



Ely St John's School

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25 Year Anniversary Fund and Development Update

January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now in a position to give you details on how we intend to move forward with our 25 Year Development project. You may remember that we had submitted three bids to help develop the school's ability to promote pro-social, positive behaviours from children. Whilst our application to the National Lottery Awards for All Fund was not successful, both the One Stop store and Cambridgeshire County Council decided to support our plans. Combined, they have awarded the school £7000 to help finance our strategy. We are also very grateful to the donations received from parents and others in our 25 Year Anniversary Fund. Including Gift Aid, this increases the amount by over £400.

Here are our plans:

1. Train two staff members as therapeutic behaviour tutors. This enables the school to have in-house expertise, able to train new staff members, support colleagues, and advise parents through information sessions, workshops and 1:1 problem solving. This 3 day training has been booked for April, so look out for our first parent information sessions on our new behaviour approach in the Summer Term.
2. Create loan boxes of reading material and family activities which parents can borrow.
3. Transform an existing Group Room into a sensory space, providing timetabled and responsive use for children to relax.
4. Develop a structure in the school's outdoor space for wellbeing and connecting with nature.
5. Renovate the ICT Suite into a flexible space which can be used for group work (academic and social skills) and a nurture space.

The Friends have agreed to support us with this final item, and will be fundraising over this year to help us meet the cost. Renovating this space also ties in with our long-term ICT strategy of having access to reliable mobile technology at different points in the school.

None of this would be possible without the support of the One Stop, Cambridgeshire County Council's Cultivate Fund, the Friends, and your donations. The investment will allow us to meet current and future needs better, and save time and money in the long term (an outcome recognised by the County Council). If you would like to add any further donations to the Anniversary Fund, please do so by the end of February, when the fund will close. The address is <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/ESJ25YearFund> - also linked on our school and Friends' websites.

Mr Poli will be requesting some help with the outdoor spaces over the spring and summer; I know any help and particular skills will be gratefully received.

Best wishes,

David Aston
(Deputy Headteacher)