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

It has been so lovely having a school full of children again. The children quickly settled into their new classes and new routines and are enjoying being back at school again. It has been a joy to see so many smiley faces. I would like to thank you all for your patience as we tried to get our pickups and drop offs just right. Our new one way system appears to be working well and so will continue for the foreseeable future. Our staggered times remain in place to ease the congestion around the gate and on the playground so please try and stick to the year group timings. Obviously, if you have more than one child and they have different timings, you are very welcome to drop them all at the same time. As you are walking around the one way system, please all ensure you observe the 2 metre socially distancing rule to keep everyone safe. Our year group bubbles are working well and the children are socially distancing and sanitising their hands regularly – all of the children have been very sensible about keeping themselves and everyone at school safe. I wish you a relaxing weekend, stay safe and see you all on Monday.

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

**Staffing Update:**

We were very pleased to welcome ten new members of staff to our school at the beginning of term; Miss Palmer is teaching Butterfly Class, Miss Overson is Wasp class teacher, Mr Lloyd teaches Moth Class and is also our Deputy Head teacher, Miss Hoque is in Year 5 covering Mrs Hunter, Ms Bradshaw-Campbell and Miss Crawley are our new Year 6 teachers and Miss Spence, Mrs Murray, Mrs Parker and Mrs Daybell all joined our support team.

Sadly, Mrs Hook, one of our admin assistants, is leaving us today to take up a post with the Active Learning Trust. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work and wish her well for the future. We have appointed a new admin assistant and will introduce them shortly.

**Arriving and Departing School:**

Thank you to all of the parents and children for following our one way system– it is working well. Please can we ask that those families who have younger children with them at these times to keep your children by your side and do not allow them to run around in between other families or play with their friends? Once you have dropped your child off or picked them up, please leave the school site and the surrounding areas immediately. Please remember from Monday that only 6 people are allowed to congregate outside.

**Car Park:**

Due to our one way system and to ensure the safety of all families, we have had to close off part of the car park and shut one of the gates. This means that anyone entering or exiting the car park are doing so through one gate. This hasn’t been a problem as there are very few cars parking in the car park but if you are coming into the car park please be mindful and respectful of both pedestrians and other cars. As we have so many members of staff now, the car park will close for parental use on Friday 19th September with the exception of disabled drivers.

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

**Suspected Covid cases**

At this time of year there are lots of bugs that go around schools and many of children have coughs and colds. Normally, we would be happy to keep them in school but in these unprecedented times, 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)
* **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.

Please inform us of the test result as soon as you have it.

We will inform parents if a child has suspected Covid symptoms in a year group bubble as a precaution and will also inform you of the test result. Please try not worry if you receive such a letter, we are being overly cautious at the moment and there are very few cases in East Cambridgeshire, but we have to follow local and government guidance. If a test comes back positive, Public Heath England will advise the school on the next steps.

**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.

**Bringing Things to School:**

As requested in the letter at the beginning of term, children are not to bring anything into school with them except their water bottle and their pack lunch box. Key Stage 2 children can also bring in a piece of fruit for their snack but not something in a packet. The children are to wear PE kit on their PE days and wear trainers if they are doing an after school activities so no bags are needed to be sent in. If you child is doing forest school, they should wear something that you are happy for them to get dirty in. Also at this time, please do not send anything into school for your child to give out to celebrate their birthday.

The

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

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| **September** |
| w/c Monday 14th  | Year 5 Bikeability |
| Wednesday 16th  | Children’s Council Presentations |
| Thursday 17th | Children’s Council Elections |
| Tuesday 22nd  | Mr Warburton from Ely College visiting Year 6 |
| Wednesday 23rd  | Eco Council Presentations |
| Thursday 24th  | Eco Council Elections |
| Monday 28th  | Informal parent meetings 1530-1730 (Via TEAMS) |
| Wednesday 30th  | Informal parent meetings 1530-1930 (Via TEAMS) |

**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**