



Ely St Mary's Year 3 Autumn 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first term of an exciting Year 3 at Ely St Mary's. We can't wait to welcome back all of your children to school, refreshed and ready for a new term. In this, our first termly newsletter, you can find out about the Year 3 team; routines of the school day and week; the assessment activities taking place over the first few weeks of term; reading books, spelling and homework and the main topic areas for the Autumn term.

From Miss Carr and the Year 3 team

The Year 3 team

Our friendly team in Year 3 is comprised of Miss Carr (Head of Lower School and class teacher of 3E), Miss K (class teacher of 3S), Mr Greenwood (class teacher of 3T) Mx Brabbs (who is our trainee teacher working alongside Mr Greenwood) and Ms Law (class teacher of 3M). Each week, the Year 3 teachers will be available in their classrooms between 3:20 and 3:50 on Thursday afternoons. Please feel free to drop in at these times, signing in at the Office.

If at any time you would like to contact your child's teacher, you can do so through the school office.

The school day/week

Teachers will be out on the top playground to collect their classes from their spots at 8:50 each morning for the first few weeks of term, going in at the 8:55 bell. One teacher will be on duty on the top playground from 8:40. The final bell will go at 9:00, after which children will need to go to the School Office to sign in. Teachers will bring children up to the top playground for collection at 3:20 each afternoon. Breaktime is 10:45 – 11:00 and lunchtime is 11:55-12:55.

Outdoor P.E. will normally take place on Tuesday mornings for all classes. Please ensure your child has their kit with them. In addition to their P.E. kits, children will need to remember to bring in their reading books every day.

What to expect in the first few weeks

Over the first two weeks of term, the teachers in Year 3 will be making assessments of their classes' needs and progress in key areas. This will include assessment of examples of the children's writing, a reading assessment and a spelling diagnostic assessment. These are crucial for helping us to know where your child needs support to progress, as well as where they need to be pushed forward onto more challenging learning. We will also be spending lots of time getting to know your children and helping them to feel happy and comfortable in our school!



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Reading books, spelling and homework

New reading books, spelling lists and log-ins to online resources will all be sent out by the children's class teacher by the week commencing 16th September. This will enable us to carry out baseline assessments to pitch these resources correctly. If these have not been received by this date, please get in touch.

We believe that reading is a wonderful, enjoyable way to explore new worlds, test out ideas and expand your horizons. It is also a fantastic tool for boosting learning power! Your child will be able to take one reading book and one library book at a time. The difference between these is that a reading book will be within your child's specific reading range, and your child will take a quiz to test their comprehension before they exchange it; a library book is a free choice from across the library, which your child is not expected to quiz on. In order to make the best progress, we suggest that your child should be reading and completing quizzes on around 3 books each fortnight. We recommend hearing your child read, reading with them or reading to them as often as possible.

Year 3 Autumn Term: Heroes

English

Is there any sentence more magical than "I wish..."? If you had three wishes, what would you ask for? We begin our time at Ely St Mary's reflecting on our wishes both for now and for our futures. We also explore the perils of wishful thinking through intriguing stories like that of King Midas and Joan Aiken's *The Winter Sleepwalker*. What happens when wishes are out of your control? In our Guided Reading focus, we follow *Krindlekrax* and the adventures of hero, Ruskin Splinter. Later in the half term, we focus on the real world with a recount of our upcoming trip to Ely Museum finding out about the rich history and even richer soil of the Fenland area. We finish the half term with poetry focusing on the seasonal changes of Autumn.

Maths

In our Maths Mastery approach, we aim to meet the National Curriculum objectives of **fluency in the fundamentals of mathematics**, the ability to **reason mathematically**, and the ability to **solve problems** using their mathematical knowledge and skills. In the first half term, our focus is on reasoning skills within one hundred, including all four operations; place value; using graphs to display and analyse data; and adding and subtracting with up to four digits. The focus across the first half term is on place value and the number system.

Science

Our focus for this half term is on light, darkness and shadows. This is a fascinating area for study and our practical experiments will give us the chance to test out our ideas about the differences between light and darkness and about where shadows come from and how we can change them.

Other subjects

We explore a range of skills, materials and techniques in our Design and Technology unit on paper-craft, culminating in a 3D fairy tale scene. In Geography, we compare plant life in two very different areas: the fens of Ely and the dry, dusty desert. For our R.E. unit, we take a close look at the Christian creation story. In P.E. the children will develop their skills in gymnastics and ball handling.



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