details of our snow day plan, in case we get our usual February flurry!!!

Speedy 6's Stack Up the Silverware

On Friday 10th January, twelve Year 6 children took part in the first sports event of the new year. We travelled to Littleport College to compete in a Speed Stacking Competition along with 24 other teams. The children competed individually, in pairs and also in teams of four in this high paced and very intense sport. In total, there were six different events, all of which involved stacking up cups in various formations and then down stacking them against the clock.

The results were **amazing** as Ely St John's won Gold, Silver and Bronze awards for every event that they entered. All of the children came home with at least three medals and some managed to scoop six! We were also very proud that our children were awarded, out of all the schools there, the Spirit Of The Games Award for demonstrating respect. The children have been training in their lunchtimes and at home for six weeks prior to the competition so fully deserve their success. Big congratulations to Mya, Fin, Thomas, Elliot, Yasmin, Julia, Edward, Seth, Ruby, Emilia, Laura and Isaac who were a credit to the school in their dedication and exemplary behaviour throughout.



A kind thought

Some of the Year 6 girls have been asking if they can make cakes to sell in the playground after school to raise money for WWF (World Wildlife Fund). They write:

We thought making a cupcake stall in the outdoor classroom would be a great opportunity to raise money for the WWF. We're supporting WWF, a global charity, because it helps and gives money to endangered animals.

In the light of recent news of animals affected by the bushfires and global warming, it seems like a good cause to support. Look out for an email through Schoolcomms telling you which night after school and the price of the cupcakes. Coming soon.....!

Snow Plan

In the event of heavy snow, we try and help Mr Hambley, our caretaker, with the early morning work of snow clearing – we want to avoid as much path making as possible and find the best route in to school to avoid carpets getting ruined. Children will access the school from the side lane gate and up through the side gate round past the nature garden and in to the fire exit double doors at the back of the hall. On such days the Beresford Road gate will be closed as we also have to try to ensure as far as is practicable, safe routes in.

We try to stay open where possible though we do have to ensure we have enough staff to be here for the children – some of our staff travel a long way to get to school. In the event of snow causing a closure we will post this on our school website and local radios will be contacted.

If open we ask you to send the children in appropriate waterproof coats and wellies so they can enjoy the snow at breaktimes (if safe conditions). We will only be opening the school grounds for pedestrians and will not be allowing cars other than staff through the gates so please be aware that the drop off point will not be operational on such days.

Staffing Update

We are pleased to inform you that we have appointed Mr David Meek as the new full time teacher in the EYFS. Mrs Byrne has made the decision to leave a little earlier than first planned and Mr Meek will be taking over from after half term.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Sheets will be going up in cloakrooms on Monday for parents to sign up. Most Parent Consultations are on Monday 10th Feb. 3.30-7.30pm and Wednesday 12th Feb. 3.30-5pm. However do look at the dates page below carefully as some occur at slightly different times or days in that same week. Those parents who cannot get into school may email CGodfrey@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk and these requests will be looked at on Tuesday morning 4th Feb.

For those who could not get to the year group Information Evenings, I hope you have all managed to access the information either through weekly newsletters; the website or have had a paper copy sent.

Year 4 page: https://www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk/website/maths_and_english_parents_meeting_-_12th_november_2019/433927

Year 3

page: https://www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk/website/year_3_4_curriculum_meeting_for_parents_-_12th_november_2019/433932

Year 5 and 6:

https://www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk/website/maths_and_english_curriculum_evening_autumn_19/436910

Young Musician of the Year

For all those KS2 budding musicians out there who have reached around Grade 3 or who play at this kind of level (not necessary to have taken exams) - do consider whether you wish to enter Young Musician of the Year at Soham VC this year. It is open to instrumentalists and singers. It is not for everyone. We do a lot of ensemble playing - this is for soloists and children will know if it is something they would enjoy and feel confident in doing. The competition is for all ages but we enter for the junior part. Children who enter will fill in an entry form and go to Soham VC on April 1st (date to be confirmed) to perform in front of the other entrants from other schools and the judge. Some may be invited back to play in final later in the academic year. In previous years we have had a number of pupils in the finals. Last year three of the eight finalists were from Ely St John's and the winner was one of those three! Do have a chat to Miss Bassett or any of the music tutors if you are not sure. More details to follow.



Friends Committee

Friends' Committee - new members needed. Come to the AGM to find out more.

Ely St John's Friends Committee (PTA) will be holding their AGM on Monday 3rd February at 7.30pm at the school.

All are welcome, so do come along and hear what we've been up to. We will also be electing the 2020 committee so if you're interested in getting more involved in fundraising and events that enhance the learning and environment for the children, now is the time to get involved.

What does the committee do?

We all know the pressures on school budgets, so the Friends' Committee has become a vital source of extra funding for the school and its pupils. We run the events the children would greatly miss without an active PTA, and fund equipment and learning activities and resources the school wouldn't otherwise be able to afford. Currently we are raising money to replace the large playground equipment.

Our key events include:

Film nights, discos, bake sales, second-hand uniform sales, Summer Fete, Christmas Fayre, Year 6 disco.

Things we've funded in the last four years have included: Creating new library areas, investing in the sensory room and the multi-purpose suite, buying playground equipment and outdoor furniture, funding classroom technology and books, and supporting maths, science and arts workshops across all years.

If you have any questions or would like more information please email



EVENTS CALENDAR 2020

Spring Term

February

- 3: Friends' AGM (7:30pm)
- 10: Parent Consultations
- 11: Family Worker Drop-In (Please contact the office to make an appointment)
- 12: Parent Consultations (Excluding Mrs Hambley & Mrs Grant's class)(Yr3HP/FT – until 5pm on Monday and 7.30pm Wednesday)
- 13: Parent Consultations for Mrs Hambley & Mrs Grant's class
- 14: Sports Hall Athletics at The Hive for selected Yr4 children (9:45 – 12:15)
- 17: Half Term Week
- 24: Kittle Photography here for Foundation and Yr6 class photos
- 26: Science presentation for Yr6 at ESJ (9:30 – 10:30)
- 28: Quicksticks event at Ely Hockey club for selected Yr6 children (9:45 – 12:30)

March

- 10: Family Worker Drop-In (Please contact the office to make an appointment)
- 16: Yr5 Bikability (Monday to Thursday)
- 20: Netball event at Soham Village College for selected Yr6 children (9:45 – 12:30)
- 23: Yr6 Bikability (Monday to Thursday)
- 30: Yr6 Bikability (Monday to Thursday)
- 31: Evening Music concert at the Maltings for ESJ Orchestra and Choir

April

- 1: Hilltop residential trip for Yr4
Young Musician of the Year at Soham Village College (10 – 12:30)
- 3: Spring Term ends
- 20: Summer Term opens

SHARING ASSEMBLY DATES

7 th Feb	14 th Feb	28 th Feb	6 th March	13 th March	20 th March	27 th March
Mrs Ban	Mrs Bushell & Mrs Droniuk	Mrs Pitt & Mrs Thompson	Mr Poli	Mrs Geeson & Mrs Pixley	Mrs Byrne	Mrs Hambley & Mrs Grant
Mr Preston	Mrs Hubbard	Miss Jordan	Mrs Turner & Mr Henson	Miss Lloyd	Ms Fellows	