

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

Welcome back to another new year. The summer holidays seem a distant memory now but I do hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable time. I am pleased to report that the new term has started well. All of the children have transitioned into their new classes with ease and they are enjoying getting to know their new teachers, their new class mates and the new learning. The Department for Education (DfE) places a duty on schools to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain by developing their understanding of 'fundamental British values' and so this week we have been focusing on the British Value of Democracy as all of the children have been voting for their councillors and House Captains. Obviously, not all of the children who put themselves forward could win the election but a big thank you to everyone who took part and congratulations to those children who have been elected. The House Captains and all the councils will have a busy year. I look forward to the school being a kinder, greener and better place following the suggestions and work of the Captains and councillors. I have sent out all of the dates for the year so hopefully, you have added them to your calendars and diaries, but I just wanted to highlight the half termly coffee morning which will be a chance for you to come in, have a coffee and a chat with members of the senior leadership team and other professionals around topics such as mental health and behaviour. The first coffee morning is on Friday 13th October, please do come along. Enjoy the weekend.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

Staffing Update:

We have welcomed four new members of staff at the beginning of the new term. Miss Charlotte Clayton and Miss Lucy Peck joined our teaching team and Mr Mark Holland and Mr Mark Slee joined our site team. We are very pleased they have joined us, we are enjoying getting to know them and we are pleased that they have already settled into the school really well.

Congratulations to Miss Jessica Overson who welcomed a little boy, Oscar, in August. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Mrs Mead went on maternity leave last Friday and we look forward to hearing her baby news shortly.

Sadly, Mr Nigel Reynolds, decided to leave us over the summer holidays. We thank him for all of his hard work and wish him well for his future endeavours.

House Captains:

Congratulations to the following Year 6 pupils who have been elected as Captain of their House:

RED HOUSE: Millie & Queenie

BLUE HOUSE: Monty & Chloe L

YELLOW HOUSE: Charlie & Isaac D

GREEN HOUSE: Georgia & William

Spotlight on behaviour

Our school rules of Safe, Ready, Respect, permeate all aspects of school life. The children know the rules very well and they enjoy getting house points and being put on the recognition board for following them. As our rules are so simple to follow, and the children understand them and what they mean, pupils behave well in classes and in the playground. The classes are calm whereas the playground is a hive of activity with lots happening.

End of the day:

Our children love playing on our play equipment at lunch and break times when it is supervised by a member of staff. I know at the end of the day it is very tempting for them and their younger siblings to play on it too but please do not allow your child to use the play equipment at pick up time as without staff supervision it is not safe. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Please also do not allow your child to climb the trees or the lamp post at the front of the school as this is also not safe.

Open sessions for Intake 2024:

If you have a child, or you know someone who has a child, born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, then you will be thinking about them starting school in September 2024. We have 60 places at our school for Reception children and we would love your child to join us and be part of the Isle of Ely Primary School. We are an Ofsted rated 'good' school, we are extremely inclusive, we have great teaching and support staff, our curriculum is engaging and fun and the children's behaviour is exemplary. If you would like to come and see all of this for yourself, please book onto one of our up and coming open sessions taking place throughout the Autumn Term. Please email or phone the office to put your name down. The first open session is taking place on Tuesday 10th October and other dates can be found on our calendar on the website.

Families from around the world:

The Isle of Ely Primary is made up of a very diverse community and we would like to celebrate that with a new display in the school containing contributions from our families.

If you would like your child or family to be included, please send in a photo, postcard or small memento (nothing that needs to be returned) and a small bit of writing about your child's heritage. We plan to place these around a world map, with strings marking the places our families have travelled from.

The more different parts of the world we can show we are linked to the better, so please feel welcome to send in a contribution about your child's parents, grandparents or even great grandparents.

PTA:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the planned PTA cinema for Saturday 23rd September has been cancelled. The PTA will be in touch shortly with dates of future events.

Next Wednesday 20th September at 2pm, the PTA will be hosting a 'come and meet the PTA coffee afternoon' in the staff room – please do come along.

School Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Autumn Term 2023:

Starts	Friday 1 st September
Half term	Monday 23 October 2023 to Friday 27 October 2023
Ends	Wednesday 20 th December
Christmas holiday	Thursday 21 st December 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 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 1st September 2023
Monday 4th September 2023
Monday 30th October 2023
Wednesday 3rd January 2024
Friday 24th May 2024