



## Ely St Mary's C of E Junior School

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*(Absence, Dinners, Uniform, Clubs, Medicines, Contact Details, School Pick-up)*

Website: [www.elystmarys.org.uk](http://www.elystmarys.org.uk)

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We understand that the leap into Year 3 and a new school is a significant one, and we wanted to continue to offer as much support as possible to you and your child over this final half term. Due to the current circumstances we are unable to carry out transition to St Mary's as we would normally like. However, both St Mary's and Spring Meadow staff have met in recent weeks, to map out an offer of communication and activities to prepare the children for Year 3, as outlined below, which we believe will provide the children with a view of school life, whilst meeting current guidance on maintaining safety for all children entering our school.

### Timetable for transition

- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July: Class teacher and September 2021 Information Letter, including video links to:**
  - **Virtual school tour**
  - **School dinners** and an interview with our kitchen team
  - **Q & A** with some current St Mary's children
  - **Introductions to wider school life** (including clubs, musical opportunities, uniform and school staff)
- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July: Transition afternoon (at Spring Meadow)**

St Mary's class teachers will come to visit their new classes at Spring Meadow and enjoy some outside activities such as, **an outdoor story and circle time and a team building game.**

Using our experience of transition in previous years, we have also been able to offer some answers to questions which are commonly-asked at this stage in the year.

### Are the children being mixed?

Yes. We have found over the years that the children benefit from being mixed into new classes before beginning Junior school. Whilst this may seem to add to the number of changes at this time, it is a natural point at which to make the adjustment, before the children settle into Junior school life. The classes are arranged in liaison with the Year 2 staff at Spring Meadow and, during this process, a number of factors are considered to ensure a balance of pupil dynamics, class size, gender and wider needs, to create the optimum learning environment for all for the coming years.

### Who will be my child's teacher?

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide this information at the present time, but aim to confirm with all families in writing very soon.

### How is home-learning different at St Mary's? How can we support home-learning before your child starts at Ely St Mary's?

With or without school closure, we aim to provide some opportunities for children to consolidate key skills beyond the classroom - specifically in reading, spelling and arithmetic. To help with this, we make use of Accelerated Reader, which supports children in selecting their books and reviewing the text via a quiz. For spelling and times table practice, we make use of online platforms, which also offer paper resources if families prefer, and can be provided upon request in Year 3. Spring Meadow has already introduced the children to TT Rock Stars.

### My child has SEND – will Ms Berry be available to talk with?

Ms Berry is working closely with the team at Spring Meadow, and will be contacting you over the coming weeks to introduce herself.

**I still have a query, how can we get in touch?**

If you have a question or concern, please do get in touch with us. Initially, please email the school via [office@esm.school](mailto:office@esm.school), writing 'Y2 transition' in the subject line. These emails will be passed on to the relevant staff, and we will aim to respond within 48 hours, via email or telephone.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school community, and wish you all the best for the final summer term ahead.

Miss Carr, Head of Lower School, and the St Mary's Team.