



Welcome to Year One

2024-25

Dear Parents

We warmly welcome your child to Year One. This information booklet should provide everything you need to know as your child starts their year with us.

Staff

The class teachers in Year One are Mrs Carter, Mr Killick and Mrs Thompson.

Mrs Carter teaches Monday-Thursday morning; Mrs Thompson teaches Thursday afternoon and Friday.

Mr Killick teaches Monday-Friday. Mrs Thompson covers his weekly planning time. The assistant teachers working across Year One are Mrs Dunckley, Ms Godfrey, Dr Hartland and Mrs Webb.



Mrs Carter



Mr Killick



Mrs Thompson



Mrs Dunckley



Ms Godfrey



Dr Hartland



Mrs Webb

Key Stage 1

The children start the Key Stage 1 curriculum in Year One. This marks a shift from the Early Years Foundation Stage to more subject-specific learning. Key Stage 1 covers the following compulsory national curriculum subjects: art, computing, design and technology, English, geography, history, maths, music, PE, PSHE and science. Some subjects are taught weekly for a half-term, whilst others are taught weekly throughout the year.

At the start of each term, you will be emailed an overview of what is being taught in each subject. We will also keep you updated with other information via a newsletter.

Continuous Provision

How the Year One curriculum is taught varies from school to school. Many go straight to formal learning because Year One is the start of the Key Stage 1 curriculum. In Year One here at Ely St John's, we believe in fostering a love of learning through continuous provision.

Continuous provision is a term used to describe different areas in the classroom and the resources available for your child to use every day. For example, our Year One classrooms have spaces for art, role play, maths, reading and construction. We carefully consider how our classrooms can enable pupils to learn skills, challenge their thinking and help embed concepts. In doing so, we aim for pupils to develop their independence, collaboration, self-confidence and curiosity. Most sessions start with a whole-class input followed by small, teacher-led group activities. The children are either involved in a teacher-led group, or are in the classroom or courtyard accessing the continuous provision.

Tapestry

We continue to use Tapestry to build a record of your child's experiences and learning in school. As the year progresses, we post fewer individual observations as your child will start to record their learning in subject-specific books.

If there is anything you would like to share with us via Tapestry, we will 'like' the post to acknowledge we've seen it. We encourage you to 'like' and comment on any posts made – thank you.

The School Day

The Year One school day begins at 8.45 AM and ends at 3 PM.

- Children enter via their cloakroom door, which is **open 8.35-8.45 AM**. If you arrive later, your child should enter via the school office.
 - Year One pupils have a morning break of around 15 minutes on the Key Stage 1 playground. This break time is alongside Year Two pupils.
 - Pupils have one hour for lunch. They eat with their year group in the hall and share a playground with Year Two pupils.
 - Year One pupils have an afternoon break of around 15 minutes on the playground with the wooden climbing frame.
 - Children are collected at 3 PM from their cloakroom door.
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Phonics

As you may know, phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. For example, the sound 'k' can be written as c, k, ck or ch. We teach children to decode unfamiliar words by sounding out and blending together.

Year One pupils are required to take part in a national Phonics Screening Check which takes place in June. It assesses them on how well they can decode a series of 40 words – some are real and some are pseudo-words.

We teach Phonics every day and build on what was taught in Foundation Stage. In Year One, the children will learn new grammatical features and 40+ new sounds.

We send home an activity for the children to complete each week, linked to the sound they have learnt that week.

Reading

The children will bring home a reading book each week that matches their phonics knowledge. They will also bring sets of common exception words home to learn that we monitor in school. We encourage as much reading practise as possible!

We rely on parent volunteers to help the children build their reading fluency. We welcome parents who would like to regularly listen to pupils read each week (between 2-3 PM) to express their interest to their child's teacher. You will need to complete a free DBS check via the school office.

PE

In Year One, pupils have two weekly PE sessions: one in the hall, the other outside on the playground or field. The days your child will have PE are listed below.

Mrs Carter and Mrs Thompson's class: **indoor on Wednesday; outdoor on Thursday.**

Mr Killick's class: **indoor on Tuesday; outdoor on Friday.**

For indoor PE, we ask for the children to come to school wearing trainers and school PE clothes: a yellow T-shirt and green shorts. The clothing for outdoor PE is the same when the weather is warm. In colder months, please send your child to school wearing clothes that should keep them warm during outdoor sessions.

There will be no PE sessions on 4th, 5th or 6th September.

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CLIC

CLIC is our whole-school maths approach that prioritises basic math skills to provide the foundations for wider maths. Year One pupils have daily CLIC sessions that usually last for 20-minutes, with roughly 5-minutes spent on each area:

Counting

Learn Its (simple sums that the children learn to recall instantly)

It's Nothing New (applying previous learning to solve something else)

Calculation

We aim for the children to be able to recall their 'Learn Its' lightning-fast! We will notify you of the ones being taught each term. Please help your child practise these facts outside of school to help reinforce and embed this learning.

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Home Time

Please bear with us in September as we get used to recognising your faces! We will dismiss the children one by one, but until we start to recognise who is collecting who, it can take a bit of time.

We cannot let pupils go home with anyone who is not on their 'agreed to collect' list. If your child is to be collected by someone different, please ensure your child's class teacher is made aware of this directly and confirm this via email to

office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

Settling In

After a long summer, the start of the year can be full of big feelings. Until now, your child has only known one class, one classroom, and their previous teacher since starting school. It can take time for children to adjust to the change of year groups, so please do not worry if it does.

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Contact

The mornings can be a busy start to the day. If you have a query that may take longer than a minute or two to discuss, we kindly ask you to arrange a time when your child's teacher can contact you. Alternatively, you can email your child's teacher via office@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

The first parent consultation will be held within a few weeks of starting Year One. This allows us to talk about how your child is settling in and helps us get to know them better by hearing about them from you.

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We hope this information has been useful. We look forward to welcoming your child to Year One and getting to know them throughout the year. Please let us know if we can help to clarify anything – we are very happy to help.

