

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

Welcome back – I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and enjoyed the festivities and the break. The children have come back to school with enthusiasm and vigour and have started where they left off, eager and ready to learn and to play and socialise with their friends. This term is a very short term but there is loads to pack in and we look forward to welcoming you into school for coffee mornings and share sessions in the coming weeks. We have introduced a new PSHE curriculum since Christmas called Jigsaw. Jigsaw PSHE perfectly connects the pieces of Personal, Social, health and well-being education. The programme teaches children emotional literacy, social-and lifelong skills, RSE and resilience in an age appropriate manner. There is a parent portal for you to see what your children are learning but you have to request this information and be sent a code. Miss Palmer will be writing to you shortly with further details. Mrs Godfrey has also been working with our school council to refresh our school values which we will be launching next week. They link very closely to our Jigsaw curriculum and will link to our head teacher awards and children who demonstrate our values will be placed on the class recognition board. Mrs Godfrey will be writing to you next week with further information and we will be sending home newsletters with links and activities for each value so you can work with your child at home too. I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

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

#### **Red House Charity Day:**

Red house charity day is next Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> January. The Red House captains would like all of the children to come into school in non-uniform and they will also be hosting a talent competition. Queenie and Millie, Red House captains, will be holding auditions each lunchtime next week in the studio and will pick their favourites to take part in the talent competition on Friday. They are raising money for Sands which is a charity to support families who have been affected by the loss of a baby. Please click on the link below to donate £2 for your child to wear non-uniform and to enjoy the talent show. Please encourage your child to audition, we are looking for a variety of talents.

[Isle of Ely Primary School is fundraising for Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Isle-of-Ely-Primary-School)

#### **Break/lunchtimes:**

The children can move around the outside space as they wish at lunch and break time and many of the children love going in the forest school area and on the field. However, it is very muddy and it is very important that the children have a change of shoes, ideally wellies, for this time. We would like every children to have indoor and outdoor shoes.

#### **Wellies:**

We are looking for donations of wellies of all different sizes. This will mean that any child can borrow a pair of wellies from the rack and go on the field or the forest school area if they do not have a change of footwear. Any old wellies you have, please send to the office for us to use and recycle.

**Facebook:**

The school is looking to set up and launch a Facebook page shortly to develop and enhance our communication with you all. Please look out for further details in the coming weeks.

**School Values:**

Mrs Godfrey has been working with the school council to refresh our school values. They have been thinking about what values are important to them and what qualities they want to have before they leave our school. Our new values are: resilient, reflective, kind, courageous, responsible and respectful. These are being introduced to the whole school next week and then over the whole term, we will be focusing on a different value each week. A big thank you to the school councillors for all of their hard work and Mrs Godfrey will be writing to you next week with further details on how you can support your children with our values.

**Spotlight on behaviour:**

Empathy is the ability to identify with another person's feelings or experiences; to put yourself in someone else's shoes. Empathy is different to sympathy. Sympathy is feeling sad or sorry for someone. Empathy is thinking, 'how might that person be feeling?' The children need to understand that people can have feelings that are different to ours. People might see situations differently to us too. It is important for the children to think about how the other person is feeling and consider why they may feel that way and what they could do to show kindness and empathy.

**Online Safety:**

49% of 6 – 10 year olds say they prefer to watch YouTube content rather than TV programmes on a TV set. YouTube is a video sharing platform where you can watch, create and share videos. While you can't send private messages on the platform, you can communicate with other users via the comment section under the video player. YouTube Kids is a separate app and website created by YouTube that offers more filters and restrictions to help stop children coming across inappropriate content.

There are also additional parental control features available depending on your child's age. You can choose between three age-based content settings:

- Preschool (Ages 4 and under)
- Younger (Ages 5–8)
- Older (Ages 9–12)

You can create individual user profiles for more than one child.

While the platform uses a range of different filters to stop adult content from playing, these aren't always 100% effective. We always recommend supervising your child when they're watching videos or watching them to make sure they are suitable.

## School Term Dates 2023/2024

### Spring Term 2024:

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Starts                  | Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January                  |
| Half term               | Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 23 February 2024 |
| Ends                    | Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March                    |
| Spring (Easter) holiday | Friday 29 March 2023 to Sunday 14 April 2024       |

### Summer Term 2024:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Starts         | Monday 15 April 2024                           |
| Half term      | Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024       |
| Ends           | Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July                   |
| Summer holiday | Saturday 20 July 2024 to Friday 30 August 2024 |

PD Days (School closed to children):

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024