

Ely St John's Newsletter

End of January 2019

Family Worker Drop-ins are an opportunity for parents, carers and families to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting their family life in a relaxed, confidential environment.

Here are the drop in dates for our Family Worker from Jan-July 2019

5th Feb

4th March

1st April

10th May

4th June

5th July

E-Safety:

Please keep a close eye on what your child is doing on the internet. Many of the older children are currently making videos using programmes such as Gotcha Verse and Tik Tok. Not all these videos are in line with our EJWay and children can use such things to be unkind. Please talk to your child about the importance of thinking carefully before circulating something unkind or derogatory and also reinforcing the need to tell an adult if they see anything circulated which is hurtful. Children need to remember that such things can be circulated to a wide audience in the twinkling of an eye and once uploaded it is often too late to regret and back track.

Please read the following:

NB: The full article can be read by going to the parent tab on the school website and clicking on E-safety.

In-game chat: What you need to know



Video games have always been popular among children - even more so now that online multiplayer games like Fortnite, FIFA and Overwatch have evolved into social spaces, where friends and strangers meet and play together.

Many children make new friends by playing online and get to know each other via voice or text chat while playing.

In-game chat refers to the game's own built-in chat function which lets the entire group of people playing together, friends and strangers, talk. It's also popular to use external chat platforms, like Skype or Discord, in which only invited members can join the chat. Being a part of an online community where like-minded people can talk to each other can be great fun – but not everyone in in-game chats has good intentions, and there are a few things to be

Continuing issues at drop off and pick up

One of the things we are instilling in children is the need to self-regulate behaviour and that is something we would ask parents to be mindful of too. When myself or Mr Henson are on duty outside, most parents follow our rules, but I understand from others that when we are not, people take advantage of this and do not follow the rules. We would ask parents to set a good example to children and to consider the whole community when making choices. We are still getting complaints about the following:

1. People walking in or biking in through the exit gate – the sign clearly says no pedestrian access and it is an exit gate!
2. People walking out of the exit gate – it is clearly marked no pedestrian access
Reason: your children's safety – we want to set a good example not only in encouraging children to follow rules but because if they then walk in or out of a vehicle exit gate the risk of accident is higher.
3. People tying dogs up close to gates and zebra crossings
Reason: safety – some children are wary of dogs; some children may not touch a dog in the way they are used to and, as happened last term, a child may be bitten which is not always the dog's fault but please consider tying your dog up away from pinchpoints to avoid the risk.
4. People parking in the school grounds and using the two school gates as a turning circle to whizz round having parked on the road and to easily turn around.
Reason: Staff at times have not been there to meet children as they have not found a space to park; staff have been blocked in; there is not enough room for staff and parents and it is unfair if some do and some don't.

The governors are considering applying for planning permission to have a zebra crossing on Beresford Road to aid safety there and will soon be asking you to complete a short survey. I know parents also often complain of people not parking sensibly, safely or whizzing too fast across roundabouts and in the vicinity of the school.

Please consider safety and the need to conform to our codes of practice and rules for safety's sake, in the same we ask your children to.

Thank you.

School Dinners

Our Lunchtime Company are inviting you to a Tasting Session on Monday 13th February from 3.15pm in the school hall. If you wish to try some of the food the children have at lunchtime, or wish to ask about any of the nutritional content / make up of menus or choice of foods provided, do please make the most of this opportunity. Please see the attached leaflet.

Snow Days

I know some felt it was not necessary yesterday to bring children in the one entrance but we did assess that the playgrounds were very icy and dangerous and have to act on our safety assessments. It was a good trial for a much deeper snowy day too! The children all know how to get from the hall to their classrooms and there wasn't too much congestion. Mr Hambley had less paths to clear and the entry was calmer than previous years. The carpets fared better too! We have a few tweaks to make such as opening the wooden large gate at the back of the hall, to aid parents with pushchairs, but overall we feel it is the best course of action where it is necessary to avoid playgrounds. Thank you for your cooperation.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

Spring Term

February

- 4: Light and Life Christian group to take KS1 assembly
- 11: Parent Consultation Evening 3.30-7.30pm
- 13: Parent Consultation Evening 3.30-5pm
- 13: Lunchtime Company Taster session for parents after school
- 18 – 22: Half Term
- 25: Kittle here for Foundation & Yr6 Class photos (9:30 – 10:30am in Hall)
- 26: Fire Engine visiting for EYFS

March

- 18: Year 3 to Great Cressingham Victorian School
- 19: Year 3 to Great Cressingham Victorian School
- 27: Dental Check for selected 5 yr olds (11am to Lunchtime)

April

- 3-5: Yr4 to Hilltop
- 5: Spring Term Ends
- 24: Summer Term Opens

1 st Feb	8 th Feb	15 th Feb	1 st March	8 th March	15 th March	22 nd March
Mrs Ban	Mrs Pruitt & Mrs Droniuk	Mr Preston	Mrs Fretwell	Mrs Geeson & Mrs Pixley	Mrs Tipping	Mrs Hambley & Mrs Grant
Ms Fellows	Mr Killick	Miss Jordan	Mr Henson & Mrs Turner	Mrs Powell	Miss Goodman	Mrs Pitt & Mrs Jähnigen

SHARING ASSEMBLY DATES