

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

I hope you all had a lovely half term break and are feeling refreshed for the run up to Christmas. This half term in school is always a busy but lovely time and will go as quick as the previous half term. This week we changed the way our car park operates with a one way system in the parent section. We felt that this offered the safest route for cars and pedestrians. Feedback indicates that it is working well but a blockage can occasionally occur if cars are parked along the road in front of the car park. Please be mindful of this when parking at the beginning and end of the day and choose to park in the car park or one of the bays rather than along the road. Next week we are holding our termly parents' consultation meetings and so I do hope you have all signed up for an appointment so you can discuss how your child is doing. There are still spaces available if you need one. If you are going to a fireworks event or are having fireworks in your garden, please enjoy them and stay safe. Have a great weekend.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

Staffing Update:

Mrs Diane Magroun joined our support team after half term and she is currently supporting the children in Beetle Class.

Spotlight on behaviour:

Everyone makes mistakes including children and they have to learn how to behave just like they learn to read. Our therapeutic behaviour policy allows the children time to reflect upon their behaviour and to learn from their mistakes. Our school rules are safe, ready and respect and if the children follow the rules they are rewarded with house points and time on the recognition board. However, if they make a mistake and break one of our school rules, the children are given an opportunity to have a restorative conversation with a grown up and are supported to repair, learn and grow as they receive a consequence related to the rule that has been broken. This can be a protective or educational consequence and these support the child to change their behaviour. Consequently, behaviour in school is very good.

Online Safety:

Get to know the age ratings of the apps that your child uses. Many have a minimum age of 13 years old to be able to sign up, but you should check the age rating of individual apps to make sure.

Don't forget that you know your child best, and you might decide that they need to be a little bit older before it's suitable for them

Yellow House Charity Day:

Thank you for supporting Yellow House's charity day, raising funds for Cancer Research. Due the bad weather, we had to cancel our planned water day but the whole school enjoyed a non-uniform day and half an hour of fun. We managed to raise £532 which is a fantastic amount –thank you for your generosity.

YMCA Trinity Wellbeing:

Congratulations to Ollie R, Year 3, who has won the Small Talks Big Different poster competition 2023. The winning design will be shared on their website very soon. [Home - YMCA Trinity Group](#)

Attendance:

Attendance at school for every child is very important. Parents/carers have a legal responsibility, as stated under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure that their child attends the school at which he/she is registered regularly and punctually. Children should only be absent from school if they have a high temperature or a sick bug or another significant illness, are attending a funeral or observing a religious day. All term time holidays are unauthorised and penalty notices will be issued. If 3 or more term time leave Penalty Notices have been issued over a 3 year period then prosecution in relation to Section 444 Education Act 1996, may be considered as an alternative to a Penalty Notice fine being issued. Where a parent/carer takes a child out of school during term time for an extended period (20 days or more), not authorised by the school, prosecution in relation to Section 444 Education Act 1996, may also be considered.

Remembrance Day:

Remembrance Day is approaching and the children will be able to purchase poppies until Friday 10th November. If your child would like a poppy please send them in to school with a donation. The House Captains will be coming around to each class daily selling the poppies and other merchandise.

Winter Window Land:

This year, our school has provided some brilliant art work for Ely's Window Wanderland!

Fencabs have kindly asked us if we would like to display our artwork in their office window at 56 Market Street, Ely.

Five representatives from each class were chosen to create a beautiful mural for our school.

Little Elvers also made their own mural which is displayed there too!

This year, Ely's Window Wanderland will take place over three evenings – Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th, and Sunday 5th November 2023.

You can find more info here about the Window Wanderland here:

<https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/ely-cambs-2023/>

There is a map at the bottom of this webpage showing the locations of illuminated window displays!

If you would like to see our beautiful artwork and investigate other wonderful illuminated window displays over the weekend, please do!

Parents' coffee morning:

This half term our coffee morning is on Friday 1st December at 8:45am. Nina Bradley, Senior Clinician from the Ely Mental Health Support Team, will be joining us with some of her team to discuss how they can support with behaviour at home. As a school, we are able to refer children to the Mental Health Support Team for anxiety or behaviour. At the coffee morning, we will discuss referrals for the parent led behaviour workshops and answer any questions you may have.

Evie the Eel:

Go and join Ely Library at 10 thirty am on Saturday 4 November as Elaine McDonald will be reading 'Elvie the Eel' and other stories followed by a making a lovely Eel spinner together.

The event is free of charge and suitable for everyone. The books are suitable for ages 3-6, are all in rhyme and lots of fun.

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