



ELY ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 1, 2026

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a wonderful sunny start to the Summer term, and children have come in refreshed and ready to go following our Easter holidays. This half term tends to get very busy, and our thoughts are particularly with Year 6 who are reaching the end of their Key Stage and have their SATs week coming up. Thank you to the parents and carers who are helping them by bringing them to school every day, signing them up for SATs support in school, and supporting them at home.

On a similar academic note, Year 4 will be sitting a Multiplication Table Check in June. Last year, our average score was 23 out of 25 for their times tables - this includes all facts to 12x12 and includes division facts, all in under 6 seconds. Our current Year 4 have made good progress, but a lot of space still to grow. Times tables are really fundamental to their maths progress and attainment in future years, so please encourage this with discussion, practise at home and use of the "Times Tables Rockstars".

Lunchtime play begins to look different, with children spending more time playing on the school field now. We are also benefiting from the weather by inviting in "Inside Out Bushcraft" to work with our Year 3 children on alternate weeks and to run an after school club.

You may have seen a letter from Adrian Ball, our CEO, detailing a name change for the trust and an opportunity to work with our children and staff to update our school branding and logo. Any thoughtful contributions to this would be appreciated, equally if there is strong desire to keep our current logo we will stick with that.

We began the term thinking about "hidden talents" and whether a "great" person needs to have a big voice. It's always our aim for children to find themselves and what they love at school, reflecting again on the key messages we heard from our visiting artist Samuel Thomas way back in January - find what you love, practise it, and remember that good things take time.

Kind regards,

Oliver Graves



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SUMMER

Monday 13th April - First day of Summer 1

Thursday 16th April - Bushcraft Year 3 begins (alternating classes)

Monday 4th May - Bank holiday

Thursday 7th May - Year 3 Bikeability

Monday 11th May - Thursday 15th May - Year 6 SATs

Wednesday 20th May - Cricket (selected Year 5 and 6 pupils)

Wednesday 20th May - Treat Day after school

Thursday 21st May - Year 3 at The Maltings

Thursday 21st May - Open evening for parents and carers of incoming Year 3's

Friday 22nd May - FOSM's Home clothes day

Friday 22nd May - Last day of Summer 1

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May - Half Term

Monday 1st June - First Day of Summer 2

Wednesday 3rd June - Sports morning - Parents invited

Thursday 4th June - Sports morning 2 - House races

Friday 5th June - Class and Year 6 photographs

Monday 8th June - Giraffes at Ely Wild Space (TBC)

Tuesday 9th June - Zebras at Ely Wild Space (TBC)

Wednesday 10th June - Year 6 trip to Kettle's Yard

Saturday 13th June - Ely St Mary's Summer Fayre

Saturday 20th June - United Voices @ Ely Arts Festival (St Mary's Church)

Week beginning 22nd June - Year 6 residential week

Thursday 9th July - Move-up Day for all year groups

Friday 10th July - School reports to parents and carers

Friday 17th July - Last Day of Summer Term



UNIFORM AND FOOTWEAR

Uniform has looked much smarter over the past term following our reminder in the last newsletter. However some parents and carers are sending their children into school on PE days in home clothes, not plain house coloured T-Shirts.

More information, including summer uniform and footwear, can be found on our website here:
<https://elystmarys.demat.org.uk/uniform>

Why uniform matters:

A smart, consistent uniform promotes equality, safety and a sense of belonging, helping pupils feel ready to learn.

Thank you for your continued support.

Currently there is a 10% off orders until 4th May 2026 on the School Trends website using the code MARYS10



SCHOOL GATES AND CAR PARK

In the coming week we will begin to shut the school gates at 8.30am. This is following a safeguarding and health and safety audit where children walking in the school car park was identified as a hazard.

Children currently being dropped off at the office due to individual arrangement, taxi service, or late attendance to school, will be asked to walk down the footpath to the side of the car park to ensure their safety.



SMARTWATCHES

While we embrace innovation, we ask that smartwatches remain at home. From a safeguarding perspective, devices with integrated cameras or messaging capabilities create unnecessary risks. Additionally, to ensure the integrity of our learning, watch-based calculators are not permitted during curriculum time; we want to ensure children are building their core mathematical skills through the tools provided in class.

Top Tip: If your child wears a watch for timekeeping, a traditional analogue or digital watch is a fantastic way to help them master the "five pasts" and "quarter to" without the digital distractions!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The evidence is really clear, children who attend school achieve well. Research indicates that missing just 10 days of school in an academic year (which drops attendance to roughly 94.7%) is associated with a 25% reduction in the likelihood of a child reaching the expected standard at the end of primary school.

The Office and Pastoral Team work hard to support all children in school and always strive to liaise closely with parents following an illness or accident outside school. To assist them with this, please do contact the school as soon as possible so that the team can discuss how to support your child back into school.

We are very proud of our attendance figures and have very high expectations.

SPRING 1	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
As a Reader and Writer...	Instructions - mummification Entertain - Stig of the Dump	Descriptive writing based on The Mousehole Cat Explanation text: How the water cycle works	Diary entry about Felix Baumgartner Non Chronological reports about Space	FASE Reading focusing on extracts of books Reading for Pleasure Romeo and Juliet - Synopsis Alma Narrative - Description / Suspense
As a Mathematician..	Measure Money Telling the time	Decimals Money Telling the time	Angles and measurements and telling the time	Geometry Position and Direction Statistics Number Algebra
As a Geographer and/or Historian ...	Settlements KQ: Where do we live? Ancient Egypt: KQ: Why did Pharaohs have pyramids built? What can pyramids tell us about Ancient Egypt?	Coasts KQ: Why is our land disappearing?	Africa KQ - What makes Africa diverse? Industrial Revolution KQ - How did the Industrial Revolution change Britain?	Australia Can I understand the physical and human geography of Australia? Suffragettes KQ: Who were the suffragettes and why were they important?
As a Scientist...	Rocks and Soils How does the formation of rocks affect their properties?	States of Matter How does water change state through the water cycle?	Space KQ : What is our place in the universe?	Evolution and Adaptation KQ: What is evolution and how does it cause a change within a species?
As an artist and/or designer...	Can I create art in the style of the Ancient Egyptians? Balloon Cars	Sea-scape printing in the style of Rob Barnes	Peter Thorpe - Space Art	Self Portraits/ Portraits Artists: Amedeo Modigliani (Expressionism); Picasso (Cubism) ; Andy Warhol (Pop Art) - digital, Mike Barrett (Layered Portraits)
As a Technologist...	Online Safety Branching Databases	Online safety iLearn2Data	Online safety Beepbox	Online Safety Online Bullying Computing Digital Art
As a Musician...	Analysing and Performing Disco - Bringing Us Together	Analysing and Performing The Beatles - 'Blackbird'	Analysing and Performing 'Dancing in the street' Ukeleles	Charanga Music and Me Steel Pans
As a Linguist... French	Fruit and vegetables	Feeling unwell and jungle animals	Out of this world	Talking about sports, the verb jouter
As an Athlete...	Athletics Dodgeball Cricket	Athletics Cricket Dodgeball	Athletics Cricket Golf	Athletics Cricket OAA
As a Global Citizen (RE & PSHE)	God as Trinity Personal Safety	God as Trinity Personal Safety	God as Trinity Personal Safety	God as Trinity Personal Safety