

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

Following feedback and a parental survey, I was happy to remove the one way system at pick up and drop off times this week. The survey was much closer than I had anticipated but the majority of you were not keen on the system and so it was time for it come to an end. The new system of entering via any open gate is working well, there is a steady flow of pedestrians through the different gates and there have been no bottle necks nor problems at any of the gates. I am still about in the morning if you would like to catch me to ask me anything or let me know something but I will be walking about rather than standing in one place as previously. October is Black History month and we are encouraging the children to find out about black people from history or other areas of the curriculum, black scientists, sports people, geographers or artists. During our assemblies this week we have introduced the children to a collection of notable black people and we have discussed the origins of black history month and the importance of it. I wonder what they remember! Over the coming year, we will be looking at our curriculum to ensure that it is representative, diverse and inclusive of all as we continue on our journey to the race charter mark silver award. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

Staffing Update:

Well done to Miss Natalie Lewis, Little Elvers' Teacher, who was a finalist in the recent Ely Hero Awards in the best teacher category. Unfortunately, she didn't win but we are all very proud of her and Miss Lewis had a lovely evening celebrating at the Maltings. Congratulations Miss Lewis.

Parking:

As the one way system is no longer in operation, more parents are parking in our car park. Please be aware that the section closest to the school is solely for staff to park and this means that there are no cars moving around as you walk your child into the school grounds.

As there is only one way into and out of the parent section of the car park, please be mindful of parking along the road at the edge of the car park as this causes problems for those trying to get into and out of the car park and can block both the car park and the road.

The new entry and exit system into the school is working well for pedestrians. Please ensure that you are driving carefully, slowly and sensibly in and around the school to ensure the safety of everyone either on foot or in a car.

Harvest Festival:

A big thank you for all of your kind food donations to Ely Food Bank following our Harvest Festival. They were gratefully received and appreciated. It was lovely to come together as a whole school to celebrate Harvest which was led by Graham Biss and we were also joined by Sophie Bell who is the manager of Ely Food Bank. Thank you to Graham and Sophie for joining us. The children really enjoyed singing cauliflowers are fluffy!

Uniform:

We have a lot of lost property within the school and it is very difficult to find the owners of most of the items as they are not named. Please name all of your child's items of clothing so we can easily return the items to their rightful owners.

Mental Health Day:

We want to invite you to celebrate World Mental Health Day with us on Monday 10th October. This year's theme for WMHD is "**Making Mental Health & Wellbeing for All a Global Priority.**"

We would like our students to take part in a "**come as you are**" **dress down day** and to donate £2, if possible, to support children and young people's NHS mental health services.

Head to Toe is the official charity for Cambridge and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust who deliver child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) in this area. **All money raised will support CAMHS teams to go above and beyond what would otherwise be possible.**

You can click on the following link to donate.

[Isle of Ely Primary School is fundraising for Head to Toe Charity \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/isle-of-ely-primary-school-is-fundraising-for-head-to-toe-charity)

With the current cost of living, we totally understand if you are unable to donate £2, please do not worry, your child can still come into school in non-uniform to celebrate the day.

Thank you very much for your support!

Parent Share Session – Reading:

Parents are invited into school to take part in a reading share session with their children during the week of 10th October – Monday 10th for Reception, Tuesday 11th for Key Stage 1 and Wednesday 12th October for Key Stage 2. If your child is in Reception or Key Stage One, you will take part in a phonics sessions whilst Key Stage 2 parents will enjoy a VIPER lesson. They start at 0830 for half an hour. Please wait in the playground whilst the registers are done and members of staff will come and get you.

Little Elvers' share session will take place on Monday 10th Oct at 1445.

Open Sessions for Reception 2023:

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2023, we are holding several opening sessions to showcase our school during October and November. These sessions begin next week and take place on Tuesday 11th October @ 1400, Wednesday 12th October @ 1400 and Thursday 13th October @ 0900. Please book into a session via the school office.

School Term Dates 2022/2023

Autumn Term 2022:

Starts	Thursday 1 September 2022
Half term	Monday 24 October 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022
Ends	Friday 16 December 2022
Christmas holiday	Saturday 17 December 2022 to Monday 2 January 2023

Spring Term 2023:

Starts	Tuesday 3 January 2023
Half term	Monday 13 February 2023 to Friday 17 February 2023
Ends	Friday 31 March 2023
Spring (Easter) holiday	Saturday 1 April 2023 to Sunday 16 April 2023

Summer Term 2023:

Starts	Monday 17 April 2023
Half term	Monday 29 May 2023 to Friday 2 June 2023
Ends	Friday 21 July 2023
Summer holiday	Saturday 22 July 2023 to Thursday 31 August 2023

PD Days – the school is closed on the following days for the professional development of staff -

Thursday 1st September 2022, Friday 2nd September, Monday 31st October, Tuesday 3rd January 2023 and Friday 26th May 2023