**Head Teacher’s Comment – from Bryony Surtees**

We are now out of the second national lockdown and although we may breathe a sigh of relief, Ely was still placed in Tier 2, a high risk area with severe restrictions. We had our first positive Covid-19 case this week and although luckily, I didn’t have to shut any bubbles or ask any pupil to isolate, it has reminded me of our need to be extra vigilant and not to become complacent at this time. All of our procedures are still in place and it is extra important, as we head towards Christmas, that we follow the advice of hands, face, and space! Our children wash and sanitize their hand frequently throughout the day, our bubbles are separate and the children are spaced out in their classroom with the room fully ventilated and we ask parents to wear masks at the beginning and end of the day. Our one way system works well but please do continue to wear your face mask when you come onto the school site and keep your distance from other families. Please also keep all of your children near you and do not allow them to run around other people in the queue. We’ve done so well so far and so let’s work together to continue to keep everyone in our school community safe! Enjoy the weekend and stay safe!

**Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School…**

**Christmas:**

Sadly, this year we are unable to invite you all in to enjoy the Key Stage 1, Reception and Little Elvers Christmas performances. However, the teachers in the different bubbles have still be determined the show must go on and they will be videoing the children’s performances and uploading them onto their class pages by Friday 11th December. It will not be quite the same but we hope you enjoy the show and still have an ‘aaah’ moment.

The children can bring Christmas cards into school to give to the children or staff within their year group bubble. As we have to quarantine the cards before they are sent home, we are asking that Christmas cards be sent into school on either Monday 7th or Monday 14th December. They will then be quanrantined and sent home at the end of each week.

Unfortunately, our annual decoration morning is unable to go ahead as planned but we are still determined to decorate the school and to have some Christmas fun. So the children will take part in their class decoration morning on Friday 11th December, just before the children have their Christmas lunch.

Friday 11th December is also Christmas jumper day so we look forward to seeing the variety of jumpers with their sparkles and jingles. Please donate £1 to Save the Children on our just giving page to support this good cause just before Christmas. Further details will be sent out on Monday.

**Sleeps till Santa:**

Our Year 6 children were lucky enough to record Sleeps till Santa with Star Radio recently. You can hear them on Star Radio on Monday 7th December @ 0630, 0730 & 0830 counting down to Christmas.

**Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School…**

**Staffing Update:**

Sadly, Mrs Helen Cooper will be leaving us at the end of the term. Mrs Cooper works in Little Elvers and we have enjoyed getting to know her but she has decided to take a break from working. We thank her for all of her hard work and wish her a relaxing and enjoyable break.

As you know Mrs Fielding is pregnant and will be going on maternity leave in January. Whilst we will miss her greatly, I am pleased to say that Mrs Godfrey will be stepping into Mrs Fielding’s shoes temporary until she returns from maternity leave. Mrs Godfrey currently teaches Earwig Class each Monday and Tuesday, which will continue, and is our Maths and Early Careers Lead. She knows the school very well and we look forward to welcoming her to our senior leadership team in January.

**Absence:**

At this time of year, there are viruses and ailments going around as well as Covid-19 and so if your child is away from school due to illness, or for any reason, please ring the office as early as you can, by 0915 at the very latest, to inform us of your child’s absence.

**Parents’ Forum:**

Thank you to all of our parents who attended our parents’ forum this morning. Mrs Surtees and Mr Sinfield discussed our curriculum. The session was recorded and has been uploaded to the parents’ forum page on our website if you are interested in viewing it.

**Parking:**

There has been some very cross neighbours this week due parents parking across their drives or in private residential parking spaces. Please park respectfully and safely at the beginning and end of the day and be mindful of our neighbours.

**Anxiety workshop for Parents:**

This workshop is aimed at parents and carers that would like to learn more about causes of anxiety, what anxiety is, how to help as a parent, tools, calming techniques and key strategies.

Online Anxiety Workshop

Thursday 10th December at 10am

If you’d like to join the workshop you will need internet access and a device able to connect to Microsoft Teams. (Full access instructions will be given once your place is booked).

Please note that places are limited

To book your place please contact Michelle West on

 [michelle.west@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.west@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School…**

**Remote Learning Policy:**

If the school has to partially or fully close, or if a child/ren has to isolate, it is important that the children’s education continues. We have put together a remote learning policy which clarifies how we will deliver your child’s learning in such circumstances. Please read the policy which can be found on our website.

If your child has to isolate whilst waiting for the results of a Covid test, the teachers will upload the day’s work/learning onto the class TEAMS account so that your child can do the same work as their class mates. You will find the work under the assignment tab and the Government has advised that primary children isolating should do at least 3 hours work per day. If you would like extra work for your child, please get in touch.

**Coronavirus:**

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:

Wash hands, keep washing your hands regularly

Cover face, wear a face covering in enclosed spaces

Make space, stay at least 2 metres apart

**Covid Symptoms:**

If your child displays **any** of the following symptoms, we will send them home and ask you to get them tested for Covid. Similarly, if your child has any of the following symptoms before school, please do not send them in and organise a test.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

* **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) NHS guidance states that a high temperature is 38C+
* **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
* **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

For all other illnesses, e.g. cold, sore throat, blocked nose, you should send your child to school if you normally would.

The

**Dates and School Term Dates 2020/2021**

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| --- |
| **December** |
| Friday 4th | Parents’ Forum |
| Monday 7th – Wed 9th | Christmas cards to be brought to school |
| Friday 11th | Christmas cards to be sent home |
| Friday 11th | Christmas Decoration morning (children only)  Christmas Jumper day  Christmas lunch  Little Elvers, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will upload a Christmas performance video onto their class page |
| Monday 14th | Zoom Meeting for Prospective Parents @ 1400  Christmas cards to be brought into school |
| Thursday 17th | Termly reports to parents |
| Friday 18th | Christmas cards to be sent home  Break Up – Non-uniform day |

**Autumn term**

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| --- | --- |
| Starts | Monday 7th September (3rd & 4th September PD days) |
| Half term | Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2020 (Monday 19th October PD Day) |
| Ends | Friday 18th December 2020 |
| Christmas holiday | Monday 21st December 2020 to Sunday 3rd January 2021 |

**Spring term**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Starts | Tuesday 5th January (Monday 4th January PD Day) 2021 |
| Half term | (Friday 12th February PD day) Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February |
| Ends | Friday 26th March |
| Spring (Easter) holiday | Monday 29th March - Friday 9th April |

**Summer Term**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Starts | Monday 12th April |
| Half term | Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June |
| Ends | Thursday 22nd July 2021 |
| Bank Holiday (School Closed) | Monday 3rd May 2021 |

**PD days - The school is closed on the following days for the professional development of staff:**

**4th January 2021 and 12th February 2021**