

## Newsletter 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Headteacher's comments

I cannot believe we are over half way through the academic year- where does the time go? The atmosphere around school is so lovely and the children have enjoyed the warmer weather outside this week. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Malster, our Forest school lead, as the forest school is looking amazing with rope bridges, den building, a mud kitchen and a reading throne!

Mrs Laura Fielding

### Emergency procedures

A reminder that in the next few weeks we will be practising our internal evacuation with the children. During this drill we use the scenario that there may be a scared dog on the playground and so we need to keep all the children in school. During this, we close the outdoor blinds and ensure all doors are locked. It may be useful for you to discuss this with your child to try and reduce any anxiety.

### Foodbank- non-uniform day 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Earlier this week I hosted a meeting with the Jessie from Ely Foodbank to start to build a strong partnership. It was really interesting to hear about the brilliant work the foodbank is doing- did you know that Citizens Advice are now present at every Ely session?

Please see the poster below for more information on how you can give help and get help. If you are able to give help Spring Meadow now has its own collection point based in the school office if you are able to donate. As a way of supporting the Foodbank further, on the last day of term, **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, we will be hosting a non-uniform day**, where we will be asking for donations for the foodbank.

In the future, we will be holding drawing competitions and the Foodbank will be coming into school to deliver assemblies to raise awareness of how the Foodbank can help families in need.

Please remember, most families need support at some point or another. If you need any support or are struggling, please do come and speak to the school office who can signpost you to get the relevant support. As a school we are able to issue foodbank vouchers.

### Parents Evening

Please ensure you have signed up for parents evening next week via Arbor. If you are struggling to book via Arbor, please contact the school office who will be able to help.

### School Disco

After the success of the last school disco, we are hosting a Spring Disco on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 1515-1600 which includes entrance, a snack and a drink. Please sign your child up via Arbor. The school disco is open to all children but we are asking that children in Nursery and the Unit are supervised by a parent just in case it is too loud and causes them to be dysregulated.

### Sponsored Pancake flip

A huge well done to all of the children who were fantastic flippers! It hasn't been the easiest to set up the donations on Arbor but the office have now found a way through the school shop. We are asking that all sponsorship money be donated, either by cash in a sealed envelope or by Arbor by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please pass on our thanks for all the support from families and friends as well as the parent volunteers who counted all the flips!

### World Book Day

A reminder that World Book Day is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. We are encouraging all children to come dressed as book characters.

### **Learn with Parents – Computing**

A reminder that we are holding another Learn with Parents session at the end of the half term focussed on computing. You will get to experience what the children learn in computing and there will be a short session just for parents after to speak and support parents with E-safety.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March- Unit and Early Years session 1400-1500 (Including nursery and Pre-school)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March- KS1 session 1400-1500.

### **Time out for Dads**

Ely St Mary's school are running a Dad's parenting course starting 17<sup>th</sup> March 0900- 1045 which will run for 5 weeks during school term time. This is a fantastic opportunity for Dads to brush up on parenting skills and learn some new strategies to support you and your children. If you are interested, please either contact Helen Atkinson directly or speak to Mrs Fielding or Miss Cross for more information. The flyer is below.

### **Pinpoint Cambridgeshire Annual Conference 2026- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Pinpoint is run by parents for parents of children with SEND and the conference is a great chance to source information, support and to meet other parents and carers of children with similar needs.

The Pinpoint Annual conference is a free, informative and supportive event bringing families and professionals together to share knowledge, insight and good practice. The conference is for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, alongside the professionals who support them. The conference will be held at The Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 0930-1415. It is free to attend and will feature expert speakers, practical information and opportunities to connect with others who understand the SEND journey. You do need to book your place in advance. Secure your spot and find more information here: <https://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk/pinpoint-events/pinpoint-annual-conference/>

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **Dates for the diary- Parent lunches!**

4<sup>th</sup> March- Poppy

11<sup>th</sup> March- Daisy

22<sup>nd</sup> April- Butterfly

29<sup>th</sup> April- Caterpillar

March 2026	
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Parents evening 1530-1700
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents evening 1530-1800
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Poppy parent lunch
5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
11 <sup>th</sup> March	SEND coffee drop in 1430
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Daisy parent lunch
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Learn with parents- computing- Unit and Early Years 1400
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Learn with parents- KS1 1400
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring school disco
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 1 dress rehearsal to the school
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 production to parents 1400
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 production to parents 1400
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Progress report home to parents
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Non-uniform day for foodbank donations
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of Spring term

## What have the children been learning?

### Nursery/Pre-school

This term in Nursery and Pre School our topic is 'Growing and Changing'. This week the children helped to weed the raised bed gardens one side has been sown with wild flower seeds and the other one will be planted with different vegetables. In Nursery classroom they have set some cress seeds and the children will check each day to see if they need more water and to see the changes as the seeds grow. In Pre School the children have been sowing grass seeds to make their own gardens and have talked about what is needed to make plants grow.

### Reception

It has been lovely to see the children back at school and excited to learn. Our new topic is Growing and Changing and the children have loved being outside looking for signs of Spring. Our new text, Superpotato, is causing a buzz of excitement and children worked out exactly who was to blame for different vegetables being bandaged and stuck to walls! We're sure that there will be lots of great writing from the children as we explore this book. The children have loved enhancing play dough by crushing up herbs and discussing the fragrances. They have also used the playdough to continue their learning about length in maths by making, comparing and discussing 'herby sausages'. Some were even longer than the table!

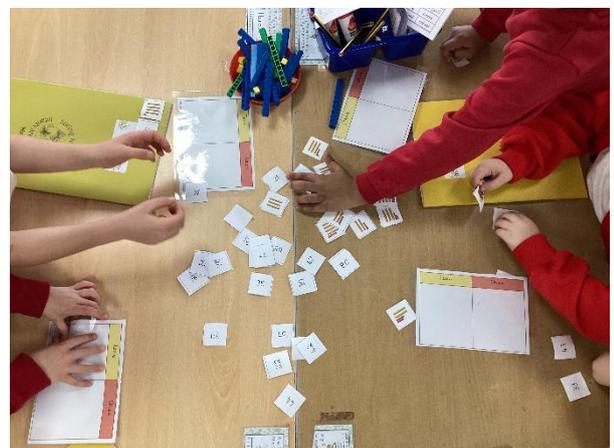


### Year One

We have had a busy and fun first week back in Year One. The children have settled in beautifully and have been excited to start their new learning.

In Maths, we began our topic on place value within 50, exploring tens and ones. In Writing, we started reading *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* and even had our own tea party. A tiger visited our classroom, ate Mrs Foy's biscuit and drank her squash.

In Art, we created our own pointillism pictures using small dots of colour. In Science, we began learning about ways we can take care of the Earth. In History we explored some Kings and Queens of the United Kingdom.



Kind

Resilient

Knowledgeable

Inclusive

Independent

Creative

## Year Two

We were so happy to welcome back the Year 2's after half term! They impressed us in Maths with how much they remembered about multiplication and division. In English, we wrote diary-style recounts of the half term holiday. In Science, we have started a new topic of 'Plants' for this half term. The children looked at pictures of different local plants and drew and labelled some of their own botanical sketches. In History we have started an exciting new topic of 'The Tudors' and the children compared the similarities and differences of present day to Tudor times.

## Clover, Iris and Lily

In the unit we have been really appreciating this fresh spring weather, enjoying exploring sand and water in our outdoor areas. In Lily class we have reading 'What's the Time Mr Wolf', making clocks and starting to learn to tell the time! In Iris class we read the sensory story 'Monkey Puzzle' and enjoyed folding painted butterflies to make symmetrical prints.

In Clover class we had the sensory story 'Runaway Pancake' and really enjoyed making our pancakes, which thankfully did not runaway!

## TIME OUT FOR PARENTS



### DADS

Workshops for fathers of children up to 16 years

**Dates**  
Tuesdays, 9am - 10.45am  
17th & 24th March  
14th, 21st and 28th April

**Venue**  
Ely St Mary's Junior School  
High Barns Ely CB7 4RB

Refreshments with biscuits and brownies included

For more information and booking  
Contact Nicki or Helen on  
01353 662163  
or email  
hatkinson@esm.school



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Ely Foodbank  
Together with Trussell

## Here to help our Community

Together, we can make a difference

### Get Help

Your local food bank session:  
Countess Free Church, Chapel Street, Ely, CB6 1AD  
Monday: 11:00 - 12:30  
Friday: 13:00 - 14:30



Scan to find out more

Each visit to the foodbank requires a voucher

### Give Help

Donate food at our local collection points

Most needed items:

- Tinned Meat & Fish
- Tinned Fruit & Veg
- Tinned Soup & Sauces
- Tinned Custard & Puddings
- Toiletries

Scan to donate



Just £10 could provide a 3 day emergency food parcel for a single person

[www.ely.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.ely.foodbank.org.uk)

[info@ely.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@ely.foodbank.org.uk)

Ely Foodbank is a registered charity number 1150746

Ely Foodbank  
Together with Trussell

## Spring Meadows Collection Point

Ending hunger together across East Cambs and Fenland

We need your help to provide emergency food and practical support for people left without enough money to live on.

Please donate an item or two from the list. Thank you!



### Shopping list

Tinned meat/fish  
Tinned veg/fruit  
Tinned soup  
Rice  
Milk (long-life)  
Biscuits  
Tinned custard  
Cooking sauces  
Coffee  
Toiletries/toilet roll

[www.ely.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.ely.foodbank.org.uk)  
[info@ely.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@ely.foodbank.org.uk)

Ely Foodbank is a Registered Charity in England & Wales (1150746)



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