



Ely St Mary's C of E Junior School
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HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY



WELCOME BACK YEAR 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope all of you have had a good Christmas and New Year break and we welcome the children back, all enthusiastic and motivated for the next term. We hope they are fresh and rested, as it is one of the most important and hardworking terms in Year 6!

This term we shall be using our Maths and English lessons to make sure that all children are well prepared and ready to take their SATs, which are at the beginning of the summer term. The school has planned to provide a balanced curriculum and our aim has been to set expectations high and ensure that all children have a positive attitude to do their best for themselves and for the school. We have faith in them all and hope that they will take up the challenge. There will also be some additional groups run by the Ely St. Mary's staff to make sure that everybody is confident and ready to do their best. We look forward to working in partnership with you and your children.

It has been a joy to see the children enjoying their reading - long may this continue into the future. There will be reading challenges throughout the term to promote reading for pleasure. Many teachers have been reading some wonderful books - there is an abundance of great authors out there and we actively promote these to the children.

In addition, we will be having our Year 6 Activity days while a large group of Year 6 go on the London Residential Trip - Wednesday 12th February to Friday 14th February 2020 - these days are always a delightful break for all before focusing back on our studies on return. We are also grateful to the parents who have helped in the classroom, activity days and accompanied us on trips.

We will continue to provide all children with a positive, enthusiastic, happy and active learning environment and develop them as independent learners. We want all children to enjoy learning and be proud of the work they produce and show progress. We have high expectations of all to do their best in everything they do. We have some excellent topics this term. We love Maths, TTRockstars and Tackling Times Tables has really supported children, giving much needed confidence and enjoyment. We hope to offer more challenges for children to be excited about, focusing on reasoning and problem solving skills. Spelling and increasing children's vocabulary has been supported in the use of Spelling Shed, which has been incredibly valuable in them practising and learning spelling rules and definitions. The children have really started to show increased responsibility to their learning by using the resources the school has provided and the healthy competitiveness of them has supported many children experiencing success.

A reminder to all parents that Year 6 'Drop-In' sessions are on Fridays 3.30 - 4pm. You can secure an appointment then or at another time by calling the school office or messaging on Class Dojo. If there are any difficulties please do not hesitate to contact us. The success and happiness is dependent on children, parents and school working together.

Miss Gardner 6E (Year 6 Leader), Mrs Briggs 6S, Mr Noble 6T, Mr Balmer 6M, Miss Noland (am)

The School day/week

As usual, children must be in school for registration, which will close at 9am. All year groups can start coming into the classrooms from 8.45am to ensure we are in class for registration on time. Lunchtime for Year 6 will be 12.20pm - 1:20pm. Year 6 PE days will be a Tuesday for Outdoor Games. Please ensure your child has their kit in school at all times and have warmer kit for outdoor lessons in the winter. Drop-ins - Fridays or please make an appointment - please use this time as it is always good to see you.



What to expect this term Please refer to the overviews to see what we will be teaching and learning this term. World War 2 has always been a fascinating topic for children and there was certainly a buzz of excitement when mentioned. There is so much but we hope to present as much as we can in a variety of ways so that it will always be a memorable experience. It is an important topic and one that we treat respectfully and sensitively, hoping to deliver information, which children will retain and think about for the future.

With SATs in mind, we will be giving the children the opportunity of looking and practising papers in English and Maths, focusing on test skills to enable them to attain their full potential and experience success. It will give us an idea of how to personalise learning for individuals and how we can support all children. There will be the Parent Consultations on **Monday 23rd March 3.45 – 6pm** and **Tuesday 24th March 4.30-7pm**. This will be an opportunity for you to gain information about the attainment and progress of your children and see how you can support them to reach their goals in partnership with the school.

Learning, reading books, spellings and home learning

Read for pleasure, practice spelling patterns, tackle those tables!

After a well-earned break, please do encourage the children to engage in the resources available through school to develop their key skills in reading, writing and maths. Encourage the children to quiz on their library book, or perhaps a new text they have received at Christmas; play their Tackling Tables card games or Battle of the Bands challenges on TT Rockstars; and spend short bursts of time recapping spellings on Spelling Shed. All online resources are now familiar to the children and free to use through the internet. If children are having trouble with access, the staff are here to help and can offer paper resources if preferred. Little and often is the key - we can already see the positive impact such practice is having on learning.

Reading is an incredibly important skill and one that we encourage them to do everyday. Many children have developed a positive reading habit and one that we hope will continue not just for now but for life. Many of the children are able to read but it's about understanding and enjoying what you read that is important. It is very important that all children whatever their age or ability read regularly to an adult whether it is at school or home. Please encourage children to read aloud to promote confidence and fluency. The children's comprehension skills will increase and most importantly so will their enjoyment.

Homework

We hope that you will encourage and support in the SATs revision home learning this term. It is suggested that children do 2 hours of home learning a week and 20 minutes reading each day. Many of you have purchased the CPG SATs Busters books for Maths and English, which provides opportunities to focus and revise topics they have been taught since Y3. There have been many positive discussions where children have said what their plans will be with the books and shows the support and encouragement parents are giving their children. Teachers will also be able to provide support for children who would like to timetable their home learning. It is wonderful to see children take a responsibility for their learning and to see them partner up with friends across the year group, supporting and encouraging one another. As your children work through the CPG books it would be valuable to them if you can mark the books as they go along, discuss their learning and be able to highlight any difficulties they may be having. I hope that you are all enjoying working alongside your children and learning with them.

The success and happiness is dependent on children, parents and school working together.

We hope that you continue to enjoy your year with us! Helping, caring and working together for a successful and happy term ahead. We look forward to seeing you all soon. Keep following us on Class Dojo Story.



The Grey Tunnel Henry Moore WW2 Artist



Evacuation of Children during WW2

