

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

The children have had a lovely couple of busy weeks. They thoroughly enjoyed the Panto, King Arthur, as well as the silent discos and the anti-bullying workshops. These workshops reiterated our messages of interrupt, question, educate and echo for any unkind words or behaviour and we are continuing to reinforce this message regularly. This week has been particularly festive with the Key Stage 1 Christmas nativity and Reception and Little Elvers Christmas sing alongs. All of the children performed brilliantly and it was a lovely way to get into the festive spirit. Thank you to all of you who attended and to the wonderful staff who put the performances together. I look forward to seeing you all at the decoration morning on Monday where there will be lots of glitter and sparkles and all things Christmas. It has been a fabulous autumn term with many highlights so a big thank you for all of your support and kindness. I wish you a merry Christmas, an enjoyable and relaxing break and a happy new year. I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Thursday 4th January.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

The Power of PACE at Christmas time:

There are lots of feelings flying around at Christmas time for children and adults alike. Finding the right balance for you is something to work towards. PACE can help. PACE – Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy. For more information, please see the attached flyer.

Decoration morning:

Decoration morning is taking place on Monday and we are looking forward to welcoming you to our classes to make Christmas decorations with your child. It starts at 0830 and will last for an hour. Please wait in the playground to be collected and taken to your child's classroom. You will be able to swap classes half way through the morning but please wait to be taken to your other child's class by a member of staff.

Tennis Champion:

Congratulations to Henry J in Caterpillar Class who has been awarded tennis player of the year from Ely tennis club – what a fantastic achievement, we are very proud of you Henry.

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 child to have indoor and outdoor shoes.

Facebook:

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

House Afternoon:

The House captains have organised a house afternoon on Tuesday 19th December. The children from across the school will work in their houses taking part in fun activities organised by their house captains. Green House captains have asked that the children in their house bring in a suitable sized pebble for the children to paint on and the children in Red House need a cereal box on the day. Yellow and Blue House have organised activities which require no additional resources.

PTA news:

Thank you to everyone who attended Winter Fest. It was a lovely, festive evening and we have raised approximately £3000. Thank you for all of your support and we look forward to further events in the New Year.

Spotlight on behaviour:

Recently, we have been aware that there has been some talk of punishments and of punitive whole class measures happening. However, our behaviour policy is therapeutic and we don't talk about punishments. If a rule is broken, educational and protective consequences are put in place that relate to the incident, e.g. if the whole class are talking when walking to assembly, the class will practice. If a child is throwing rubbish, they will be asked to do a litter pick and if a child has not been listening during a lesson, the lesson will be repeated in their own time. Following the consequence, there is then a restorative conversation so that the child learns from their behaviour and makes the necessary changes. We then record the conversation on a behaviour log to track any incidents of behaviour. However, behaviour in school is very good, the rules are followed the majority of the time and the consequences and restorative consequences are rare.

Online Safety:

Christmas is such a wonderful time of year, excitable children and time to relax with family and friends. And of course, there are new toys to play with.

With a huge increase in sales of devices (around 13 million people receive smartphones for Christmas each year) it is important to ensure that you and your children are safe when playing with new kit. To help, UK Safer Internet Centre has set out a few top tips to help keep your household safe online over the holidays.

Learn your way around the Tech, set boundaries, monitor and have conversations. Further details can be found via the following link:

[Top tips for staying safe online at Christmas - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

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