



Welcome to Year One

2023-24

Dear Parents

We warmly welcome you and your child to Year One. This information booklet should provide everything you need to know as your child starts their year with us.

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Staff

The class teachers in Year One are Mr Killick and Mrs Carter.

Mr Killick's class will be taught by Mrs Sutcliffe every Thursday afternoon and Friday.
Mrs Carter's class will be taught by Mrs Lloyd every Thursday afternoon and Friday.
The assistant teachers that will work across Year One are Mrs Rose, Mrs Neville, Mrs Webb and Mrs Clark.



Mr Killick



Mrs Carter



Mrs Sutcliffe



Mrs Lloyd



Mrs Rose



Mrs Neville



Mrs Webb



Mrs Clark

Key Stage 1

The children start the Key Stage 1 curriculum in Year One. This marks a shift from Foundation Stage to more subject-specific learning. Key Stage 1 covers all compulsory national curriculum subjects, such as English, maths, science, history, geography, art, computing, design and technology, PE and music. Some subjects are taught each week for a half-term, whilst others are taught weekly throughout the year.

At the start of each term, we will send you an overview of what is being taught in each subject. Each week we will aim to update you with a newsletter.

Continuous Provision

How the Year One curriculum is taught varies from school to school. Many go straight to formal learning because Year One is the start of the Key Stage 1 curriculum. In Year One here at Ely St John's, we believe in fostering a love of learning through Continuous Provision.

Continuous Provision is a term used to describe different areas in the classroom and the resources available for your child to use every day. For example, our Year One classrooms have spaces for art, role play, maths, reading and construction. We carefully consider how our classrooms can enable pupils to learn skills, challenge their thinking and help them to embed concepts. By doing this, we aim for pupils to develop their engagement, independence, collaboration, self-confidence, resilience and curiosity. Most sessions start with a whole-class input followed by small, teacher-led group activities. The children are either involved in a teacher-led group, or are in the classroom or courtyard accessing the continuous provision.

Tapestry

We continue to use Tapestry to build a record of experiences and learning in school. As the year progresses, your child will record their learning more independently in subject-specific books, which means we upload posts less often.

If there is anything you would like to share with us via Tapestry, we will 'like' to acknowledge we've seen it. We encourage you to 'like' or comment on any posts made – thank you.

The School Day

The Year One school day begins at 8.45 AM and ends at 3 PM.

- The children should enter via their cloakroom door, open **8.35-8.45 AM**. If you arrive later, your child should enter via the school office.
 - Year One pupils have a morning break on the Key Stage 1 playground and Spinney. This break time is with Year Two pupils.
 - Pupils have one hour for lunch and eat with their year group in the hall or in a small group in the Key Stage 1 lunch club. Again, pupils share a playground with Year Two pupils.
 - Year One pupils have an afternoon break of around 15 minutes on the playground with the wooden climbing frame outside our cloakrooms.
 - The children should be collected at 3 PM from their cloakroom door.
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Phonics

As you may know, phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. For example, the sound k can be written as c, k, ck or ch. We teach children to blend letters together to help them decode unfamiliar words by sounding them out.

Phonics is taught every day and builds on what was taught in Foundation Stage. The children will learn 40+ new sounds and grammatical features in Year One.

We send home a weekly activity for them to complete at home, linked to the sound they have learnt that week.

Reading

The children will bring home a reading book each week that matches their current phonics knowledge. They will also bring sets of tricky words home to learn that we monitor in school. We encourage as much reading practise as possible!

We rely on parent volunteers to help the children build their reading fluency. We welcome parents who would like to regularly listen to pupils read each week (between 2-3 PM) to express their interest to their child's teacher. You will need to complete a free DBS check via the school office.

PE

In Year One, pupils have two weekly PE sessions: one in the hall, the other outside on the playground or field. The days your child will have PE are listed below.

Mr Killick's class: indoor on Tuesday; outdoor on Friday

Mrs Carter's class: indoor on Wednesday; outdoor on Thursday

For indoor PE, we ask for the children to come to school wearing trainers and school PE clothes: a yellow T-shirt and green shorts. The clothing for outdoor PE is the same when the weather is warm. In colder months, please send your child to school wearing clothes that should keep them warm during outdoor sessions.

CLIC

CLIC is our whole-school maths approach that prioritises basic math skills to provide the foundations for wider maths. Year One pupils have daily CLIC sessions that usually last for 20-minutes, with roughly 5-minutes spent on each area:

Counting

Learn Its (simple sums that the children learn to recall instantly)

It's Nothing New (applying previous learning to solve something else)

Calculation

We aim for the children to be able to recall their 'Learn Its' lightning-fast! We will notify you of the ones being taught each term. Please help your child practise these facts outside of school to help reinforce and embed this learning.

Assessment

Year One pupils are required to take part in a national Phonics Screening Check which takes place in the summer term during the month of June. It assesses them on how well they can decode certain words. Decoding means sounding out an unfamiliar word. To do this, children need to recognise letters and the sounds they represent. The check asks the children to decode a series of 40 words. Whilst most of them are real words, some pseudo-words are included too.

The children do not take part in any formal written assessments in Year One. Instead, each child's progress is measured through ongoing teacher assessment. We will formally share pupil progress with you in a parent consultation and end-of-year report. We will also keep you updated throughout the year if there is anything we feel you need to know or could do to help support your child's learning at home.

Fruit Snack and Milk

Continuing from Foundation Stage, pupils in Year One are provided with a fruit snack each day. On some days the children eat this at their classroom *Snack Station*. We believe this allows children to participate in snack times when they feel ready to and encourages independence. On other days, all Year One pupils come together to have a *Snack & Story* in each other's classrooms.

The children can also continue to have a carton of milk every day if you have signed them up for it. If you have any questions about this, please enquire at the school office.

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Winter Performance

Year One pupils usually take part in a Key Stage 1 winter performance. Year Two pupils lead this, with Year One pupils accompanying with a short song/dance in their classes. We will likely ask for your support in putting together a costume for their dance!

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School Trip

We aim to take the children on their first school trips this year. One will likely be in Ely and one will hopefully be a short coach ride away.

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Home Time

Please bear with us in September as we get used to recognising your faces! We will dismiss the children one by one, but until we start to recognise who is collecting who, it can take a bit of time.

We cannot let pupils go home with anyone who is not on their 'agreed to collect' list. If your child is to be collected by someone different, please ensure your child's class teacher is made aware of this directly and confirm this through email to office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

Settling In

After a long summer, the start of the year can be full of big feelings for children and adults! Until now, your child has only known one class, one classroom, and their previous teachers since starting school. It can take time for children to adjust to the change of year groups, so please do not worry if it does.

Contact

The mornings can be a busy start to the day. If you have a query that may take longer than a minute or two to discuss, we kindly ask you to arrange a time when your child's teacher can contact you. Alternatively, you can email your child's teacher via office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

The first parent consultation will be held within a few weeks of starting Year One. This allows us to talk about how your child is settling in and helps us get to know them better by hearing about them from you.

We hope this information booklet has been useful. We look forward to getting to know you and your child over the year. Please let us know if we can help to clarify anything – we are very happy to help.

