

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

It was lovely welcoming some children back to school on Monday. We opened three bubbles for our Reception children and three bubbles for our Year 1 children. All of the children settled quickly into the new routines and happily sat at their own tables and followed the social distancing rules. They really enjoyed being in school learning with their friends and it was brilliant to hear their chatter, their laughing and singing both together and with the adults. The children were inventive in their social distancing play and invented games like 'IT' the Shadow instead of the person! I would like to say a big thank you to the parents who also followed our social distancing rules by waiting two metres apart and following our one way systems at drop off and pick up times, it really helped the process. We also now have three key worker bubbles and as we have changed the emphasis of these bubbles from childcare to education, we do expect these children in school every day. Both of our Key Stage 2 bubbles are now full. I hope the rain holds off and you all have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend and I look forward to seeing what week two of our wider opening of the school brings.

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

Staffing Update:

I can now confirm that Mr Neil Lloyd will be joining myself, Mrs Fielding and Mr Sinfield as part our Senior Leadership Team as Deputy Head teacher in September. He joins us from Duxford Primary School and we very much look forward to welcoming him to our school in September.

We are currently advertising for two members of staff to join our Little Elvers team, two fixed term Teaching Assistants and a Pastoral Teaching Assistant. If you are interested or you know anyone who may be interested, please have a look at the vacancies page on our website or www.epm.com

Home Learning:

Home learning has continued this week for the vast majority of our children mainly through the use of Purple Mash and White Rose Maths. Mrs Godfrey has produced a Powerpoint to help parents understand how to access the home learning as well as explaining our expectations of it. Please [click](#) here to view the video.

The teachers have planned and organised a variety of differing activities for the children in the different year groups. In Reception, the children enjoyed focusing on the book *Rosie's Walk* and *Where, oh where, is Rosie's chick?* by Pat Hutchins. Whereas in Year 3, they have learnt about why we have skeletons and took a tour of the Nile. In Year 1, the children have looked at the world map and identified the 7 different continents and Year 4 have thought about healthy eating. Year 2 focused on common exception words whilst Year 5 revised the different parts of the flower. Plus there were lots and lots more learning for each year group...

If you have any problems, worries or concerns with the home learning do please email your child's class teacher through admin@isleofelyprimary.org and they will be more than happy to help you. It is important to note that these are exceptional times and how much of the home learning is done is very dependent on your family circumstances. The important thing is that your children are safe, well and happy.

For alternative lessons, please look at Oak National Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/> or BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

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Join the Silly Squad Fun:

The Cambridgeshire Libraries' staff would like to send you the information and links you need to take part in the online challenge devised for this year. They invite you to join the 'Silly Squad' and enjoy all the fun things we have to offer.

Head to the [Summer Reading Challenge Facebook page](#) this **Friday 5th June** for the virtual launch party of 'Silly Squad', this year's online Summer Reading Challenge. It's going to be great fun! There is more information on the attached form.

Let's All Get Creative:

This pack has been put together especially for Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Peterborough and Suffolk by partners (including your local cultural organisations and a range of others) and coordinated by Festival Bridge, one of 10 Bridge Organisations working nationally with investment from Arts Council England and the Department for Education.

National Bike week 6-14th June:

Cycling has been a great release for many families during the pandemic and we hope you'll continue to enjoy cycling with the family and celebrate by taking part in the **Bike Week festivities between 6-14 June**. It's your chance to celebrate all that's great about cycling.

The latest Government rules say although we have to maintain our social distancing and be at home where we can, unlimited exercise is now permitted.

To help keep families active during this time Cambridgeshire Road Safety Officers are promoting Cycling UK's free **Bike Week** resource pack with indoor and outdoor activities you can do as a family. From cooking to colouring, to bike challenges, it's got it all! The activities can be found on the following link.

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek/activities-for-families>

Getting Back to School – Cambridgeshire's campaign to support parents in getting their children 'back to school ready'

Colleagues across our Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Education & Social Care teams, and Partners, have been working on a campaign to help our parents feel supported in preparing their children for the return to school. It will be aimed at primary and secondary aged children, and offer advice and gentle nudges around seven key themes. There will be graphics, animations and links to supporting resources. Theme 1 is [now live here](#), giving some light touch opening headlines for parents. Please click on the link if you would like to find out more.

Diary dates & events

Summer term:	Monday 20 th April 2020 to Tuesday 21 st July 2020
Half term:	Monday 25 th May 2020 (May Bank Holiday) to Friday 29 th May 2020
Bank Holiday:	Friday 8 th May (School closed to children)

School Term Dates 2020/2021

Autumn term

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

Spring term

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

Summer Term

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

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

3rd September 2020, 4th September 2020, 19th October 2020, 4th January 2021 and 12th February 2021