

ELSWORTH TIMES

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR ELSWORTH

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IMPORTANT NOTICES

Please send all contributions, notices and adverts to janetpendrill@gmail.com and please identify these items for the Elsworth Times.

The next issue of the Elsworth Times is June 2021 and the deadline for this issue is Wednesday 26th May

IMPORTANT DATES

Post Office services from the pavilion:

Tues & Thurs 12-2pm

Mobile Library – The Poacher

2nd Thurs of the month 2.35pm - 2.55pm

"Due to Covid restrictions they will allow limited access initially and operate with an on-line select and collect service just like static libraries, so books are kept clean and returns can be quarantined. If casual users turn up the operator will assist as much as possible as we know not all can go on-line."

BIN COLLECTION DATES

Bin Dates	Black Bin	Blue Bin	Green Bin
Sat 10 Apr 2021	✓		
Fri 16 Apr 2021		✓	✓
Thu 22 Apr 2021	✓		
Thu 29 Apr 2021		✓	✓
Fri 7 May 2021	✓		
Thu 13 May 2021		✓	✓
Thu 20 May 2021	✓		
Thu 27 May 2021		✓	✓
Fri 4 Jun 2021	✓		

Tissues and Kitchen Roll - Due to Covid 19 the advice has changed on tissues and kitchen roll used for cleaning, these should be put in your **BLACK bin at the moment please.**

CLERK'S COLUMN - Liz Sim Parish Clerk

Telephone: 01954 267664

e-mail: clerk@elsworthvillage.com



How lovely to finally see the spring coming and to feel a change in the air.

The news is full of looking back over the past twelve months since we first went into lockdown. I did sneak a look at the Clerk's Column that I wrote a year ago and it reflected very much the belief at the time that, despite the difficulties our community was



facing with self-isolation, schools closing, work patterns being totally changed, events being cancelled, shopping restrictions, the Covid 19 virus problem would be over reasonably quickly. The village was pulling together to deal with many problems and volunteers were mobilising. Now, a year on, we are very much not out of the woods but so many people have contributed to efforts to deal with needs in the village that we are generally managing. Help is still in place for any issues, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you feel it is required.

Call for Sites for the Local Plan

The majority of proposals put forward in the Call for Sites for development are in this area

of South Cambs. However, it appears that the District Council now has sufficient land for the proposed number of houses required in the next 5 years with the Bourn airfield and west Cambourne sites. Having said that there are other development issues related to the East West (Oxford to Cambridge) Rail link which may very well affect Elsworth.

East West Rail Link

While there may be sufficient housing supply for purposes of the Local Plan, the cost of constructing the railway is to be paid for by a massive house building programme in the Oxford to Cambridge Arc. There is also the question of the route to be taken by the East West rail link and the siting of the proposed rail station for Cambourne. Currently East West Rail favours a southerly route for the rail link which would take it toward Addenbrookes and the Biomedical campus, but many parishes south of the A428 that would be affected are vigorously opposing this route as is the South Cambs MP, Anthony Browne. Moreover, there are also pressure groups making the case for a northerly route for the rail link which would take it from Cambourne to Northstowe and then into Cambridge. Two consultations have taken place on the southerly route, but, as yet no consultation has been held on these proposals for a northern route. As regards Cambourne rail station, Cambourne Town Council supports this being located to the north of the A428. If that becomes the chosen location, it is inevitable that substantial housing and other associated development will follow; one likely consequence would be a flow of traffic coming through the village to access the station. The Parish Council is seeking to engage widely with interested parties,

including neighbouring communities, about these matters.

Elsworth School.

D. Cllr Wright has been appointed as Chair of the school Governors. A new head teacher, Mrs Elizabeth Bennett, has been appointed and will take up the position in September. Concern has been raised again about the problems of traffic at school drop off and pick up times.

The school is staggering its drop off times with a 10-minute gap but nevertheless there were severe traffic problems on Broad End and in Fardell's Lane as more parents were bringing children to school by car because of the pandemic. The Parish Council has agreed to participate in renewed discussions with the school and other official bodies.

Community Right to Bid - Assets of Community Value - Elsworth

The District Council has made the following decisions and will amend the asset register accordingly:

The Pavilion and Playing Field, Elsworth – The Council has approved the listing of The Pavilion and Playing Field as an Asset of Community Value until 18 March 2026

Elsworth Community Shop - The Council has approved the listing of Elsworth Community Shop as an Asset of Community Value until 18 March 2026

Samuel Franklin Fund

Mr Ian Maddison was renominated as one of the Parish Council's Trustees of the Samuel Franklin Fund.

Flooding

The Parish Council approached the County Council in late January following the flooding, requesting dialogue with the flood officers, and their help with the resurrection of and their participation in the Elsworth Community Flood Group in order to make progress

towards the alleviation of the drainage problems in the village. The Parish Council has requested that C. Cllr Smith ascertains where documentation passed to the County is kept and makes early arrangements for all parties involved to engage in discussions.

Play area

At the recent Parish Council meeting an oral update was given by the Chairman concerning funding, including the possibility of a substantial (anonymous) donation toward the cost of refurbishment and other matters relevant to the play area.

Street lights.

The Parish Council is finalising arrangements over electricity supply for the five lights that the Parish Council owns in the village. Two lights on the Drift recently malfunctioned. One, a PC light, has been repaired and the other (a District Council light) is scheduled for repair.

Street Signage.

The District Council has been contacted again regarding replacement of damaged street signs in Cotterell's Lane and Rogues Lane. A suggestion was made by a parishioner that additional helpful street name signs for various places in the village could be requested and Councillors agreed to request these.

Public Footpaths.

County Council Rights of Way Officers have been contacted with regard to two public rights of way from the village (public footpaths 2 and 9) and other paths on Pitt Dene land which are not recorded as rights of way. The Parish Council is engaging in dialogue with Pitt Dene Farm and the County Rights of Way Officer with regard to these matters. The County Council has also been requested to construct a new bridge over the new ditch that was dug behind the school to alleviate the flooding caused to the school premises.

Highways

The County Council is keen to establish riparian ownership of various verge areas in the village and in due course will write to relevant residents to advise on their legal obligations. Potholes on Brockley Road are scheduled for repair. The drains overflowing on The Drift are due to be jetted on the next programme schedule.

Planning

Applications dealt with

20/05352/LBC & 20/05351/HFUL Application for Listed Building Consent. 15 Cotterells Lane Elsworth CB23 4JR

Conversion and extension of outbuilding adjacent to 15 Cotterells Lane and removal of open framed structure in rear garden. PC recommendation Support + comments

Notice has been given that Louise Young of S&C Productions Ltd has on 08 February 2021 applied to South Cambridgeshire District Council as the Licensing Authority for a Premises Licence. TL3555760586 (OS map reference) known as Childerley Orchard Childerley, Cambridge. PC recommendation Object + comments

Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition.

20/03708/CONDA 38 Boxworth Road Elsworth Cambridge

Submission of details required by conditions 3 (Relocate oil tank) and 4 (Details of Materials) of planning permission. FIO

Applications for Works to Trees in a conservation area/ protected by a TPO

21/0192/TTCA. 41 Boxworth Road Elsworth CB23 4JQ. No comment

21/0254/TTPO 55 Boxworth Road Elsworth CB23 4JQ Mr Garr

TPO 0007 (2000) T2: T1 OAK remove decayed North Eastern stem; reduce height of remaining stem by 3ms and reduce

laterals South to South West by 2.5ms to rebalance and mitigate exposure from removal of North Eastern stem (due to decline of North Eastern stem and presence of ganoderma fungal brackets at base of stem. PC and Tree Warden No comment
21/0228/TTCA Brook Street 20 Brook Street Elsworth CB23 4HX. Ms Hutchinson T1 Oak of MWA Arb Report Works: Remove Reason: Clay shrinkage subsidence damage at neighbouring property 24 Brook Street. FIO

21/0280/TTPO Low Farm Brook Street Elsworth

Proposal: TPO Lime tree in G34 is very rotten at the base and is likely to fall very soon. leaning over the garden increasingly. T1 to be removed. Dead elm in conservation area covered in ivy and completely dead. roadside and so is dangerous for passing traffic and pedestrians. SCDC has issued an outcome of 'no objection'.

Applications determined/closed by SCDC

20/04952/LBC 2 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB23 4HX.

Permission Granted

21/0027/TTCA 9 Cotterells Lane Elsworth CB23 4JR. SCDC No Objection

20/04336/HFUL 16 Brook Street CB23 4HX. Mr & Mrs H Higgins. Permission Granted

PC meetings.

The government has ruled that legislation to enable Parish Council meetings to be held online will cease after May 6th, despite pressure from local authorities for its continuance. It is unclear as yet, how Elsworth Parish Council will hold its meetings after this date."

Dates of future meetings in 2021.

May 19th (Annual Parish Council Meeting)
July 21st September 15th November 17th
Annual Parish Meeting (if held) TBC



Road Map

As the Government's cautious road-map out of

lockdown continues, people's health, safety and wellbeing remain of paramount importance. While infection and death rates are decreasing, transmission of Coronavirus is still an extremely serious threat and we all have a role to play in doing our utmost to stop its spread.

This can best be done by continuing to take precautions against catching or transmitting the virus and closely following the Government's rules for each step of its COVID-19 Response Spring 2021 roadmap out of the current lockdown for England.

This means continuing to abide by the guidelines for social distancing by:

Washing your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds;

Covering your face in enclosed spaces (especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet);

Staying two metres apart where possible, or one metre with extra precautions in place.

It is also essential to stick to the rules around travel and holidaying.

Our Council team continues to provide essential services and support to the residents most in need in our district. They are working in conjunction with many dedicated volunteers who have played a crucial role in helping this work and we are immensely grateful to them.

Residents who need to carry on self-isolating during this time can rest assured that all the support previously available will continue, including financial help.

Our Reopening the High Street team is supporting local small to medium businesses as they reopen and work towards recovery. This includes helping them to carry out comprehensive COVID-19 risk assessments to keep customers and their

workers safe; providing signage and aiding the implementation of the two-metre rule in the workplace; and advising on cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures in line with current guidance.

As more Government financial packages are announced for the business sector, our Business Support Team is also there to support the recovery and help struggling firms to access much-needed Government grants to address some of the financial impact of the lockdown and to fund recovery activities. We are also offering support and grant aid to local communities to get voluntary projects and services back on track after months of lockdown.

Everyone across the district is working extremely hard to put plans into place for when affected services are able to gradually and safely welcome everyone back. Until then, please continue follow the guidelines to help protect the NHS and our families, friends and colleagues. By keeping infection rates low, we will all be able to get back to doing the things we love sooner.

To access advice and support see <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

For more information on the Government guidelines in the COVID-19 Response Spring 2021 roadmap, see <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Useful links:

Government Coronavirus restrictions: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

South Cambridgeshire District Council Coronavirus information: www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus

Information on financial support to self-isolate: www.scambs.gov.uk/isolation

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Reopening High Streets Safely Team: www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/reopening-the-high-street

Support for local businesses: www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - ELSWORTH



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Castiglione**
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I have had my first jab and the second dose is booked for the middle of May.

Whilst we applaud the speed of the roll-out, I know families where the opportunity to be vaccinated came too late for one or more of their relatives; I have listened to others who are fearful, still mulling over whether they should take up the offer or not.

I cannot recall a time in my lifespan when there appears to have been so much divergence and fragmentation on important and often basic issues. In my view it is good to see people who have felt themselves to be without a voice speaking out. A challenge we face as a nation and in this season is learning again how we can disagree without descending into disagreeable attitudes and behaviour towards those who don't see things the way we do.

The accounts of Jesus' trials, torture and terrible death are full of 'fake news' and dreadful behaviour. There is nothing new under the sun, said a wise sage! The hope Christians nurture is founded on knowing God was working through these events,

not defeated by the machinations of human behaviour and, therefore, can help us to navigate a way through these times with integrity.

Nevertheless, the awful events of Good Friday followed by the joy of Easter Day were not in isolation. They were the high-water mark, so-to-speak, of his public impact, which very few recognised; he had spent 3 years turning darkness to light, sorrow to joy and defeat to victory. It is evident in his great and high-profile miracles – such as the Feeding of the 5,000; also in one-to-one encounters when sick people were healed, dead people restored to life, as well as lonely and sometimes despised individuals helped to rebuild their lives and relationships.

When his time on earth was over Jesus left a small group of people who had been captivated by their time with him, whose lives were forever changed. Meeting Jesus was their defining moment and after his resurrection they were able to turn their world upside down.

Meanwhile many people thought they were misguided and wrong; but down the centuries, at their best, Christians have been at the forefront of much we applaud as change for the better.

We know COVID has changed some things forever. We still don't fully know what the 'new-normal' will look like – for ourselves and for generations to come. I believe Christians can have a major influence for good in such a time of change; as long as we don't expect everybody to get it or agree with us!

Jesus called his followers salt of the earth. It is a metaphor to do with influence, bringing flavour and offering protection – recognised for the good it brings when it is the forgotten ingredient rather than getting the limelight and glory the culture of today seems to value so much.

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Appointment system

We've been aware that there is an unusual pressure on appointments, making life very difficult for both patients and receptionists. A year ago, with the advent of the pandemic, we changed all appointments to be on-the-day only, and made all contacts to be telephone in the first instance. A year on, that isn't working so well: often patients are told to ring at 08.30 or 12 noon for an appointment that morning/ afternoon, and by 08.45 /12.15 the session's appointments are gone. That leads to frustration and irritation all round.

So, we've had a discussion and agreed the following:

- We'll go back to half the appointments being bookable in advance, and the remainder on-the-day.
- We'll continue to use a telephone-first system, rather than having a number of appointments as bookable face-to-face by a patient (we felt that doctors are best to decide who needs a face-to-face appointment).
- We recommend a maximum of no more than 5 follow-up patients in advance for any one morning or afternoon GP session. Often GPs will book these in themselves; with some advance booking to happen from now, it's important that we don't use all the appointments in a session before the session starts, so that the receptionists have somewhere to put folk who need same-day appointments,

and for patients to be able to book new appointments in advance.

- We have reopened some internet booking of appointments.
- Where possible, we will send texts to patients about results/ letters/ suggestions, rather than using an appointment. Please do ensure you let us have your mobile number, and keep us updated of any changes.

I have also had a look at whether we are offering sufficient appointments. Of course, it's a bit difficult as traditionally we primarily saw patients face-to-face, and there was a moderate amount on the phone; in addition we used to do a lot of visits in the more distant past. That's all changed; in addition to working mainly by telephone, we are texting patients a lot these days; whilst a text is not the same as a consultation, it's not zero work either.

This is what I have found:

	Long term average (last 5y)	Annualised average for 3m to 28.2.21
Consultation Rate per patient per year:		
Surgery contacts (all drs and nurses)	4.9	3.0
Texts/patient	0	0.8
Telephone consults per patient per year	0.9	2.8
Total contacts/patient per year	5.8	6.6
All Consults (counts nurses, HCA, physio, pharmacist, etc) / per whole time equivalent (WTE) GP	10,000	11,700
All Consults/ WTE GP with texts counted		13,300
 These numbers below specifically refer to GPs contacts:		
Dr surgery consults/ patient/ year	2.7	0.9
Dr visits / patient/ year	0.1	0.02
Dr telephone calls/patient/ year	0.8	2.25
Total Dr Consults/ patient/ year	3.6	3.16

So, if we annualise up the last 3 months:

The average patient has 3 Surgery face-to-face consultations each year, of which only one is with a GP

The average patient has 2.8 phone calls a year, of which 2.25 are with a GP

worth Surgery

The average patient used to have a visit once in 10 years; that has dropped to once in 50 years

The average patient used to have 5.8 contacts per year with the doctors and nurses at the surgery; if we don't count texts, that's unchanged in the last 3 months. If we count texts, that's increased to 6.6 contacts per year.

Increasingly, other professionals are seeing patients as well as GPs; but the GPs are responsible for supervising the operation. In my busiest year as a GP, there were 6,000 patient contacts that I undertook personally: I saw 5,000 patients in the surgery, did 640 home visits and made 400 phone calls (2001). And yet, now as a full time GP there are on average 10,000 patients contacts that a Full Time GP is nominally responsible for; that's increased to 11,700 in 2021 (or 13,300 if you add in SMS texts). So as GPs we are undertaking only 50% of the patient contacts, but of course remain responsible for the other 50% too.

As an aside, it's important to acknowledge that a lot of what we as GPs do is to manage care suggested by hospital doctors, dietitians, physios, etc; whether that be an onward referral, some blood tests, or supervising treatment, and this all takes considerable time.

Of course there is no such thing as an "average patient" (!) but the numbers do let us know how many appointments we need to be planning.

What's the short answer to whether we are offering sufficient consultations?

The total number of GP contacts per patient has dropped from 3.6 per patient per year to 3.16, a 12% reduction. But, increasingly, the job is not about how many patient contacts the GP has, but the overall picture. I would say that for a service that is free at the point of delivery and potentially open-ended, patients are getting as good a deal as they ever did. However there is an expanding

team in General Practice; these include nurses, health-care assistants, the midwife, physios, pharmacists, and soon also a mental health practitioner and paramedic; and it is increasingly normal to ask to see one of these other professionals, rather than the GP, for many health needs.

Covid vaccinations

We have been getting on well with Covid vaccinations, will complete groups 1 to 9 (everybody aged 50 and above, and those aged 16-49 with underlying health conditions) by Easter, or soon after. Second doses will generally be offered 11 weeks after the first dose was given, and so should start over the Easter weekend for those who received their first doses in January.

The vaccinations will continue to be provided at Charles Hicks Surgery in Huntingdon; at present there are no plans to deliver vaccinations at Papworth, except for the housebound.

Those aged 18- 50 will mostly be done by the specially arranged vaccination centres, and local pharmacies who are also about to start vaccinating. Letters will be sent by the central NHS team to these patients.

The tweedy pantiles of Elsworth

Elsworth may be known for Elsworth Rock, a coarse, shelly, Jurassic limestone which once was quarried in Brook Street, but some of its roofs are also notable. Alan Clifton-Taylor in his book The Pattern of English Building, first published in 1962, makes special mention of the tiled roofs of Elsworth. Referring to the 'old' county of Huntingdonshire and to western Cambridgeshire he commented on the variegated coloured roof tiles made from the local Gault clay: yellows, browns, reds, pinks and greys – all in rather soft pale shades. The tiles on these roofs are arranged haphazard and, as can be seen on many houses in the Cambridgeshire villages of Elsworth and Eltisley, their somewhat tweedy look is not unattractive.

Writing in the early 1960s, Clifton-Taylor would have based his comments on a visit years earlier, before many of the older, small houses and outbuildings in Elsworth had been demolished, repurposed or refurbished and few 20th century houses had been built. He had observed tiled roofs that probably had their origin in the 18th or 19th century, some of which were pantiles and others were flat pegtiles. The roofs of older properties now remaining in Elsworth can be grouped mainly as 'cottage style' usually with thatch and/or pantiles or pegtiles, and rather grander houses, usually with slate roofs. The Manor House, which is 17th century, is distinctive for its pegtile roof. Most of the 'cottage style' properties have been refurbished in recent decades and several corrugated iron roofs have been replaced with thatch or tiles.

What is a pantile? Made from clay in a mould and 'fired' in a kiln, it is pan shaped, a very shallow U, with a small curved ridge on the left hand side designed to overhang the right-hand edge of the next tile. Old pantiles often have a slightly rough upper surface. The introduction of pantiles into East Anglia probably has its origins in 18th century trade with the Netherlands, when they were imported as ballast in ships. Eventually, local production of pantiles increased their use, especially because pantiles require a shallower pitch of roof than pegtiles or

thatch. Because of this shallow pitch, a pantiled roof uses less timber which was scarce and expensive in the 19th century. Whether the distinctively coloured pantiles of Elsworth were made locally is uncertain; some might have been manufactured at the old brickworks 600 metres north of Boxworth church. Some have clearly been reclaimed from old buildings in the village or local area that were being demolished or re-roofed with modern materials, and put to use in refurbished roofs or on new buildings.

On Boxworth Road, the house that was originally named Pantiles is one of only a few houses in the village that is entirely roofed with tweedy pantiles. This house was built in the 1950s using reclaimed pantiles and reclaimed 'Cambridge bricks' (which also are a bit tweedy). Nearby the 18th century house, formerly known as Brown's Farmhouse, is entirely roofed with old pantiles, most of which are probably original. Opposite, the cart shed of Martin's Farm is entirely roofed with original pantiles.

A 1970s house in Church Lane is also roofed with reclaimed pantiles, which are now growing an interesting patina of mosses and lichens. Buildings at more than 30 other properties in the village appear to be roofed or re-roofed with these older pantiles. Most of them are outbuildings, although some may have originally been little cottages. One house in Brockley Road

has an interesting mixture of thatch and reclaimed pantiles, probably reflecting the layout of an original cottage and its outbuildings before they were refurbished. Modern, mainly red pantiles have been used on some new-built properties, such as in Cowdell End, on both houses and outbuildings. Pale, modern pantiles were used to re-roof Turner's Cottage on Smith Street, replacing corrugated iron over decayed thatch.

I am very grateful to Shona Smith for helpful comments on a draft of this article.



The pantiled roof of the cart shed at Martin's Farm, Boxworth Road

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East West Rail Latest Update

The Clerk's Column draws attention to some of the possible implications for Elsworth of the proposed East West Rail link. Since the Parish Council meeting EWR have announced that their 10 week long consultation on the preferred route is going live so by the time you get your copy of the ET this will have happened. Thousands of booklets will be going out to households shortly and in addition further information can also be found on EWR's web site (<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/>).

An introduction to the consultation was provided at a webinar today. At that presentation EWR indicated what their latest thinking is on the route of the rail link and a station for Cambourne.

They now have two 'emerging preferences' for the route of the rail link. Both involve a Cambridge North station (rather than a Cambridge South station which featured in some of the other options). Unfortunately the webinar overran and there was no time for questions so it was not possible to confirm that this meant the location of the station would be north of the 428, although this looks to be the case from the maps shown on screen. One route (option 1) goes from St Neots to Cambourne North and the other route (option 9) from Tempsford to Cambourne North.

Beyond Cambourne North EWR continue to favour a southerly route for the rail link going along a line Haslingfield-Harston-Little Shelford-Shepreth Junction- (a new) Cambridge South station-Cambridge, rather than a route being championed by a number of pressure groups, going from Cambourne North toward Northstowe and then into Cambridge.

The Parish Council will be considering what response to make to the consultation. It would be very helpful if parishioners made their views about the proposals known to the Parish Clerk or to individual councillors. Of course, it is possible for anyone to make their views known directly to EWR during the consultation period.



Elsworth Pre-School are delighted to be fully open and offering all sessions to our children and families safely. We are currently exploring the Easter Story and

Easter traditions with an Easter egg hunt, baking, crafts and small world props to help bring our stories to life and explore new language from the books. You can see more about what we're doing in the newsletter section of our website or on the Elsworth Pre-School Facebook page.

This term has seen the beginning of our Forest School sessions in the Fardell's Lane Nature Reserve. The children have explored nature and built a respect for our environment, they have even helped to remove litter from the area. Forest School is supporting our children to become resilient learners through nature's opportunities for risk-taking, problem solving and building empathy. We very much look forward to nurturing each child's development as their connection to nature grows in the term ahead.

We currently have spaces available! We have found that parents who visit and meet our fully-qualified, caring and attentive team choose Elsworth Pre-School for their children. Unfortunately, we cannot offer visits in the usual way yet due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we are always available for a chat or a video tour.

If you're interested in registering your child for Pre-School then please contact our manager Julie, email elsworthpreschool@outlook.com, phone 01954 268050. See elsworthpreschool.org for more information.



Elsworth CoE (Aided) Primary School

Wishing everyone a Very Happy Easter from all at Elsworth Primary

We have lots of lovely news to share in this update. Firstly, as of the 8th of March we welcomed all the children back into school. We were so happy to see their smiling faces back in class and to hear their voices around the school again.

The children are also clearly happy to be back with their friends in school and to be seeing their teachers' face to face rather than on a screen.

Remote learning was certainly a challenge for the children, staff and parents alike but together we got through it and made it work. We all enjoyed catching up as a whole school via our whole school weekly zoom assemblies (a first for me) but I must say that it is much nicer now they have all returned to school. I am getting to know them all a lot better now and learning lots of names.

We have been very mindful of the impact of lockdown on the children's wellbeing and mental health so we have been keeping a very careful eye on all of them and making sure that they have plenty of opportunity for quiet, calm, mindful times and activities. What has struck of us in school is just how resilient children can be.

Thankfully the flood damaged class room is now completely redecorated, re-carpeted and back in use – it looks lovely and the children and staff are enjoying all the new resources we purchased to replace flood damaged books, chairs, carpets, cushions etc.

The BIG news is that we have appointed a new permanent Headteacher for the school. In September Mrs Elizabeth Bennett will take up her new post as Headteacher at Elsworth Primary. I know that she will love it here and that you will all make her very welcome.

We have just finished a lovely whole school Easter collective worship on zoom with our special guest; Reverend Nigel Castiglione. The children sang lots of songs and shared some lovelyayers and a very impressive poem of the Easter story – it was very uplifting and it made us all look forward to the time when we can once again gather together in the hall for worship and sing our hearts out together. Well, the sun is shining and the sky is blue and there is a definite air of spring around. We break up for our Easter holidays very soon and I would like to wish everyone a very happy Easter, kind regards Diane Kingdon (Interim Headteacher).

