



## Ely St Mary's Newsletter

## December 2021/ January 2022

Dear parents, carers and pupils,

What a busy autumn term! Despite current restrictions, staff have worked hard to offer pupils a fantastic range of learning experiences. Year 3s have been busy setting up science investigations, Year 4s have produced some amazing collages and screen printing, Year 5s have been learning about rivers and their local environment. Year 6 have been learning all about nutrition, using the new STEM hub to analyse PE performance data and our café to make their own healthy pasta dishes. I have also had the pleasure of screen printing with Y4 in our art studio and visiting Y3 in the STEM Room this term as they enjoy some new resources and facilities to enrich our curriculum and mark our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As always, we have also been busy performing and making music! It was a real pleasure to watch the Year 3s perform their nativity in front of a Year 4 audience. They have gained so much confidence since joining us in September. Children from all year groups have also worked hard to produce musical performances to bring Christmas cheer to Ely St Mary's.

This term, we celebrated anti-bullying week and all classes were set challenges around the theme of 'One Kind Word'. The student council did a brilliant job coordinating events and the children participated in a celebration assembly to share their successes.

We have been fortunate to secure funding for some building projects which took place this term. You may have noticed the grounds work which has been completed on the top playground, creating a beautiful woodland play space, and the improvements which have been made to surfaces of some of our outdoor play areas.

### Thank You!

#### FOSMs

We would like to say a huge thank you to FOSMs for organising a number of fund-raising events this term. The children thoroughly enjoyed creating their own Christmas cards and had fun sharing a Christmas movie. The money raised from these events will go towards resourcing our library and providing new bookcases for classrooms as well as outdoor seating in the summer. FoSM's have also kindly funded our new smart screen in the theatre enriching experiences and lessons in PE and assemblies to name a few.

#### Year 2 Parent Event

Thanks to everyone who supported our Year 2 'Coffee in the Courtyard' evening. It was lovely to meet so many families of prospective Year 2 pupils. A special thanks goes to our amazing student ambassadors who were on hand to answer questions and give guided tours.

#### Welcome!

We would like to give a warm welcome to Phil Marsh, our team vicar. It was great meet him at our 'Carols in the Courtyard' concert, and we look forward to working with him over the coming year. Autumn saw us say goodbye to Mrs Elliot in the kitchen and now Mrs Starling along with Mrs Gudgeon, Mrs Holden & Miss Collen will be working hard to provide school meals – huge thanks to them for our wonderful Christmas Dinner this week. We also welcomed Mrs Hook to our Office Team.

Finally, thank you to all parents and carers for all the support you have provided this term. We hope that you have a well-earned break over Christmas and enjoy the festivities if you are celebrating. Please take a moment to read the key dates for Spring 1 in the right-hand column and some key reminders and information for the new term ahead.

With very best wishes,  
Miss Clarke & the Staff of Ely St Mary's

*"Championing every child to be the best that they can be"*

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



### Key Dates & Days

The first day of term is  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>  
January.**

The last day of the  
Spring half term is  
**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February.**

#### Spring Parent Consultations

Please pencil in **7<sup>th</sup> &  
8<sup>th</sup> March.**

#### **January (date TBC)**

Y5 West Stow Trip

#### **2022...Ely St Mary turns 50!**

Keep your eyes open  
for some exciting  
events to mark our 50<sup>th</sup>  
birthday.



### A few reminders...

**Nativity** - Parents and carers of Y3 will receive a video link to the children's performance of Hosanna Rock this term. Please enjoy with the family, but we kindly ask for the video not to be shared on social media.

**Uniform** - Thank you for your continued support in following our uniform policy including pupils wearing school jumpers/cardigans and black shoes rather than coloured trainers (except on PE days). If you need further information about the uniform at St Mary's please visit our website below. [https://www.elystmarys.org.uk/web/school\\_uniform/392981](https://www.elystmarys.org.uk/web/school_uniform/392981)

**Healthy Snacks** - We encourage children to bring a healthy snack in for break time. This should be either fruit or vegetables or crackers, for example. As well as supporting the children in making healthy snack choices, we are also keen to reduce the presence of litter on the playground. Thank you.

**Spring Lunchtime Menu** - Please follow this [link](#) to the menu for the spring term, including some new additions to try following our recent survey.

**Clubs** - Please keep an eye on emails in the first week of term for information regarding clubs and how to book.

**Parent Consultations** - Please pencil in Parent Consultations on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Further details about booking will be sent nearer the time. Thank you everyone who was able to attend our autumn consultations and took part in our recent parent survey. We really appreciate your support and feedback.

**Reading Books, TT Rock Stars & Spelling Shed** - We were delighted to welcome children back to the library this term. The building work which was completed over the summer provides a fantastic workspace. Children are encouraged to read daily and use Accelerated Reader to test their understanding of the books they have read. Spellings continue to be set weekly on Spelling Shed on a weekly basis, which allows the children to practise and apply their spelling rules. It has been great to see pupils so engaged with TT Rockstars this term. Teachers will be setting more TT battles over the holidays and will announce the results in the new year.

In the process of replenishing our library stock, we have a number of pre-loved books which we be available, free of charge, for pupils to take and keep. Look out for a table on top play at the end of the week.

**Safeguarding** - If you have a safeguarding concern over the holidays:

- If you believe a child is in immediate danger, then please contact the police on 999.
- If you have a concern about a child you can complete the referral form found [here](#).
- If you have a general question, then please email [worried@esm.school](mailto:worried@esm.school). This email will be monitored over the holidays intermittently.

### **Attendance, including Covid 19.**

In response to the government announcement on 28 November 2021, Cambridgeshire County Council have issued some updated attendance advice to us which we would like to share with you:

- Pupils who are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 DO NOT need to self-isolate. They can instead get a PCR test and should only self-isolate if they test positive or if they develop symptoms. **In addition, pupils of close contacts will receive a letter detailing the new national guidance where close contacts are advised to take part in daily LFD testing for 7 full days since the last contact with a confirmed case.**
- Should you wish to keep your child off school until a PCR result comes back, this absence would be authorised (for a limited time) in the current circumstances. Whilst awaiting results, it would be great if you could encourage your child to engage in reading, TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed. If a child receives a negative result, they should return to school immediately.
- If there is a rise in cases in a year group / class, we may (in line with other schools in the area) ask parents whose children present with a runny nose, tummy upset, sore throat etc. to book a PCR test as a precaution - a number of children who have tested positive for covid-19 have presented with these symptoms initially rather than a fever, continuous cough or loss of taste.

**International Travel** - **Please note that any family holiday / visiting relatives outside of term time is NOT authorised. Please follow government guidance regarding international travel. We suggest families check this guidance regularly as it is being updated frequently.**

As always, we remain grateful to all parents and carers for their cooperation in this matter. Please do not hesitate to call our Office Team if you have any queries regarding this.

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**Responsibility Excellence Spirituality Perseverance Energy Caring Tolerance**