



Ely St John's School

St John's Road
Ely, Cambs CB6 3BW

Tel: 01353 612780 Fax: 01353 612726
e-mail: office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk
Website: www.elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss Liz Bassett
Deputy Head: Mr John Henson

Year 3 Newsletter: Autumn Term 2018

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. Attached to the letter is our topic web for the Autumn Term, which gives you a broad overview of the curriculum covered.

Year 3 Staff

Our teachers in Year 3 are: Mrs Helen Pitt, Mrs Karin Jähnigen and Mrs Christie Jordan. Children are also taught and supported by our teaching assistants Mrs Debbie Webb and Mrs Carol Cousins.

Autumn Term topic: Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age

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. To get the children excited about our new topic, Year 3 will be holding a **Stone Age Dressing Up Day** in school on **Thursday 11th October**. We will be carrying out indoor and outdoor activities, so please make sure your child wears suitable footwear. It is not necessary to go out and buy an outfit. Simple dark coloured clothes will be fine. Outfits can reflect any period of the Stone Age (from Old to New Stone Age).



Next half term we will be doing a **'Stone Age to Iron Age' workshop in Ely Museum**. Mrs Jordan's class will be going in the morning of 12th November and Mrs Jähnigen/Mrs Pitt's class in the morning of 14th November. A letter with more information will be sent shortly before the trip. If you would like to join us on our trip as a parent helper, please speak to one of the class teachers.

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.

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

- 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.

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.

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/internet recording.

In Year 3 we give children termly homework projects, which have proved very motivating in the past. Children will complete at least four different tasks (writing, art/DT, maths, research & presentation) from a selection of activities. The first homework project sheet will be stuck in the front of their new homework book, which will be sent home soon. Moving away from weekly homework will give children more quality time to spend on one task, and it gives families the freedom to choose a convenient time in the term to complete the activities with as much or little support as your child needs. Over the course of the year, it would be great to see increasing independence in your child carrying out homework activities.

In addition, children are **given weekly spellings on Mondays** which will be tested the following Monday. We will also be sending maths ‘learn-its’ home, which will be the **3 x table** this term. We will be reinforcing x2, x5, x10 and will learn x3, x4 and x8 this year. 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. You can also go over CLIC tests with your child if you deem it helpful.

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.

Diary Dates

- Sharing assembly Mrs Jordan’s class Friday 28th September
- Stone Age Dressing Up Day Thursday 11th October
- Stone Age to Iron Age workshop in Ely Museum Monday 12th November Mrs Jordan’s class and Wednesday 14th November Mrs Jähnigen/Pitt’s class (morning only)
- Sharing assembly Mrs Jähnigen/Pitt’s class 23rd November

Parent Helpers

Parents helpers are always welcome in Year 3. If you would like to help (for example with reading or times table testing), please speak to one of the class teachers.

Best wishes,
Mrs Jähnigen, Mrs Pitt and Mrs Jordan