

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

The weather certainly changed this week but it didn't dampen the mood at school as the children continued learning in their bubbles. It has been lovely hearing the children chatting to each other about their learning and enjoying being in school. Next week we will be opening a fourth key worker bubble and that means we are nearly at capacity as we will have approximately one third of the school's children on site all socially distancing. I know many of you and your children are probably feeling very frustrated and disappointed following the Government's announcement that the children in other year groups will not be returning to school before the summer holiday. I know this is probably affecting your children in different ways so if you are concerned about your child's mental health, please do look at our website for the agencies that can support you or get in touch with us. We care about all of our children and we want to support them all, whether they are in school or not. Please continue to take good care of yourselves and stay safe.

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

Well done and Thank you:

A big well done to Bradley, a Year 5 pupil, who has raised £1000 for the NHS by running 30K over a week and was featured on BBC radio Cambridgeshire. They also made a video about him which is on their Facebook page and website. He was even mentioned on a specially commissioned rap for them about the lockdown! He has also been nominated for an Ely Hero's award. What a star Bradley is.

Thank you to all of our families who have supported the school over the recent weeks and months. I know it hasn't been easy for so many of you to balance work and caring responsibilities with supporting your child with their home learning but it is greatly appreciated.

Staffing Update:

Two Teaching Assistants started at the school just before lockdown and so I didn't know whether you had been introduced to them. Ms Rachel Austin is currently working in Year 1, Bubble B and Mrs Helen Cooper has been supporting Reception. They already feel part of the team and have enjoyed getting to know the children in their bubbles as well as the rest of the staff.

We are still advertising for two members of staff to join our Little Elvers team, two fixed term Teaching Assistants and a Pastoral Teaching Assistant. If you are interested or you know anyone who may be interested, please have a look at the vacancies page on our website or www.epm.com

Arriving at School:

If your child is in one of our bubbles and you arrive late for the start of it, please still go to the normal entrance and not to the school office. If the gate is locked, please telephone the office who will contact the bubble to let them know you are waiting at the gate. An adult from the bubble will let your child in.

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Home Learning:

Many of you have told us that your child is missing the videos from their teachers and it simply isn't the same when the parent asks their child to do some learning. So from next week, we will be reintroducing three videos per week from Years 2 – 5, one English, one Maths and one Topic video. It may not be your child's class teacher in the video, or on a voice over, but it will be an adult your child is familiar with. We are hoping this will help!

If you would like more paper based learning and less online learning, please do look at our website for further ideas.

If you have any problems, worries or concerns with the home learning do please email your child's class teacher through admin@isleofelyprimary.org and they will be more than happy to help you. It is important to note that these are **exceptional times** and how much of the home learning is done is very dependent on your family circumstances. We do not expect your child to do every piece of work that is set. The important thing is that your children are safe, well and happy.

For alternative lessons, please look at Oak National Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/> or BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

Ely Museum:

Ely Museum have produced home activities.

For further information, please click on the link <http://www.elymuseum.org.uk/blog/>

They publish a new topic every Tuesday, next week's topic is castles and the following week is Vikings.

Recent Protests:

Over the past fortnight, we have all been touched by the protests across the world and the Black Lives Matter movement. As a school, we want to ensure children understand the value of acceptance. Moving forwards, we are writing our new curriculum to be more diverse. This means that there will be a greater emphasis on children learning about different cultures and historical events from all viewpoints, not just the one that has been socially accepted over the past decades. We are also looking at the texts that children will be studying to ensure that there are a range of role models within them and significant people from all backgrounds are celebrated.

Diary dates & events

Summer term:	Monday 20 th April 2020 to Tuesday 21 st July 2020
Half term:	Monday 25 th May 2020 (May Bank Holiday) to Friday 29 th May 2020
Bank Holiday:	Friday 8 th May (School closed to children)

School Term Dates 2020/2021

Autumn term

Starts	Monday 7th September (3rd & 4th September PD days)
Half term	Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2020 (Monday 19 th October PD Day)
Ends	Friday 18th December 2020
Christmas holiday	Monday 21st December 2020 to Sunday 3rd January 2021

Spring term

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

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