

EYFS St John Class Information Autumn Term 2023

Welcome to Elton! I have tried to pre-empt any questions you may have in the information outlined below, but as always, if there is anything I've missed, or if you would like to talk to me about something specific, you catch us in the morning or after school, alternatively email me lbeasley@elton.cambs.sch.uk or phone the office to make an appointment.

- The Big Question – The question that we will be considering this term is “Where is the past in the present?”. We will explore the concept of change. We will think about how we have changed since we were born and how our lives differ from our parents and grandparent's lives. Books that we will be using to support our thinking are What makes me a me? By Ben Faulks and David Tazzyman, What did the Tree see? by Charlotte Guillain and Sam Usher and We Are All Wonders by R. J. Palacio.
- We will be developing skills across many areas of the curriculum through this topic, but our main areas of focus this term will be the prime areas of the early years curriculum, i.e. physical development, communication and language and personal, social and emotional development.
- To help our historical learning please could you supply (hard copy or email) photos of your child as a baby, and if possible, photos of you as an adult and child, photos of grandparents and grandparents as a child. Before you decide to send us anything in you need to know that we will be displaying them in the classroom and you won't get them back.
- I wonder if you would also be kind enough to see if any Grandparents would like to come in and share photos and talk to us about what events were like for them when they were younger. We would particularly like to hear about toys and games that they played, what school was like and how Christmas was celebrated. If there are any willing volunteers then please could the email me or phone the school and we can arrange for them to visit.
- Phonics Homework - When we start learning our sounds (phase 2 phonics) we will begin by learning individual letter sounds (phonemes). We would like you to practise these sounds each week, ideally for 5 minutes each day. We will send phonics homework to you via TEAMS. You will receive a log in for your child's TEAMS account over the next few weeks.
- Reading – We will ‘send’ home one electronic book per week for your child to read. They will have previously read this book at school and therefore will be familiar with the text. We ask that you practice reading this book with them focusing on encouraging them to read fluently – by this we mean reading the words without sounding out each individual sound prior to saying the word. Before children are ready to read books with words, we will send out books that have no words in them. This encourages children to tell stories.
- I have attached the Early Learning Goals for your information. These are the criteria that your children will be assessed against at the end of this year. It will allow you to see what we are working towards throughout the year. Please be aware that the Early Years Framework was amended in 2021 year and therefore for those of you with older siblings you will note some changes.
- Can I be cheeky and ask you to help keep our junk modelling and natural material stocks up. For example, we would love to receive boxes especially cereal boxes, tubes, egg boxes, drink lids, yoghurt pots, corks, feathers, conkers, acorns and pine cones etc. I would also be grateful if you could let us have any spare buttons that you have at home.
- Please ensure that your child has a water bottle with them every day. I would also be grateful if you could make sure all clothes and water bottles are named.
- Please be aware that the classroom door is left open for the majority of the school day, at times therefore the classroom can be ‘chilly’. You may therefore want to think carefully about layering up during the cold months. We also endeavour to go outside in all weathers therefore please ensure that your child has an appropriate coat for the time of year. We would also like your child to bring and keep a pair of wellies at school for use on the field when it is muddy.
- Spare clothes. Please supply a full named set of spare clothes including underwear and socks that we can keep for accidents / wet days.

- PE. We will have our first formal PE lesson on Thursday morning. They will come to school in PE kit on this day. Their first PE lesson will be on Thursday 21st September.
- Walks. We intend (weather permitting) to go on some village walks this term, we will be looking for signs of the changing seasons.

Many thanks for your support. I look forward to a busy and exciting term with your children! Please feel free to talk to me about how your child has settled any time after school when I see the class out at the end of the day.

The EYFS Team.