

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

Another two weeks have passed by, the weather has turned autumnal and the leaves are falling off the trees. As with the seasons, our school continually changes, evolves and grows and this year we have added another dimension to our curriculum. We have now added a session each day teaching the children how to behave and how to demonstrate our school rules and values. Our rules are safe, ready and respect and our values are resilient, responsible, reflective, kind and courageous and the head teacher awards are linked to these rules and values. If your child receives a head teacher award, you will be notified via Class Dojo although there wasn't a celebration assembly today as we celebrated Harvest instead. A big thank you to you all for your kind donations to the Ely Food bank and to Graham Biss who officiated over the Harvest Festival, it was a lovely occasion and the food bank will be delighted with your generosity. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School...

Staffing Update:

Liz Wright, our business manager, will sadly be leaving us at the end of the half term as she takes up a People's Director Position with Astrum Trust. Liz has been with us for seven years and has been a big part of the development of the school and she will be greatly missed.

We are currently advertising for an office manager. If you are interested or you know someone who may be interested, please look on our website for further details.

Miss Chantelle Miller, Learning Support Assistant, in Bumblebee Class, is going on maternity leave today. We wish her well for the safe arrival of her baby and look forward to meeting him soon.

Coffee morning – Eleanor's story

Next Friday, 11th October, we are holding our first coffee morning of the year. Our theme is children with autism. Many of you know Amy Gorrie, our admin assistant, and she has two children with autism and would like to share her story with you about parenting children with autism. Eleanor, her daughter, will also be at the meeting and she would like to share with you what it is like to be autistic and her journey through school. Please do join us on Friday.

Parents' Share:

Our first parents' share sessions of the year are taking place next week and the theme is reading. They all start at 0830 so please wait in the playground and you will be collected and taken to your child's class.

Monday 7th October – Reception

Tuesday 8th October – Key Stage 1

Wednesday 9th October – Key Stage 2

Code of conduct:

There have been a few incidents this term of parents being aggressive and unkind to members of staff. Whilst we appreciate that your children can create an emotional reaction, please understand that our staff are here to help and be mindful of how you express your concerns. Inappropriate language, threats or aggressive behaviour (verbal or physical) towards staff, pupils or anyone within the school community will not be tolerated. Thank you!

PTA AGM

Just a reminder that the PTA are holding their AGM next Thursday 10th October at 1800. Everyone is welcome but please let the office know if you intend to attend. There is a silent disco on Wednesday October 23rd, more details to follow on Parentmail.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

Communication with class teachers:

Parents and Carers wanting to message a class teacher to share information about their child can do so via email, telephone conversation or a meeting in person. Parents should email the school office; teachers will aim to reply to emails within 5 working days.

Parents can request meetings with teachers by sending an email or speaking to the school office team. The message will be forwarded to the teacher who will arrange a meeting or telephone conversation as a matter of priority.

The school administration team and other members of staff are not able to ask teachers to come out of class to speak to parents during school hours – including before and after lessons – where no appointment has been made.

Teachers can use the Class Dojo platform to send quick messages to all parents. However, this is a one-way channel of communication and teachers will not read or reply to Class Dojo messages from parents/carers.

Additionally, parents of children who have active APDRs in place are able to make comments and post messages on the Edukey platform – these will be read and actioned at an appropriate time. Teachers will not reply to Edukey messages.

Staying safe online

There have been a few incidents recently which has caused us concern and which has led us to believe that some children are accessing inappropriate material online whilst at home. Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network, individual apps and devices. Parental controls 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
- Manage the content different family members can see

Please check your parental controls so that you know that your child cannot access any inappropriate material and be mindful of who they are talking to via Xbox and other platforms.

Black history month:

During the month of October, we celebrate Black History month. It is a national celebration and aims to promote and celebrate the contributions of those with African and **Caribbean heritage** to British society, and to improve an understanding of Black history in general. Each year, BHM in the UK has a theme. For 2024, it is '**Reclaiming Narratives**,' and marks a significant shift towards recognising and correcting the narratives of Black history and culture. If you want to know more about Black history month, please click on the link below:

[Black History Month 2024](#)



IOE Fortnightly Newsletter

4th October 2024

School Term Dates 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2024:

Starts Monday 2nd September
Half term Monday 28th October 2024 to Friday 1st November 2024
Ends Friday 20th December 2024
Christmas holiday Saturday 21st December 2024 to Sunday 5th January 2025

Spring Term 2025:

Starts Monday 6th January 2025
Half term Monday 17th February 2025 to Friday 21st February 2025
Ends Friday 4th April 2025
Spring (Easter) holiday Saturday 5th April 2025 to Monday 21st April 2025

Summer Term 2025:

Starts Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Half term Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025
Ends Tuesday 22nd July 2025
Summer holiday Wednesday 23rd July 2025 to Friday 29th August 2025

PD Days (School closed to children):

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Monday 4th November 2024

Monday 6th January 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025