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

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic holiday and enjoyed the hot weather and time with family and friends but we obviously ended our first week on a sad note with the news that Queen Elizabeth has died. We are all deeply saddened by the death of the only monarch most of us will have ever known and it certainly marks the end of a very special era. We celebrated the Queen’s life today in assembly and we discussed how her legacy and memory will live on. Mrs Parker and Mrs Ashman, our Thrive practitioners, are always available if your child would like to talk about her or are just feeling very sad. We have no details of the funeral yet and what that may mean for us as a school but will update you as soon as we can. If you would like to sign a book of condolence, there are books at the Cathedral as well as at all Cambridgeshire libraries or you could leave a message on The Royal Family’s website, by clicking [here](https://www.royal.uk/).

We have made some changes to our school day this term as we have redistributed our break times. The children now have a longer morning break of half an hour and a shorter lunch break of forty five minutes. After some initial teething problems, this is working well. We have also moved our assemblies to the end of the day. The school has been settled and calm this week and the children have enjoyed being back with their friends and in their new year groups. The reception children have settled well and we are all getting to know them. The children have started their new learning and further details about what they are learning in the various subjects can be found on your child’s class page on our website. We are looking forward to an exciting and fun year. Enjoy the weekend.

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

**Staffing Update:**

We welcomed Mrs Nicola Lloyd who is teaching Spider Class each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Joanna Branson who is teaching Ant Class. We also welcomed Ms Chantelle Miller to our team and she has joined Miss Palmer working in Bumblebee Class whilst Ms Maricruz Prieto-Perez is now working with Mr Turner in Wasp Class.

We are now also working with Premier Sport who are providing sport activities for the children at lunchtimes. Mr Harrison Smith, from Premier Sport, will also be teaching PE to all of the classes across the week. We are pleased he has joined us and the children are enjoying getting to know him.

Congratulations to Mrs Silveira who is expecting her first baby in February.

**One way system:**

Please follow our one way system around the school. All Parents are expected to enter the school via the Damson Avenue gate and walk around the school to drop off or pick up your children at their classes, and then exit the school via the School Road gate. This alleviates any congestion at the School Road gate especially as the Reception parents are often queueing to pick up their children. Only those parents with prearranged permission due to health/medical conditions should enter/exit via the car park gate. Members of SLT will be outside on Monday to help show parents the way.

**Parking:**

We have over 400 children in the school and so it obviously gets very busy at pick up and drop off times but it is essential that we keep everyone safe and so please park considerately and safely and please do not double park.

**School Kit:**

We are yet to own our own school sports kit. We would love to be able to provide the children with a kit for them to wear when representing the school at sports events and competitions. For this to happen we are ideally looking for a sponsor. We would be grateful with any amount, however, we would like to buy a kit that consists of socks, shorts, t-shirt and a jumper for 60 children. If you interested in sponsoring our school kit, please do get in touch with 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