

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

Finally, the sun is shining and the days are warmer and longer which always helps everyone to feel better but please remember to send your child in with sun screen on and a hat. There is very little shade on the playground and so it is important that the children are protected against the sun – they can always come inside at lunchtime to the library, construction or colouring club, but sometimes the children forget and get into their playing so sun screen protection is essential. Our PTA is currently raising money to purchase an outdoor classroom/Gazebo which will provide us with much needed shade and so we look forward to a time when we can shade from the sun. Well done to our Year 5 hockey players who came second in a local tournament today having not played together as a team before, this is a fantastic achievement. Good Luck to our Year 6 children who are taking their SAT tests next week, they are ready and will be amazing. Then the week after is Arts week when we look forward to welcoming you into school for our next parent share. I wish you all a relaxing and fun weekend.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

Staffing update:

Sadly, Miss Louise Crawley is still too unwell to return to school, and won't be returning before the end of the summer term. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Mr Richard Ballard, who has been covering Miss Crawley in a supply capacity, has decided to finish his time with us. We would like to thank him for all of his hard work and wish him well for the future.

Mr Harrison Smith, Premier Education Sports Coach, has also left the school. Again we would like to thank him for all of his hard work and wish him well for his future endeavours.

Key Stage 2 SATs:

Next week, our Year 6 children take their Key Stage 2 SATs. They have worked so hard throughout the year, made a lot of progress and are very ready for the tests. We wish them well and encourage them to have a quiet and relaxing weekend and not to worry or stress about next week. Remember that the school is offering breakfast to the Year 6 from 0800 so that they can start the day positively and together so please send your children into school a little earlier than usual if they are in Year 6.

Bake Sale:

Next Friday, 17th May, the PTA are holding a bake sale to raise funds for the school. This will take place at the end of the day outside the school reception. The PTA would love you for you to bake (or buy) cakes, biscuits, donuts or any baked treats (NO NUTS please) to sell at our school bake sale. Please send them into school by 1300 on Friday. A poster from the PTA is attached.

Attendance:

We expect the children in school every day. If they are not in school, gaps will develop within their knowledge and learning and they will be missing out on the important social interactions with their friends. Absence will only be authorised if your child has a high temperature or a vomiting bug (or another significant illness), has medical appointments, if they are observing a religious festival or attending a funeral. All other absences will be unauthorised and unauthorised absences can lead to penalty notices being issued and following three penalty notices, a prosecution.

Mental Health awareness week:

Mental Health Awareness Week 2024 will take place from 13 to 19 May, on the theme of “Movement: Moving more for our mental health”.

Movement is important for our mental health, but so many of us struggle to move enough. We know there are many different reasons for this, so this Mental Health Awareness Week we want to help people to find moments for movement in their daily routines. Going for a walk in your neighbourhood, putting on your favourite music and dancing around the living room, chair exercises when you're watching television – it all counts!

All of the classes will be moving more throughout each day and enjoying the daily mile or cosmic yoga or a minecraft run.

Supporting children's to stay mentally healthy:

Things that can help keep children and young people mentally well include:

- being in good **physical health**, eating a balanced **diet** and getting **regular exercise**
- having time and freedom to play, indoors and outdoors
- being part of a family that gets along well most of the time
- going to a school that looks after the wellbeing of all its pupils
- taking part in local activities

Other factors are also important, including feeling loved, trusted, understood and safe. Children who are optimistic, and resilient, have some control over their lives and feel like they belong are more likely to have good mental well-being.

Focus on behaviour:

Lunchtimes are a hive of activity. The children are loving our enhanced forest school area and are enjoying making mud pies, playing in the fairy garden and making dens. The children enjoy being together, playing dodgeball, skipping, playing on the play equipment or in construction club. Some children enjoy the calmness of the library whilst others have fun singing and dancing. Football can sometimes become emotive but numerous adults are available to support where needed. Children are encouraged to talk to the adults if support is needed.

PTA News:

The PTA are busy organising this year's Isle Fest event, which is due to be held on Saturday 29th June this year.

This year's event will see more great acts on our 'big stage' as well as Harry Potter themed entertainment and workshops; free circus skills workshops; external vendors; and all the regular family favourites!

We are lucky to have received some generous sponsorship and raffle prize donations from local companies. If you or your company would like to sponsor the event, donate a prize for the raffle or be involved in any way, please get in touch with the PTA via our email: PTA@isleofelyprimary.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Online safety (CEOP):

How to protect children from inappropriate contact:

Look out for your child moving to new platforms to chat. Offenders sometimes encourage young people to move from a public forum, to a game, or more private chat apps or sites. Here, they are able to have private conversations that are likely to be less moderated. It's always a good idea to remind your child to be wary of people who want them to chat privately. Have conversations with your child about the new apps they are using and who they may be talking to. You can also find information on [parental controls](#) to help you to [keep track of the apps](#) your child may be installing and ways you can keep them safe.

Use webcam and devices in public spaces. As young people develop, they often seek more privacy and autonomy in both their online and offline world. However, it's important to consider whether your child is developmentally ready to be left unsupervised whilst gaming or chatting. In particular, younger children can struggle to identify risks they may face whilst online and require supervision to learn these skills. Encourage young people to use their [devices in spaces where some level of supervision](#) is possible, for example, a family room or living room.

Encourage your child to identify safe and trusted adults. In their offline world, children are often taught to do as they are told and follow adult instruction. From teachers to parents, most young people are socialised to accept adult's authority. Some offenders rely on this acceptance and use young people's trust in adults to harm them. Help your child to identify adults that are there to help them from ones who they do not know. Encourage their digital literacy by helping them to identify sources on the internet that they can trust and places they should be more cautious. Reinforce the idea that on the internet, adults should not be giving young people instructions or telling them what to do. Young people should ask someone they trust if they are unsure. Visit [Thinkuknow](#) for information on how to help develop your child's digital resilience.

Make sure your child knows where to go for support. Children can sometimes feel partly to blame if something goes wrong online. Remind your child that they can always speak to an adult they trust if they are worried no matter what may have happened. Take time to know [how to report on social media sites and apps](#) to prevent offenders continuing to harm.

Summer Term 2024:

Starts	Monday 15 April 2024
Half term	Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024
Ends	Friday 19th July
Summer holiday:	Saturday 20 July 2024 to Friday 30 August 2024

PD Days (School closed to children):

Friday 24th May 2024