

Ely St John's Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018

19.12.18



Dear parents,

It seems like a long time since September when we all began the new term. So much has happened! Here is a flavour of some of the many exciting things that have happened to enhance learning for the children:

- Sport: a group of 20 children took part at the Hive in Tag Rugby – the children came third out of 8 and had a great day displaying their usual good attitude and teamwork. Yr 1 have been to Ely College to learn about Playground Games; a team of Year 5 went to Kings School for a Football tournament; 12 Year 4 did Orienteering at Witchford College; Year 5 took part in Sports Hall Athletics at Littleport.
- All classes had a whole week focus on anti bullying focused on treating others with kindness and respect.
- We celebrated 100 years since the First World War with our poppy artwork around the school.
- The museum has been well used this term for workshops for year 5 on World War II; Year 3 on the Stone Age to the Iron Age; Year 1 visited the museum linked to their work on Toys Old and New; Year 2 visited the museum to learn about farming and the fens
- Year 5 attended the Careers Event at Ely Cathedral and visited the Fire Station
- Year 6 visited Hunstanton linked to their geography work and Year 1 visited a local church in connection with their Religious Education work.
- Year groups have had themed Days of learning in school such as today's Nocturnal day in Year 1; Year 2 had a Diwali morning; Year 4 had a Romans day and year 3 had a Stone Age day.
- It is lovely to see so much experiential learning happening – out in the allotment and nature garden; dressing up to visit the museum; enactment through drama; painting hands and making Diva lamps; dressing up and role play; cookery etc.
- The sensory room is being well used and the timetable is almost full – it is being used to support anxiety; sensory issues; the need to calm and focus before moving to the class for learning and all children and thoroughly enjoying their time in there.
- Sharing assemblies continue to be a fantastic celebration of learning and children show so much confidence and skills and develop the art of presentation and performance.
- Many children have taken it upon themselves to show enterprise and to develop activities to raise money for charity and for the school, e.g. making seed packets to sell to raise money for the allotment; cake sales after school. Our year 6 continue to volunteer to visit Vera James House to help entertain the residents being cared for there.
- Our musicians continue to excel and this term the Brass and recorders have played for Prince Charles and the Orchestra, Brass, Choir and other musicians performed at our

Xmas Musical Coffee Morning for parents; our top recorders are also working hard on a difficult piece to perform with a Recorder orchestra later in the year that includes some of the much larger recorders including great and contra basses. Our Year 2 children have been experiencing learning the violin as part of music lessons and Year 3 have begun to learn the recorder in class time.

- EYFS and Year 1 continue to use the Spinney and nature garden weekly in lesson times to extend learning outside.
- As a whole school we have raised £370 for Children in Need with our non-uniform day and You the parents have raised £646.34 in donations for the Snowflake Appeal for vulnerable children after our wonderful KS2 Pantomime, Snow White and the 8 or 9 Gnomes and our KS1 production of The Midwife in Crisis.
- Our fantastic Friends Committee have again arranged a wonderful event with our Xmas Fayre which has raised £2,400 for the school. They continue to help us fund workshops for the children and this term Year 1 had the Raptor Foundation in as part of their Science work.
- Our Mental Health Policy is just about complete in draft and shows our commitment to this area and our graduated response to support for pupils and staff.
- Katy Jordan has presented a Maths Information Evening and a Literacy Information Evening to Year 2 parents to aid parents in supporting their child's learning at home; the Parent Consultation Evenings were well attended

PHEW!!!

Ofsted Report

We are very pleased with our recent Ofsted report and will be working on the actions as we move forwards. Parents will have received a copy of the letter recently via parentmail but it is also now available to the general public on the official Ofsted website.

Attendance Policy – our newly reviewed policy is available on the website and in the office. Parents should be aware that schools now have to request a penalty notice where any holiday is three consecutive days or more unauthorised and this includes consecutive days either side of a holiday (e.g. 1 before and 2 after a holiday period).

Online Safety

As the holiday approaches it is worth considering again the importance of online safety – there are so many pitfalls for children as they spend time on computer games and on social media. We are aware that many of our children are open to dangers – many are engaged in viewing and uploading videos on YouTube despite being under age; many are involved on twitter; facebook etc or online video games and thus open to the pitfalls this creates as well as the positive advantages; many are involved in group chat with their peers and can at times be subjected to unkind comments which are of course open to all in the group; many spend too much time on computers and it has now been formally classed as something that can become obsessive or an addiction in the same way that alcohol or drugs can, which is a concern. It is a minefield for parents but please consider healthy computer use this holiday and keep a close eye on your child's online activity.

Spring Term

A reminder that the children return on Monday 7th January. May I take this opportunity to wish you all, from all the staff here at Ely St John's, a very happy holiday break and a great start to the new year!



EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

Spring Term

January

- 7: Spring Term Opens
- 10: Year 6 Class to Fitzwilliam Museum
- 11: 2 x Year 6 Classes to Fitzwilliam Museum

February

- 18 – 22: Half Term
- 25: Kittle here for Foundation & Yr6 Class photos (9:30 – 10:30am in Hall)

March

- 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

*Kitchen Staff Alert

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

SHARING ASSEMBLY DATES

Last Updated 19th Dec 2018