

Ely St John's Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018

Dear all,

A big welcome to all the new families at the start of this new term - all the new children in the Foundation Stage and a few new faces dotted through the other year groups. We hope your children have enjoyed their first days here and that they are beginning to settle in.

It is lovely to see all the children and staff again after the long break and we look forward to a good term. A big welcome to Mr Henson and Miss Goodman too.

Request for Used Comics and Magazines

If you have any children's comics, magazines, or even unfinished colouring books, we would gratefully receive them for children to use in our Lunch Club.

Website

Please do look at our website both to see what the children are doing on news items and in the year group blogs, but also to find key dates and policies.

Behaviour and the EJWay

The EJWay serves us well as a behaviour code for all to use - adults and children alike. We are currently updating our behaviour policy to reflect the more therapeutic model we have begun to adopt. As part of this, and following consultation with children, we will no longer be having stamp charts or formal reminders but relying more on the communication that goes alongside those things. It is the positive verbal praise that is key when a child is being told what they have done well. It is also the discussion about behaviour that is important when something goes wrong. We want children to consider why things they do may not be the right choices to make; to reflect and then make amends and adapt behaviour to become more pro-social. Children are learning to become happy and healthy social beings and our role is to encourage them to become more intrinsically motivated and self regulated as they move through the school.

In line with this we will of course still be monitoring where there is the need for some children to have greater support with a situation or behaviour pattern; be communicating with parents as soon as it becomes necessary and we will still have our EJWay and clear boundaries to guide us all in knowing how to manage ourselves and our interactions with others.

Certificates will still be awarded at times, but the key consideration is that we want children to do things not to get a reward but because they want to achieve. One example of this is that we will not be awarding attendance certificates this year though we still firmly support the need for children to attend school 100% to make the most out of their learning time. We want children to attend because they love school and want to be here and want to learn. It is a joy to walk around the school and see children happy, focused on learning and making the most out of every learning experience.

There will be an information evening for parents during the Autumn Term for us to share information with you about the changes and the journey we are on.

Our behaviour policy is under review and while we are retaining the five key principles that

underpin it we are reviewing our practice to ensure the support we provide to aid children in their growth as individuals is further strengthened.

Hot dinners

Lunchtime Co have taken over the contract for managing our kitchen and the food cooked for hot dinners. We have already seen a positive change. The kitchen staff are very pleased with the organisation. The menus look great. As well as the puddings children get daily there is always additional fruit for children to choose from each day as well as salad. The meat is all fresh and freshly cooked on site and the children seem to have really enjoyed dishes this week that in the past we saw a lot of waste from. The freshly cooked roasts carved for roast dinner were amazing and the lasagne very tasty. The children loved the garlic bread. We do hope you will make the most of our wonderful hot dinner provision and consider allowing your child to have a hot dinner and to try the new menus.

TERMLY REMINDERS

To help our new parents in particular, but also to remind everyone, what follows are a few operational reminders, to ensure the smooth and safe running of the school. Please do ask if there is anything else you wish to know.

Ultimately our aim is to ensure all parents have the information needed and the children are safe and settled.

Nut allergies

We have a number of children with nut allergies in school. For some it is not just eating nuts but the touch of something also. Please do not send your child with nuts or any largely nut based products such as Nutella or peanut butter. We also wish to discourage parents from providing sweets or cakes for birthdays via the classrooms as we cannot ensure they are safe for the number of children with allergies. Our cake break has set ways of ensuring this but adhoc times of giving out cakes and other food is more difficult and has to be carefully organised to ensure inclusivity and the safety of all. It would be best to provide any birthday treats directly to the parents for their children. Teachers will not be giving out birthday treats at the end of the school day.

Cyclists

There are bike racks at the front for KS1 and round the back for KS2 children and along the side outside our staffroom for adults. **There is to be no cycling/scootering on school premises (including the car park) between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm** and we ask people to wheel their bikes where possible on the pavements. There are signs near the entrance to the car park which say, 'Cyclists Dismount'. This also means scooters dismount. The side gate into the little lane is probably the best entry and exit for cyclists using the back bike racks. I understand the side lane can be cycled along.

We do not believe there should be separate rules for adult and child cyclists thus our decision has been made to ensure the safety of our older more independent cyclists who look to adults as a role model

Access to the car park

Please use the paths if pedestrians and do not encourage children to walk across the car park. The exit gate is for cars only to avoid encouraging children to walk across the car park itself thus please could adults and children exit the school through Beresford Road gate; the gate into the

lane near the office; the front entry gate near pre-school, using the paths and zebra crossings.

Parking

Parking remains a problem and everyone needs to be responsible and park only where it is safe and legal to do so. Please do not park on pavements and across driveways. We even had a complaint from a neighbour – someone had parked *on* their driveway!!

The PCSO does regular checks at peak times of the day. Where possible of course it would be best to aim to leave cars at home and walk to school. I appreciate that it is not always possible to do this but it is the best way to reduce congestion. **A little more time and a little further away can be less stressful and prevent us at times, from parking, illegally, unsafely or unthoughtfully.**

Parking in the school grounds is for staff and daytime visitors only. There is just not enough spaces to allow all parents to park before and after school. The Drop-Off point is just that – cars can pull in and stop for a couple of minutes but drivers cannot leave their cars and it is not an area to wait in – **drop off and go**. If children need escorting into the playground, parents must park outside on the road.

Cars are not allowed on school premises in the afternoon unless staff or on business. For this reason, the exit gate is likely to be shut in the afternoons. There is a 'No Pedestrians to exit' sign on the exit gate.

Pushchairs

In order to cope with large numbers and to protect our internal environment (carpets/paintwork) we would ask people to ensure scooters and pushchairs/prams are left outside the building wherever possible.

Play Equipment

The play equipment on the front and back playgrounds is **solely for use during the school day when a member of staff is supervising its use**. Please do not allow your children (including toddlers) on the equipment before or after school. The risk assessments do not include the use of our play equipment under the supervision of parents. There are signs stating that it should only be used when supervised by a staff member. We know it is difficult when waiting with toddlers and younger children, especially as the KS2 children come out of class five minutes later, but we have to take care with equipment that holds potential risks. The park across the road provides large play equipment for public use and thus has a public liability licence for the supervision of parents.

Please stay off the field before and after school and keep your little ones close. The playground is very busy and there are a number of entrances which cannot all be manned.

Lost property

Please ask at the office if you have lost anything.

Please make sure all items of clothing are named as it makes it easier for us to retrieve and return items found around the school.

Communication with class teachers

Please remember that first thing in the morning is not the best time to talk to teachers about issues that require discussion. Teachers are there for the children at that time and need to focus on their classes. It is best to briefly ask them if you can arrange an appointment in order to discuss things more successfully and fully. Teachers are always happy to ring parents to arrange such appointments. Teachers in FDS and KS1 also have a message book in their cloakrooms where

you can write any non-confidential messages for the teacher to read. Some teachers use the green home/school book for messages too.

If you need to speak to teachers about a confidential matter or something more lengthy, please speak to Mrs Marston, in the office, and she will ensure that the teacher calls you to arrange a meeting. I am also free to meet parents and I am usually around at the start of the day. If I am not free, the office will take a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please inform us about changes to pick up arrangements for your child or changes to club attendance. It is vital we know where children should be at the end of the day and we will not let a child go home with someone unless we have heard directly from their parents

Curriculum

Have a look at our website - on the top tab that says *Curriculum*. We have a drop down menu. Click on *Curriculum* which then shows the curriculum for each subject in each year group. We hope the information will be useful. Our key principles for teaching, learning and assessment can be found in our Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy (in the policies section of the website under the *About Us* tab). Please do ask if there is anything you cannot find. Happy reading ☺



EVENTS CALENDAR 2018

Autumn Term

September

- 13: Family Worker Drop – In with Michelle West 9-11 – please sign up at office for an appointment
- 19: Ely College Roadshow at 6pm for Year 6 parents

October

- 1: Harvest produce collection assembly for Ely Foodbank
- 9: Year 5 Careers event 9:15 – 10:15am
- 10: 2 x Year 5 classes to Fire Station re Safety Zone (9:30 – 11:45am)
- 10: Family Worker Drop – In with Michelle West 9-11 – please sign up at office for an appointment
- 12: Friends Film Night Year 1 to 6
- 15: Parent consultations 3:15 – 7:30pm
- 17: School Photography day
Parent consultations 3:15 – 5pm
- 18: 1 x Year 5 class to Fire Station re Safety Zone (9:30 – 11:45am)
- 20: Family Portrait day
- 22 to 26: Half Term
- 30: 2 x Year 5 classes to Ely Museum all day

November

- 1: 1 x Year 5 class to Ely Museum all day
- 5: Family Worker Drop – In with Michelle West 9-11 – please sign up at office for an appointment
- 12: Anti Bullying Week
- 24: Friends Christmas Fayre 2-4pm
- 30: Flu Vaccinations (Foundation to Year 5)

December

- 6 & 7: KS1 and Foundation Performances
- Wb 10: KS2 Performances
- 13: Christmas Dinner day
- 17: Outside Carols at 2:30pm
- 18: Christmas Musical coffee morning
- 19: Term Ends

SHARING ASSEMBLY DATES

28 th Sept	5 th Oct	12 th Oct	19 th Oct	2 nd Nov	9 th Nov	16 th Nov	23 rd Nov
Mrs Jordan Yr 3	Mrs Ban	Mrs Pruitt & Mrs Droniuk	Mr Preston	Mrs Tipping	Mrs Geeson & Mrs Pixley	Mrs Fretwell	Mrs Hambley & Mrs Grant
Mr Poli	Ms Fellows	Mr Killick	Miss Jordan Yr 2	Miss Goodman	Mrs Powell	Mr Henson & Mr Lowery	Mrs Pitt & Mrs Jähnigen

Spring Term starts on Monday 7th January 2018



Registered charity No: 1117367

ESJ parent Laura is kindly fundraising for The Friends please see the following link

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser->

[display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=LauraPearsonClark&pageUrl=1](https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=LauraPearsonClark&pageUrl=1) to read all about her cause and make a donation should you wish to. It will be a lovely sight to see the 1000 cranes so please do pop along to the exhibition and show your support.

Thank you from the Friends .



1000 Origami Cranes Exhibition

Laura Pearson-Clark

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 October 10.30am - 4pm

A fundraising exhibition raising awareness of World Mental Health Day and a celebration of full recovery from Postnatal Depression.

@Chequer Studio, 1A Chequer Lane (off the High Street), Ely, CB7 4LN



- See all 1000 handmade origami cranes hanging.
- Make and take a paper origami crane.
- Information table on supportive charities and organisations.
- 'Name a Crane' fundraising game with prizes.

Fundraising for Friends of Ely, St John's School. Full story can be found at:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LauraPearsonClark>



CHEQUER STUDIO

