



Ely St Mary's C of E Junior School

High Barns, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4RB

Tel: 01353 662163

Fax: 01353 666177

Email: office@elystmarys.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.elystmarys.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

WELCOME BACK EVERYBODY IN YEARS 5 AND 6 (Upper School)

We hope you have had a good summer break and are keeping well. We welcome back the children: Y4 to joining us in the Upper School and to Year 5 and their last year at Ely St. Mary's and we're hoping that the children are all enthusiastic and motivated for the term ahead. Of course, we all understand that many of you will also start this year with some apprehension and this is understandable. We would like to reassure you that the school has rigorous plans in place to ensure our school community's safety and wellbeing, and together we look forward to adapting and returning to school life.

In Years 5 and 6, we aim to make the year challenging and enjoyable, building upon what the children have learnt in Years 3 and 4 (and at home, of course!) We'll be preparing Year 6 for their transition to secondary school. By the end of Year 6 we hope that the children all feel confident and enthusiastic about their move to college but also enjoy and benefit from the experience of Ely St. Mary's Junior School, taking with them many happy memories of their time here.

We appreciate that this year has seen many changes, so we have summarised some key information below to support the beginning of the new school year. In addition, please also refer to the Headteacher's newsletter, which will detail the timings and routes around school at the beginning and end of the day, as well as information regarding mobile phones, medicines, communications, uniform, lunches and more.

Returning to school after the summer break and school closure

In the first couple weeks we will be having an enjoyable time learning about our named class animals /birds whilst getting to know each other and establishing new routines in line with guidance. We will aim to strike a balance between reintroducing familiar school routines, expectations, and content with a supportive approach to understanding and nurturing wellbeing, to ensure that all children are happy and wanting to learn. Naturally, at the beginning of a new school year, after a break, our team will want to gauge the children's learning – what can they still remember? What they will need some help with. Over the first few weeks there will be some short assessments to help and guide us with this and in our planning. Please be reassured that this is formative, and the focus will be on the gaps in learning rather than any scores and grades.

Y5 PE/Games:

Sea Turtles and Dolphins – Tuesdays am

Seahorses and Starfish – Tuesdays pm

Y6 PE/Games:

Puffins and Huskies – Wednesdays am

Penguins and Polar Bears – Wednesdays pm

“Championing every child to be the best that they can be”

Responsibility **E**xcellence **S**pirituality **P**erseverance **E**nergy **C**aring **T**olerance

On their PE/Games day all children in that group are expected to come to school already wearing their PE kit, please stick to our uniform policy. Whilst the children will not be changing during the day, should the weather be unfavourable we would suggest the children bring in a spare jumper etc as required. Please ensure that your child has a clean, named drinks bottle every day in school, not just on PE days.

Swimming

It is usual practice for Year 5 pupils to participate in a block of swimming lessons during Autumn Term. Swimming will commence on Friday 24th of September at 9.30-10.30 and will consist of 10 consecutive lessons excluding the 29th of October (half term). Each class will receive half-hour long slots at the Hive pool. Can you please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for each session. S/he will need a **swimming costume** and **towel**. Year 6 children who missed out on swimming last year due to covid will be offered lessons in Summer term.

Year 6 Curriculum

So, what great topics have we got to look forward to in Years 5 and 6? In Year 6 we'll be getting carried away with our imaginations and creating dragons. Writing instructions on how to train a dragon and looking at habitats of animals, especially those who live in a mountain environment. Not only that but looking at creating our own superheroes! What superpowers will they have and what adventures they may have as well as looking at our own bodies and the amazing things that happen inside them. Vikings – Were they heroes or villains?

Year 5 Curriculum

In Year 5, pupils have some fantastic topics to look forward to. We will start by exploring the Solar System and some of the amazing distant worlds within it. What would it be like to visit Mars? Just how big is Jupiter? How long would it take to fly to Neptune? How do we get day and night and our seasons? After half term we will kick off our This Morning I Met a Whale topic with a trip to the river and a boat trip on the Great Ouse.

For more information please refer to the Year 6 and 5 curriculum Autumn overviews below.

At the time of writing, it is our understanding that our Year 6 pupils will complete SATs in the Summer Term - as and when guidance and further information is given, we will pass it on to you. However, with this in mind, we will be giving the children the opportunity of looking and having a go at the past papers so they have an idea of what to expect and what they need to work on in order to achieve their full potential. It will give us an idea of how to personalise learning for individuals and how we can support all children. We have a great team of teachers and teaching assistants who will support the children in and out of class to achieve their best.

Learning, reading books, spellings and home learning (as it used to be!)

We will provide the children with a positive, enthusiastic, happy and active learning environment and continue to develop them as independent learners. We want to ensure that they never give up on wanting to learn as it opens so much of their world for the future. We want them to enjoy learning and to be proud of the work they produce and show progress. We have high expectations of them all to do the best they can in everything they do.

Reading is an incredibly important skill and one that we encourage children to do every day. We would like them to focus on the skill of reading and heighten the enjoyment for children with parental help. It is very important that all children, whatever their age or ability, read regularly to an adult

“Championing every child to be the best that they can be”

Responsibility **E**xcellence **S**pirituality **P**erseverance **E**nergy **C**aring **T**olerance

whether it is at school or home. The children's comprehension skills will increase and most importantly so will their enjoyment.

Accelerated Reader has had a huge impact on reading as it can encourage the children to read frequently, widely and accurately. The teachers in Years 5 and 6 will talk with the children regularly about their reading habits and progress. This year all year groups will be developing a reading list, known as a reading passport, and, of course, Miss Gardner and others have their recommended reads for children to enjoy. We also have our wonderful library, which we'll be opening up this term – there have been some changes!

In home learning we would ask and appreciate your support with what we consider essential skills that benefit from repeated practise: spellings, reading and times tables. Our aim is for all children to have their new reading books, spelling lists and log ins to online resources, which will all be sent out by your children's class teacher by **Friday 17th September** at the latest.

Class Dojo

An invaluable resource and has certainly supported many over the last year or so in communicating with one another. All parents should be linked to their new class teacher. If not, please contact the office to resolve and ensure you're linked. Class Dojo is an essential parent / teacher resource for:

- Direct Messaging – checked daily by teacher and responded to within school hours.
- Class Story – receive class/year group updates and view examples of work and activities in school.
- Portfolios – we would like to ask all parents if they could ensure their child has a portfolio set up for them. This enables you to share work/creations from home. Although, we sincerely hope not to, should there be another school closure, this will be the main form of work submission and teacher monitoring.

Success and happiness are dependent on children, parents and school working together.

We hope that you enjoy your first term with us! Helping, caring and working together for a positive, successful and happy term.

Year 6 Team: Miss Gardner, Mr Noble, Mrs Briggs, Mrs Schulenburg
Year 5 Team: Mr Greenwood, Ms Law, Ms Ashburn, Miss Keady-McCallum



“Championing every child to be the best that they can be”

Responsibility **E**xcellence **S**pirituality **P**erseverance **E**nergy **C**aring **T**olerance



YEAR 6 AUTUMN CURRICULUM	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2
	How to train a Dragon	Superheroes
Real Life Experience		Viking Day
As a Reader and Writer... (See also year group reading passport)	The Explorer Katherine Rundell Floodlands Marcus Sedgwick Holes. Louis Sachar The Boy at the Back of the Class. Onjali Rauf	
	Inform Non-chronological Reports on Dragons Instructions – How to catch a dragon Cross Curricular Non-chronological Reports Mountains	Entertain Narrative/characterisation/ Dialogue/ advancing action Persuade Letters for/against zoos Inform Cross Curricular Biography – RE Explanation – Circulatory System
As a Mathematician ...	Place Value and Number Arithmetic Addition/ Subtraction/ Multiplication/Division	Arithmetic Fractions Position and Direction
As a Geographer ...	Mountains KQ: What is special about a mountain environment?	
As a Historian ...		The Vikings KQ: Did the Viking invasions have a lasting impact on British history?
As a Scientist ...	Evolution and Adaptation KQ: What is inheritance? What is evolution?	The Circulatory System KQ: What is the human circulatory system and how does it work?
As a Technologist...	Online Safety Privacy and Security Computing Excel	Online Safety Self-image and identity Computing Excel
As a Musician ...	Singing - Rounds	
As an Artist ...	Dragon art and eyes Clay, pencil and paint Artist - Gaudi	

“Championing every child to be the best that they can be”

Responsibility Excellence Spirituality Perseverance Energy Caring Tolerance

As a Designer ...		Nutrition Food Technology KQ: Are 'healthy' ready meals and drinks really healthy? KQ: Can you design a balanced rice/pasta dish for a new restaurant?
As a Linguist ... (French)	My School / My subjects	Time in the City
As a global citizen... RE (See PSHE cycles also)	2b.2 Creation Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?	2b.3 People of God How can following God bring freedom and justice? Anne Frank, Martin Luther King
As an athlete ...	Tag Rugby	Football
	Dance	PB Fitness
YEAR 5 AUTUMN CURRICULUM	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2
	<u>Out of This World</u>	<u>This Morning I Met a Whale</u>
Real Life Experience	Alien landing Astronomy Roadshow Safety Zone Swimming	Ely River boat trip Careers fair Swimming
As a Reader and Writer... (See also year group reading passport)	The Firework Maker's Daughter	Journey to the River Sea
	<u>Entertain</u> Diaries – space station, Felix B <u>Inform</u> Non-chronological report – Planets	<u>Entertain</u> Narrative – character, setting, speech <u>Discuss</u> Balanced argument – orcas in captivity
As a Mathematician...	Place Value and Number Addition/Subtraction Statistics	Statistics Multiplication/Division Area/Perimeter
As a Geographer ...	Latitude and longitude Time zones KQ: How is our world divided up and why?	Rivers KQ: Where do rivers come from?
As a Historian ...		
As a Scientist ...	Solar System KQ : What is the solar system? KQ : Why do we have day and night and seasons?	Life cycles KQ : What is reproduction? How do animals and plants reproduce?
As a Technologist...	Online Safety Privacy and Security Computing Excel <i>Inc. mouse skills/creating folders and saving documents</i>	Online Safety Self-image and identity Computing PowerPoint <i>Inc. transition/animation</i>
As a Musician ...	Repeating patterns	
As an Artist ...	Oil Pastel Rocket Scenes Artists: Peter Thorpe	Pencil sketching and watercolour and salts still life fish. Artists: Susan Schwake

“Championing every child to be the best that they can be”

Responsibility **E**xcellence **S**pirituality **P**erseverance **E**nergy **C**aring **T**olerance

As a Designer ...		
As a Linguist ... (French)	il y a, places in town	Asking where, Christmas
As a global citizen... RE (See PSHE cycles also)	2b.1 God KQ: What does it mean if God is holy and loving?	2b.4 Incarnation KQ: Was Jesus the Messiah?
As an athlete...	Tag Rugby	Football
	PB Fitness	Dance

“Championing every child to be the best that they can be”

Responsibility **E**xcellence **S**pirituality **P**erseverance **E**nergy **C**aring **T**olerance