ELTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
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"LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU"

FRIENDSHIP TRUST JUSTICE ENDURANCE COMPASSION KOINONIA

EYFS St John Class Information Autumn Term 2026

Welcome to Elton! It has been a delight to see all the children in their home environment, thank you for welcoming us into your homes. 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 me 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?" and we will explore the concept of peace. We will be spending time getting to know each other and 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, among others, are What makes me a me? By Ben Faulks and David Tazzyman, 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 some of 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, please could they 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, once children can recognise sounds and blend words, 'send' home one electronic book every two weeks 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. Please be aware that we will not be sending books out until children have enough knowledge to be able to read them successfully.

- Can I be cheeky and ask you to help keep our junk modelling stocks up. For example, we would love to receive boxes especially cereal boxes, tubes, egg boxes, corks and feathers. 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 a keep a pair of wellies at school for use on the field when it is muddy.

- Spare shoes. As a school, we like to go out in all weathers but we don't really like cleaning mud off the carpets so we would be grateful if you could send us a pair of wellies or outside shoes (without laces) that can be kept at school and you don't mind getting muddy.

- Spare clothes. Please supply a full named set of spare clothes including underwear and socks that we can keep for accidents / wet days. We do have a limited supply of spare clothes and if we send your child home in our spare stock we would appreciate receiving it back as soon as possible to ensure we do not run out of spares.

- PE. We will have our PE lesson on Thursday morning. Children should come to school in PE kit on this day.

Early reading information session.

We will be holding an early reading information session for parents at 3:35 on 17th September. We find it easier if children do not attend this session as they are tired after a day at school and don't want to hear any more about phonics. Callum has kindly agreed to allow any EYFS children, whose parents attend the early reading session, to attend afterschool club for free on this occasion. Please could you email me to let us know if you will attend the session and if your child will be accessing after school club.

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.