

Acting Head Teacher's Comment – from Kate Coates

Well, what a busy two weeks we have come to the end of! With Y3/4 play rehearsals, Arts Week, sports events, World Book Day, an author visit, parent share sessions, workshops, the children should certainly have plenty to tell you about! With all that has been happening, the children have remained full of energy and it has been wonderful to see them embrace new challenges and experiences so enthusiastically. They have produced some fantastic work during Arts Week and it has been lovely seeing them working so well together.

I'm thrilled to be here for the forthcoming months and look forward to meeting you all. My key focus until Easter will be on improving behaviour across the school so it is consistently 'good or better'. I am liaising with Mrs Surtees so that there is a smooth transition for children, staff and families.

Enjoy your weekend!

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

COVID-19

As a school we are monitoring the situation closely, and will continue to provide updates as necessary. Active Learning Trust is supporting all of its schools and offering advice when needed. If you suspect your child or a member of your family has this virus, please let the school know as soon as possible. For further Government advice, please see the following link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Parent Consultations

Don't forget that there are parent consultation sessions on Monday 16th and Wednesday 18th March. If you are unable to attend your allocated slot, please let the office know as soon as possible.

School Leadership

The Trust have advised us that sadly it doesn't look as if Mrs Davies will be returning to school this term. In her absence Mrs Coates will be our Acting Head until Easter. After Easter Mrs Surtees will return as our Head and Mrs Coates will continue to support the leadership capacity across the school. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Donations

We are still collecting donations of high quality jigsaw puzzles and books for the Orchards care home (adjacent to the school). Thank you so much for your generous donations that have already been received. If you have any donations please kindly bring them to the school office.

School Gates

As a result of the Parent Council meeting on Friday, the school staff have tightened up safeguarding arrangements for the gates. This means that the gates will close at 8:35 and 3:10. The school day officially starts at 8:30 so anyone arriving after this time is actually deemed as late. There seems to have been some confusion with regards to the start time but Mrs Coates has investigated this and it appears that the school day has always been 8:30 – 3:00. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Attendance

Mrs. Coates will be doing an attendance check next week. This will involve looking at the children's attendance rates since September. Please be aware that the target for attendance is at least 96% and should your child's attendance drop below this, we may need to investigate why this is and whether there is any support we can offer you. We understand that some children have had illness and medical appointments which will be taken into consideration when we look at the figures.

Don't be alarmed or worried if we contact you regarding attendance; we want to help and make sure that your child has all the support possible to achieve their potential.



National Literacy Trust

As mentioned previously this year we are taking part in the National Literacy Trust's survey of children and young people to explore their views on reading, writing and listening.

Your child's participation is optional, but will provide valuable information for the National Literacy Trust and our school. The survey can be accessed via the links below. There is one survey for children aged 5-8 and one for children aged 9 and over. The survey for pupils aged 9 to 18 also includes a few questions on news literacy, diversity and empathy so could take up to 25 minutes to complete.

Children should try to answer the questions in this survey independently. However, they may need help to read and/or understand some of the questions.

As a school we will not be able to access individual pupils' results. However, we will receive a whole school report.

Ages 5 -8: http://research.literacytrust.org.uk/s/ALS2020_5to8_IsleofEly/

Ages 9 to 18: http://research.literacytrust.org.uk/s/ALS2020_IsleofEly/

All surveys need to be completed by the new extended deadline of 20 March 2020.

PE Update

Miss. Falconer (PE Leader) is currently investigating swimming lessons for the Year 5s when they enter Year 6. She is also going to investigate the Daily Mile initiative to see how we could implement this into our school day.

Bikeability is also an initiative that has been booked for the current Year 5s but in future will be offered to Year 5/6s. It is a cycling proficiency course that helps children to be safe on the roads but also ensure the cycles are maintained well. This will happen in the summer term.

Ely Museum Visits

This week, Year 3 and Year 4 were very lucky to have Lyndsey and Paul from Ely Museum deliver a workshop about the Stone Age. The children enjoyed handling some artefacts and replica items, as well as finding out how these would have been used. We looked at examples of weapons they would have used and how these have evolved over the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages. The children also did some carving into deer antlers, which gave them a real insight into how difficult and time consuming it must have been.

Arts Week

Arts Week was a huge success with the children all enjoying the various workshops they participated in, with lots of new styles tried and wonderful pieces created. A big thank you to all those who helped out either by offering their artistic skills or donations of materials. I hope you all enjoyed the parent share and open session.

PTA News

Chocolate Bingo

Unfortunately we have made the decision to cancel this event in light of the current covid-19 coronavirus. We will reschedule this event after the Easter holidays and more information on this will follow soon. If you have purchased a ticket already you can either keep it for our rescheduled date or email the PTA for a refund. Apologies for any disappointment this has caused.

Coming soon

The Matchbox Challenge is coming! Information packs about this will follow soon.

Isle Fest 4th July 2020 plans are under way and it's shaping up to be another fun family event. If you have any ideas or would like to get involved in planning or on the day then please email us.

Previous fundraising

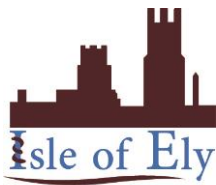
We hope the children all enjoyed the Valentines disco. We would like to say a big thank you to the parents and staff who helped on the night. Also to Sammy Magic Magic for donating his DJ skills free of charge. We raised a fantastic £342!

Keep in touch:

Email us: pta@isleofelyprimary.org

Sign up to our mailing list: <http://eepurl.com/dvQ9Mf>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IsleOfElyPTA/>



IOE Fortnightly Newsletter

13th March 2020

Diary dates & events

Next 2 weeks:

- Monday 16th March 2020 – Parents Evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm
- Tuesday 17th March 2020 - Family worker in 9am - 11am
- Wednesday 18th March 2020 – Parents Evening 3.30pm-7.30pm
- Friday 20th March 2020 – Parent Council at 8.45am
- Friday 20th March 2020 – Netball Event for some Y5 SVC
- Friday 20th March 2020 – YR Mother’s Day games afternoon at 2.30pm
- Monday 23rd March 2020 – Mother’s Day afternoon tea for Little Elyers at 2pm
- Tuesday 24th March 2020 - Y3/4 Production at 2pm
- Wednesday 25th March 2020 – Photographer in for class group photos
- Wednesday 25th March 2020 - Y3/4 Production at 2pm
- Wednesday 25th March 2020 - Y3/4 Production at 6pm
- Thursday 26th March 2020 –Y4 Trip to St. Marys Church

Forward Planning:

- Monday 30th March 2020 – Y1 trip to Wicken Fen
- Tuesday 31st March 2020 – School choir at the Ely Schools Music Festival
- Thursday 2nd April 2020 – Last day of term
- Wednesday 22nd April 2020 – Y 5 music workshops
- Friday 24th April 2020 – Y5 Quicksticks Hockey at Ely Rugby Club
- Wednesday 29th April 2020 – GB Athlete visit (whole school)
- Friday 1st May 2020 – Y3/4 Cricket Event at Ely Rugby Club
- Monday 4th –Wednesday 6th May 2020 – Science Week
- Thursday 7th May 2020 – PD day, school closed to children
- Friday 8th May 2020 – Bank Holiday, school closed to children

2019/2020 Term dates:

Spring term: Monday 6th January (6th & 7th January PD days – school closed to children) to Thursday 2nd April

Half term: Friday 14th February (PD day – school closed to children) to Friday 21st February 2020

Spring (Easter Holiday): Friday 3rd April 2020 to Sunday 19th April 2020 (includes Bank Holidays)

Summer term: Monday 20th April 2020 to Tuesday 21st July 2020

PD Day: Thursday 7th May 2020 (School closed to children)

Bank Holiday: Friday 8th May (School closed to children)

Half term: Monday 25th May 2020 (May Bank Holiday) to Friday 29th May 2020