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

World **Mental Health Day** is taking place tomorrow, **October 10**, **2020**. The goal is to help raise **mental health** awareness and each of us can make a contribution to ensure that people living with **mental illness** can live better lives with dignity. Good mental health is characterised by a person’s ability to fulfil a number of key functions and activities, including: the ability to learn, the ability to feel, express and manage a range of positive and negative emotions, the ability to form and maintain good relationships with others and the ability to cope with and manage change and uncertainty. Many of our children are feeling the effects of Lockdown and so it is important that we all support them to feel mentally well by helping them talking about their feelings, keeping active, eating well, drinking lots of water, keeping in touch and caring for each other. If you are concerned about your child’s mental health, please talk to us as our Thrive Practitioners can support your child’s mental health and wellbeing. I wish you all a healthy and enjoyable weekend.

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

**Prospective Parents’ Zoom Session:**

On Tuesday 13th October, we are holding a zoom session for prospective parents who may like their child to attend our school in September 2021. If you or you know someone who would like to virtually visit the school, please email into the office and a link will be sent out to you on Monday.

**Parents’ Forum:**

Our parents’ forum to discuss our new behaviour policy will take place on Wednesday 21st October at 0900 and again at 1415. We will email out a link to the meeting on the Tuesday 20th and all you have to do is click on the link to access the meeting. I do hope you can join us for one of the meetings but if you cannot, we will video the forum and upload it onto our website.

**Parent Governor:**

We have a vacancy for a parent governor to join our governing body. For the last couple of years, the school has shared our Governing Body with Chesterton Primary School in Cambridge. This year, the governing body is splitting into separate bodies and we are looking to recruit extra governors. The role of the governors is to be strategic and work alongside senior leaders and support teachers to provide an excellent education for the children. There are six meetings per year that governors are expected to attend as well as a termly visits to the school. If you are interested in the role, please email the office for further information.

**Harvest Festival:**

Thank you to Stephen Dove, one of our Governors, who held our virtual Harvest Festival today, it was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by everyone. It made us think how we can share what we have with those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you also for the kind donations to Ely Food Bank.

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

**Ely Museum Visits:**

Ely Museum visited two year groups virtually this week. Year 1 enjoying learning about tools through the ages whilst Year 6 learnt about the draining of the fens and what Ely used to be like. It was a great experience for our children and a massive thank you to the Museum.

**Parking:**

A neighbour phoned this week to say that one of our parents had parked on his drive and understandably, he wasn’t very happy about it. Please do not park on or across our neighbours drive and park considerably when you arrive at school.

**PTA:**

**Invitation to AGM**
The Annual General Meeting for the Isle of Ely Primary School PTA will be held virtually (via Microsoft Teams) on Thursday 22nd October at 6pm, followed by a Committee meeting.

All parents and carers are welcome and we hope you can join us online.

Please email pta@isleofelyprimary.org to be sent the link to attend the virtual AGM and to view the previous AGM minutes.

At the AGM, we will appoint the committee members for the next year. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please get in touch with us. We are an informal and friendly group which welcomes new members. Joining the PTA is a great way to have fun while supporting the school and coming along to our informal meetings is also a great way to socialise and meet other parents.

If you have any questions, or would like to chat to one of the current committee members, please let us know.

Keep in touch:
Email us: pta@isleofelyprimary.org
Sign up to our mailing list: <http://eepurl.com/dvQ9Mf>
Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IsleOfElyPTA/>

**Half Term Holidays:**

We know that lots of you may have holidays booked already in half term. The current list of countries that have travel corridors with the UK and where an isolation period is not needed on their return can be [found here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors). If a pupil returns from one of the destinations not on this list, they will be required to isolate for 14 days and not attend school – please inform us if this is the case.

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

**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.

**Face coverings:**

Staff and children in school are not expected to wear a face covering during the day. However, if you are visiting school to meet with a member of staff or to talk to the office, we would like you to wear a face covering as is usual in all other inside establishments.

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

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| --- |
| **October** |
| Black History Month |
| Tuesday 13th  | Zoom Meeting for Prospective Parents @ 1000 |
| Monday 19th | School closed to children – PD day |
| Wednesday 21st  | Parents’ Forum @ 0900Parents’ Forum@ 1415 |
| Friday 23rd  | Break up |

**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**

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| --- | --- |
| 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**

|  |  |
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| 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:**

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