

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

Our CEO, Lynsey Holzer visited us this week to discuss our behaviour policy and to see the children's behaviour in classes as the Trust are working on a set of consistent behaviour principles for all of their schools. She was very impressed with what she saw and felt our therapeutic approach was effective and right for our children. It is always lovely to showcase our school and to receive recognition for the work that we do. It was great to see so many of you at Winter Fest last Saturday and I do hope you had a festive and enjoyable time. The PTA organised a magnificent event and the cold, crisp weather and a visit from Father Christmas added to the atmosphere. It is not easy putting on an event like Winter Fest and our massive thanks go to the committee for organising it and to all of the amazing volunteers who helped make it run smoothly. We are now at the beginning of December and we are looking forward to the run up to Christmas. This will start next week with a visit from a Theatre company who will be putting on a Panto, King Arthur, for all of the children to enjoy. Have a lovely weekend.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

Break/lunchtimes:

We are still looking for donations to add to our break time equipment and to help make the children's free time more fun. If you have any of the following, we would appreciate taking them off your hands:

Small world; e.g. people, dinosaurs, animals, vehicles; tyres, large and small, balls of all shapes and sizes, logs, guttering, gardening equipment, crates, planks, hoses, baskets, big sheets of materials, dressing up clothes, chalk boards, pots and pans, wooden spoons, measuring jugs, buckets, paint brushes and any storage boxes.

Please send donations into the office.

The PTA have set up an Amazon wish list which is full of resources to make playtimes more fun. Please click on the link: [Isle of Ely Primary - Amazon WishList](#) if you would like to donate something specific.

The PTA are also holding a bake sale on Friday 15th December and all proceeds from the sale will be going to buying playground resources. Please see the attached poster for further information.

Spotlight on behaviour:

We have been talking to the children this week about speaking up when they see or hear something that could be considered to be prejudiced, unkind or simply unjust. We have taught the children to **interrupt** and stop the unkindness every time. To **question** why that person would say or do something unkind and to make them think about their words and actions. Then to **educate** them so that they understand the impact of their words or actions and how it makes others feel. Lastly, we have taught the children to **echo** so that everyone is echoing the same message and the children know that together we are strong. Please talk to your child/ren about what they could say at each stage. Together we will build a kinder, stronger community.

Online Safety:

With the Christmas holidays, fast approaching and the extra time that the children will probably be spending on line during the break, we all have to play a part in keeping the children safe online. Talking to your child regularly is the greatest tool to help keep them safe online. Talking regularly and making it part of the daily conversation, will help your child feel relaxed. Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They can help you to: plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for; create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content and manage the content different family members can see. There are several things you can do to help support your child with their wellbeing online too, including specific apps, and looking at settings but also encourage your child to take a break, to do something different and to get some fresh air.

Parking:

Parking at the beginning and end of the day can cause stress and anxiety for some of you as it is very busy and can cause tensions. We are happy to keep the car park open to alleviate the congestion on local roads, but please be mindful and considerate of each other and the school staff. It is important that there is a staff car park and even if there are spaces, they are not for parents to park in. Cars are not moving about in the staff car park which means that it is safer for the children and parents to enter and leave the school gate. The safety of everyone is paramount so please be patient and kind when entering and exiting the car park and leave yourself plenty of time to arrive, park, drop your child and leave. Please also only park in the mobility parking bays if you have a blue mobility badge.

Panto:

A big thank you to the PTA who have paid for and organised a Panto for the children to enjoy. This will take place on Tuesday 5th December in two sessions, one for Key Stage two and the other for EYFS and Key Stage 1. We are looking forward to laughing and enjoying King Arthur.

Anti-bullying workshops:

Anti-bullying week was a few weeks ago now but it is always a high priority and focus for the school. Therefore, we are very pleased to let you know that the children will be taking part in Anti-bullying workshops on Wednesday 6th December.

PTA News:

The children are invited to a Silent Disco on Wednesday 6th December. Please see the attached flyer for further details.

The Isle of Ely PTA will be holding their Elfridges stall on Monday 4th December after school. All gifts are £2.50 and once you've chosen the gift it will be handed to you pre wrapped to keep the surprise for the gift receiver. This is a great opportunity for children to shop for parents, carers, grandparents, family members or friends. Cash is accepted but you can also pre pay by clicking on the following link,

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/isleofelypta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=73631>

Royal British Legion poppy appeal:

The money we raised for the poppy appeal has now been counted and we raised £433.08. Thank you for your generous donations.

School Term Dates 2023/2024

Autumn Term 2023:

Starts	Friday 1 st September
Half term	Monday 23 October 2023 to Friday 27 October 2023
Ends	Wednesday 20 th December
Christmas holiday	Thursday 21 st December 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 2024

Spring Term 2024:

Starts	Wednesday 3 rd January
Half term	Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 23 February 2024
Ends	Thursday 28 th March
Spring (Easter) holiday	Friday 29 March 2023 to Sunday 14 April 2024

Summer Term 2024:

Starts	Monday 15 April 2024
Half term	Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024
Ends	Friday 19 th July
Summer holiday	Saturday 20 July 2024 to Friday 30 August 2024

PD Days (School closed to children):

Friday 1st September 2023
Monday 4th September 2023
Monday 30th October 2023
Wednesday 3rd January 2024
Friday 24th May 2024