

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

I normally find world book day tricky as dressing up is not one of my favourite things but I loved it this year, dressing up as the White Queen from The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe, and joining in with all of the children celebrating our love of books and reading. It was such a fantastic and joyous day and I loved all of the children's costumes. Thank you to you all for supporting the day and making the day special for everyone. Thank you also for supporting the book fair which has meant we have been able to purchase more dictionaries and thesauruses for the school. You may have noticed that I am not always on the gate every day each week, especially on a Tuesday and Wednesday, and this is because I have trained as an Ofsted inspector. It is a real privilege visiting other schools around the region and to be in their schools talking to their children and staff and seeing their provision but I am always so glad to get back to the Isle of Ely. There is something really special about our school, from our wonderful children to the lovely school building, from the fantastic curriculum offer to the way our children behave, from our positive parental support to the amazingly dedicated staff. Our school is truly unique and a school I am incredibly proud of. I wish you all a relaxing and fun weekend – see you next week!

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

Staff update:

As you are probably aware, Mrs Heather Brookes, has been away from school for a while as she has been unwell. Recently, the medical advice that she has received, means that she is unable to return to her role within the school as she concentrates on getting better. Sadly, she will not be returning to the school. We thank Heather for all of her hard work and commitment to the school. She has supported and helped so many of our children and she was the founding member of the PTA. It was her imagination and ideas which led to the successes of Isle Fest and other PTA activities. We wish Heather well on her journey to recovery and look forward to seeing her again soon.

Our deputy head teacher advert closes on Wednesday and so if you know anyone who may be interested, please direct them to the vacancies page on our website. Interviews will be held the week after and we will keep you updated as soon as we have any news.

School Values:

During our assemblies this term, we have been focusing on our new school values; resilient, reflective, respect, courageous, kind and responsible. The children have really taken these values on board and are mindful of them during each and every day at school. The behaviour at school is exceptionally good and the children are now very mindful of each other, they are showing empathy, taking risks with their learning and reflecting upon their mistakes, trying new thing and showing respect to our whole community. It has been great to see and we will continue to embed these in to our everyday lives.

Book Fair:

Thank you to everyone who supported the book day. We sold over £1000 worth of books which meant that we received £545 from the book fair which we have used to buy dictionaries and thesauruses for the school.

Taste Ramadan:

We are really proud of the diverse community at the Isle of Ely. This week saw the beginning of the Muslim month of Ramadan and we have several children in school showing their reflection and their discipline by practising *Sawm* – fasting or abstaining from other things and one of the Five Pillars of Islam. We are equally proud to be hosting this year's Taste Ramadan event. Muslim organisations and mosques across the UK will open their doors to invite people from all walks of life, of all faiths and none, to Taste Ramadan; to share food and share friendship. After sunset, Muslims break their fast with the Iftar meal and gather to share food together. This year, the Ely Muslim community invite you to attend and experience Ramadan at our school on the Saturday 23rd March. [Click this link](#) to sign up to attend.

World Book Day:

We had such a lovely time on World Book Day. The children and staff looked wonderful in their costumes and there was such a happy buzz around the school. It is always incredible talking about and celebrating books as our children and staff have a clear love of reading. Thank you to everyone for their help and support with their costumes and for making the day fun and enjoyable.

Cycling/Walking to School:

Very often on the newsletter, there are concerns around parking and being safe at pick up and drop off time. One parent talked to us recently and said that instead of being worried about the parking, we should be promoting walking and cycling to school and we actually think they have a point. If more of you walked and cycled to school, there would be fewer concerns about parking and safety and it would be good for your health, fitness and the environment. Therefore, please consider leaving the car at home and walking, cycling or scooting to school.

Facebook:

Our new Isle of Ely Facebook group is now live. Please join our Isle of Ely page as we will be posting all of the relevant information there, including this newsletter, and the other community page will be closing at the end of term.

Online Safety:

As children start to explore the internet, they may come across content that isn't suitable for their age, or that may upset or worry them. The NSPCC have lots of advice to help and support your child if they have seen explicit or harmful content. Please visit their website for additional information.

School Term Dates 2023/2024

Spring Term 2024:

Starts	Wednesday 3 rd January
Half term	Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 23 February 2024
Ends	Thursday 28 th 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 th July
Summer holiday	Saturday 20 July 2024 to Friday 30 August 2024

PD Days (School closed to children):

Friday 24th May 2024