



Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you all had an enjoyable half-term break. It was a fantastic first term of the school year, rounded off with a thoroughly enjoyable Movie Night! The children embraced the event, and everyone involved was so impressed with their participation, manners, and behaviour.

Year 4 and 5 have now completed their block of swimming, while Year 6 enjoyed their Bushcraft sessions—many have signed up for the Year 6 Residential in June 2026! This term, it's Year 3's turn to enjoy a trip to the Pantomime. There's so much more happening, so please take a look at the diary dates below and add them to your calendars.

Our wonderful FOSM team are also busy preparing more exciting whole-school events this term, including Bingo and our annual Christmas Fair. These occasions are always highlights of the school year, and we hope to see many of you there.

Below, you'll find some additional information about the second half of the autumn term. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wishing you all a happy and positive term ahead

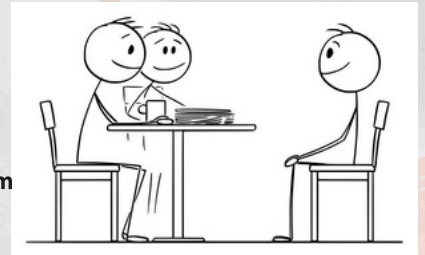
Miss R Gardner and the ESM School Community



PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Dates

Monday 10th November 4-6pm
Wednesday 12th November 3.40-6pm



- Our parent consultations are a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school.
- These meetings help us share insights, celebrate achievements, and work together to support each child's progress.
- By working in partnership, we can boost children's confidence, well-being, and love of learning.
- It's a great chance to talk about your child's start to the new school year, their learning, and how they're settling into their class.
- We encourage children to come along with you, so they can hear the same feedback and feel part of the team that supports them.
- We're really looking forward to seeing you next week and celebrating your children's successes together!

"Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be."



At ESM we are inspired by this quote

Every child thrives when they have a champion—someone who believes in them, stands by them, and encourages them to reach their fullest potential. It's a reminder that connection and unwavering support can transform lives and inspire greatness.



The RESPECT Card at ESM

At ESM, we use the RESPECT Card as a positive way to help children focus on their learning and celebrate success. The card encourages pupils to show respect for themselves, others, and their learning by demonstrating great focus, effort, and behaviour. Some children are given a card to help them stay on track, while others choose to have one as a sign of pride in their attitude and progress. A simple smiley face or note from a teacher can bring real joy and motivation! The RESPECT Card is all about positive reinforcement, high expectations, and recognising the effort our children put into being the best they can be.



BOOK FAIR



The Roving Bookshop is Coming to Ely St Mary's!

We're excited to share that The Roving Bookshop will be visiting the school on Wednesday 12th November for the day! Each class will have the chance to visit the bookshop during school time and browse a wonderful selection of books.

The bookshop will also remain open during Parent Consultations (3:30 – 5:30pm), giving families the opportunity to visit together after school. It's a fantastic way to celebrate our shared love of reading and encourage children to explore new authors and stories.

At the end of the week, every child will receive a pamphlet and have the chance to take part in a lucky dip draw. They'll also be given a money wallet to bring in on the day, ready to choose a favourite book or two.

Miss Gardner, Reading Lead, says:

"Events like the Roving Bookshop really bring books to life for our children. It's a wonderful opportunity for them to discover new stories, feel inspired to read more, and share that excitement with their families."

We look forward to seeing lots of our families popping in after school to join in the joy of reading!



PARENT SURVEY



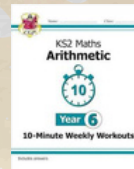
A huge thank you to all the families who took part in our recent parent survey. We are delighted that the overwhelming majority of parents rated their child's experience at Ely St Mary's very positively. Most respondents said they believe the school **"cares greatly"** about pupils' wellbeing, **provides a safe and nurturing environment**, and offers **excellent teaching and support**.

Parents particularly praised our **dedicated staff, strong communication, wide range of clubs, trips, and music opportunities, and the interesting and useful home learning activities that help extend learning beyond the classroom**. We also value the constructive feedback shared and will be looking to address these in the future as best we can.

Thank you once again for your thoughtful feedback and continued support – together we make Ely St Mary's a thriving, caring community.



Y5/6 HOME LEARNING



Supporting Home Learning in Y5/6 – Arithmetic Practice Books

In response to feedback from our recent parent survey, the school has now provided arithmetic practice books for all children in Years 5 and 6.

The books are titled:

- **KS2 Maths Arithmetic Year 5: 10-Minute Weekly Workouts**
- **KS2 Maths Arithmetic Year 6: 10-Minute Weekly Workouts**

These short, focused tasks are designed to help children build fluency and confidence in key number skills through regular, bite-sized practice. Just ten minutes a week helps children reinforce methods taught in class, improve accuracy and speed, and develop the automatic recall that supports success across all areas of maths.

This initiative aims to strengthen the link between home and school learning, giving families a clear, manageable way to support their child's ongoing mathematical progress and confidence.



Miss Gardner, ESM Maths Lead, says:

"These 10-minute workouts are a fantastic way for children to keep their maths skills sharp and to feel proud of their progress. A little regular practice makes a big difference – it helps build confidence and ensures children are ready to tackle new challenges in class."

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2025 POWER FOR GOOD



Anti-Bullying Week 2025 – Power for Good

We're pleased to join schools across the country in marking Anti-Bullying Week from Monday 10 to Friday 14 November 2025, with this year's theme "Power for Good".

This week gives us all a chance to reflect on how every one of us—pupils, parents, staff—can use our words and actions to create a kinder, safer school community.

Key messages:

- Wear odd socks on Monday to kick off the week and celebrate our uniqueness.
- Speak up & support: if you see someone being unkind or left out, ask yourself "How can I use my Power for Good?"
- At home and in school, we'll focus on what it means to belong, respect others, and build a community where bullying doesn't have space to grow.

Our PSHE lessons and assemblies will focus on Anti-Bullying, helping children to recognise different types of bullying and giving them the skills to speak up and take a stand against bullying. Thank you for your partnership in helping everyone feel safe, included and valued.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

- It's wonderful to see our children coming to school each day looking so smart in their uniforms.
- The pride they take in their appearance makes a positive difference to their attitude and behaviour.
- Wearing the ESM uniform helps children feel a strong sense of pride and belonging in our school community.
- Thank you for your continued support in upholding our school standards.
- As we move into the winter months, please ensure your child brings a named coat and wears suitable outdoor shoes each day - black please.

GAMES/PE UNIFORM



- We're delighted to see children arriving prepared and enthusiastic for their PE and Games lessons.
- Please ensure children wear their house-colour T-shirt, black jogging bottoms, sweatshirt, and trainers. This helps build team spirit and keeps everyone ready for active learning.
- PE and Games are a vital part of the curriculum, promoting fitness, teamwork, and resilience.
- Children are expected to take part fully, just as they would in any other subject.
- If a child is unable to participate, please send a brief note to their class or PE teacher.
- It's been fantastic to see everyone enjoying the mini house tournaments, which bring fun, friendly competition and strengthen our school community.
- Thank you for continuing to support your children's participation in these important activities!

CATERLINK



Caterlink will now be providing hot meals to our children. The menu is available on our [website](#). Please ensure your MCAS account is in credit before booking a meal. The price of a meal is £2.93. Please contact the Office Team if you need help applying for [Free School Meals](#).

SNACKS

Children are asked to bring a healthy snack only for morning breaktime, please. This should be either fruit, vegetables or crackers. No crisps please.

READING, SPELLING, TIMES TABLES HOME LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

WE ♥
MATH

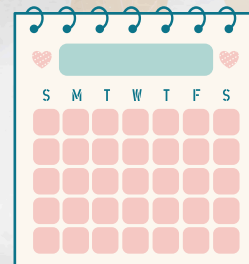


Reading - We've had such a positive start to the year, and it's clear how much of a difference regular reading makes across all subjects. At school, we really value reading — it builds confidence, vocabulary, and imagination. Please support us by encouraging your child to read at home for around **20 minutes each day** — whether it's sharing a story or enjoying a quiet read before bed. With the National Year of Reading 2026 on the way, now's the perfect time to build strong reading habits that will last a lifetime!

Spelling - We've had a great start to the year, and it's wonderful to see children taking pride in their spelling and writing. Across the school, we're focusing on building confident, accurate spellers through regular practice and the use of Spelling Shed at home. Just a few minutes of practice each day really helps children spot patterns, remember tricky words, and use them in their writing. Thank you for supporting your child with their spellings — we can already see the progress they're making!

Times Tables - Across Years 3–6, we're putting a strong focus on times tables this term. Quick recall of multiplication facts really helps children feel confident and capable in all areas of maths — from fractions to problem-solving. A few minutes of daily practice on Maths Shed, Mathsframe, or Topmarks can make a big difference and help keep those facts fresh. Thank you for supporting your child's learning at home — it's fantastic to see their confidence growing week by week!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - AUTUMN 2



- 10th November - Whole School Flu Immunisations (consent required)
- 10th November - 14th November - Anti-bullying Week
- 10th and 12th November - Parents' Consultation Meetings - Book via MCAS App
- 12th November The Roving Bookshop - after school 3.30- 5pm
- 13th November - FoSM's AGM - 5pm
- 14th November at 6pm - Bingo Night
- 14th November Children in Need - Why not wear something yellow or Pudsey themed or maybe even spotty for a £1 donation...we will also be collecting spare change to create a giant 25 in the theatre!
- 21st November - Non-Uniform Day (in exchange for a donation for our Christmas Fayre)
- 28th November at 3.30pm - Christmas Fayre
- 1st December - DEMAT Carol Service - Ely Cathedral
- 4th December - Flu Immunisation catch up session (consent required)
- 9th December - ESM Christmas Music Concert
- 15th December - Year 3 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
- 16th December at 5.30pm - Year 3 Nativity Performance at St Mary's Church
- 17th December - United Voices to sing at Roslyn Court, Ely.
- 19th December - Last Day of Autumn Term
- 6th January - First Day of Spring Term

Trips and Visits:

- Year 6 - Animal Encounters - 7th November
- Year 3 - Pantomime (Jack and the Bean Stalk) - 18th December
- Year 6 - Wednesday 5th / 19th November - Digital Well-being Workshop (MHT)

AUTUMN 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
As a Reader and Writer...	Narrative: Lost and Found - Oliver Jeffers	Narrative: The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tullane.	Narrative Writing: Beowulf Formal Speech Writing	Discursive Writing - Should Zoos Exist? Narrative Writing
As a Mathematician.	Addition and Subtraction Multiplication and Division Arithmetic Times Tables	Measurement - Area Multiplication and Division Arithmetic Times Tables	Multiplication and Division Fractions Arithmetic Times Tables	Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division of Fractions Measurement - Converting units Arithmetic Times Tables
As a Geographer and/or Historian ...	Kings and Queens Which monarch had the most effect on our country? Alaska Why is the polar bear in peril?	Ancient Maya Would you like to have lived as an ancient Mayan?	Anglo Saxons & Vikings Was life for children harder in Anglo-Saxon times than it is now? Did the Viking invasions have a lasting impact on British history?	Mountains Are all mountains the same? (inc a comparative study of mountain ranges in Europe)
As a Scientist...	Life Cycles: How do cycle patterns affect nature and living things including humans?	Classification: How are animals grouped and why?	Properties and Changes of Materials KQ : How can different materials be combined and separated?	Living things and their habitats KQ: What features do scientists use to classify living organisms?
As an artist and/or designer...	Can I design, make and evaluate a design for a pizza box, including designing and making the pizza?	How is pattern and collage used to create a composition of a rainforest?	Can I produce pen drawings and illustrations?	Can I explain how mechanical systems such as gears create movement?
As a Technologist...	Scratch Programming	Digital Art	Powerpoint	Computing Hue Animation
As a Musician...	Exploring & developing playing skills 'Glockenspiel Stage 1'	Exploring & developing playing skills 'Glockenspiel Stage 2'	Charanga	Charanga
As a Linguist... French	The calendar and celebrations	My local area - my classroom and my town	Time in the city	Homes and Houses
As an Athlete...	Football Gymnastics	Football Gymnastics	Football Yoga	Football Yoga
As a Global Citizen (RE & PSHE)	World Views Hinduism What is my duty and how do I know?	World Views Hinduism What is my duty and how do I know?	World Views Hinduism What is my duty and how do I know?	World Views Hinduism What is my duty and how do I know?

Build their future - buy your child a book

**The essential building blocks
for your child's future**

**Books
at
home**
**Reading
for
pleasure**
**Better
all-round
schoolwork**

**Build their future -
buy your child a book**

The Roving Bookshop

You are invited to visit:
The Roving Bookshop

Coming to your school on:

WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2025

11 AM ~ 5 PM

+ don't worry if your child is not old enough to fill in this section
see posters or school notices for full details

education:
**Foundation of SATs
Success is Getting
Children to Read
Daily with Parents**

Dean's Primary School in Swinton,
Lancashire, tops this year's
National SATs Tables. Head
teacher, Frances Hartley, said
"School was no 'SATs factory'
of its success
of each
parent's
contribution."

"You could choose a hundred
books blindfolded and be
happy with all of them!"
Teacher in
Huddersfield

"You have a better selection of books
than in the city centre
or our local retail park!"
parent

"You're
never too
old for a
bedtime
story"

**Purchases from the Roving Bookshop
benefit your school**

**PRIZE DRAW TICKET
WIN £7.50 IN BOOKS**

Write your name and class in the box

Get a parent to sign the ticket

Only valid when signed by a parent

Cut the ticket out and put it in the box
in the Roving Bookshop without delay

**Invest in your child's future -
build a collection of books
to enjoy at home***

I enclose
(cash)

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for my child

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specials half price around £3.50.

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see leaflet, if available, for details.

Your school can benefit from your purchase.

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...reading a loved book with your child**

* Research shows books in the home are the
most important factor in school success.

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