

### Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

This half term started with the staff gaining an understanding of how diversity, equality, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) work manifests in our curriculum. We reflected on the thought process underpinning authentic, impactful and lasting work and we identified actions to take. It was challenging but inspiring work and really made us think critically about our curriculum offer. The subject leaders are now looking at their specific curriculum areas to ensure that DEIJ is threaded throughout but we are only at the beginning of the journey and we will continue to reflect upon our curriculum offer and how we can improve it as the year progresses. Thank you to all of the parents who attended our parents' evening this week. The teachers enjoyed talking to you all and I hope you found the conversations useful. Our teachers are usually available at the end of the day if you feel you would like to continue that conversation or alternatively, you can email the office to make an appointment with your child's class teacher. I have been working with the House Captains to organise a variety of activities. Next week, I am taking a group of Green House children to visit the residents at Lily House so the children can share some of their learning with them. Then the week after, Blue House have organised a charity day and further details are on the next page. I have been impressed with the house captains' leadership skills and initiatives and I look forward to the house upcoming events. Enjoy the weekend!

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

#### **Staffing Update:**

Mrs Samantha Barrett and Mrs Karen Stubbs have joined our team as learning support assistants. Mrs Stubbs is working in Bumblebee Class whilst Mrs Barrett is supporting the Reception Team.

Next week, we are interviewing for Mrs Silveira's replacement whilst she is on maternity leave which she is intending to take from the end of January. We will keep you posted.

#### **Parking:**

We have several parents with blue mobility badges and who can park in the disabled bays. Recently, they have found it difficult to park in these bays as other parents are parking there. Unless you have a mobility badge, please do not park in the disabled bays.

#### **Anti-Bullying Week:**

Next week is Anti-Bullying week and to start the week, we are holding an odd socks day on Monday so please send your child into school in odd socks.

The theme nationally is 'Reach Out' focusing on empowering children to challenge bullying and do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

We are also holding our first inter house afternoon. On Tuesday afternoon, the children from across the school will be working together in their houses thinking about anti-bullying. They will be taking part in a variety of team building and anti-bullying activities.

**Attendance:**

Our whole school attendance is very good and is currently 98%. The expected level of attendance for all children is 96% and for our school, the vast majority of the children are achieving that which we are really pleased about. We track all of the children's attendance and if your child's attendance drops below 96%, the teachers will contact you to discuss it further and if it drops below 94% you may be invited to a meeting. Absence is only authorised for illness, medical appointments, funerals and religious observance. All other absence will be unauthorised, including holidays, and three consecutive unauthorised absences or eight unauthorised absences in total may result in you being issued a penalty notice. Thank you for understanding the importance of good attendance and for ensuring your children are in school regularly.

**Blue House Charity Day:**

Isaac and David, Blue House Captains, would like to support Little Miracles Charity this year. They have organised a blue day at school for all of the children on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November. They want all of the children to wear as much blue as possible and donate £2 to Little Miracles Charity, a charity supporting children with additional needs, disabilities and life limiting conditions. Isaac and David are looking forward to seeing who can wear the most blue. Please donate to Little Miracles on the link below:

[Isle of Ely Primary School is fundraising for Little Miracles \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Isle-of-Ely-Primary-School)

**Children in needs:**

Next Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November, is Children in Need day. As the House Captains are busy organising four different charity days to happen across the year, we have decided that we are happy for the children to come into school wearing their Pudsey Bear ears and wear spots and be spotacular but we won't be collecting donations for the charity. However, if you would like to donate to children in need, please click on the following link: [Donate to BBC Children in Need](https://www.bbc.com/children-in-need)

**Wreath Making Workshop:**

The PTA are holding two wreath making workshops on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 1900 – 2100. Join them and get into the festive spirit and you will be guided in making your very own Christmas wreath. To book a place, please click on the Eventbrite link below:

<https://bit.ly/ioewreathmaking>

**Winter Fest:**

The PTA will be holding Winter Fest on the evening of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 1700 – 1900. There will be Christmas stalls and activities as well as food and drink. Winter Fest will end with a wonderful firework display. Further details will be available closer to the time but please note the date in your diaries.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023