

Acting Head Teacher's Comment – from Laura Fielding

Welcome to our new look school newsletter. Please let us have any feedback on the new format, and any suggestions you have to make communication even better.

I sincerely hope you like the changes to the newsletter! We are trying to take on board your comments and after a 3 week trial we will be asking for your feedback. Don't worry- the dates are still at the bottom! We are really hoping this will centralise all of the information for you! The children all looked fantastic today in their spots supporting Children in Need! We've raised a fantastic total of £256.35! The children should all be very proud of themselves.

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

Communication

After meeting and listening to feedback from the Parent Council we have decided to adapt our approach to communication. We are going to try and add all the dates and information in short sections on the newsletter in order to reduce the number of parent mails you are receiving. There are still going to be occasions where parent mails will be necessary but hopefully this will reduce. We are also looking at changing our website so that it is regularly updated and you will be able to find out what the children are learning through your child's class page. Until we have updated the website we are going to continue adding class information onto the newsletter and then in time this will be accessed via the website only. We will also continue with newsletters weekly until the new design website is up and running when we will then change to fortnightly. We really appreciate all of your feedback and therefore the week before Christmas we will be asking for feedback on the new newsletter and communication strategies moving forward to ensure we are being as informative as possible and we are all working collaboratively.

Head Teachers Awards

Head teachers awards will no longer be mentioned in the newsletter. Those children who receive a Head Teacher Award will now get a certificate to bring home with the reason they received it printed on. We hope this will be a nice memento of their hard work.

Book fair

This year we will be running a book fair during Parents evenings on Monday 25th November and Wednesday 27th November. It will also be open in the library on Tuesday 26th November between 15.00-15.30. Every book sold raises money for the school to buy new books. We would really appreciate your support with this.

Christmas productions

We are looking forward to our KS1, Reception and Little Elvers Christmas plays this year! The letters for costumes and parts are going home this week so please keep an eye out for these and if you don't receive one please speak to your child's class teacher.

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

Parents evening

We are looking forward to seeing you all on Monday 25th November and Wednesday 27th November for parents evenings. Please ensure you have signed up for a slot. This year we will be organising it slightly differently and we ask you to come in through the side entrance of the building towards the main hall where all consultations will take place. After school club for KS1, Reception and Little Elvers will take place in Little Elvers on these days so if your child is attending please collect them from the Little Elvers entrance.

Greener Growth Day

On Friday 22nd November we are looking forward to planting 250 trees. Children can bring £1 to wear non-uniform and please ensure children come prepared for the weather to plant their tree. We are also welcoming volunteers on Wednesday 20th November from 10am to help us prepare for the grand tree planting! Parents are invited in to school to join in with their child's tree planting sessions at the following times:

Year 5: 9.30am

Year 4: 10.15am

Year 3: 11.00am

Year 2: 12.30pm

Year 1: 1.15pm

Year R: 2.00pm

Thrive approach

After Christmas we say Thank you and Goodbye to Place2Be and we will be embarking on a new adventure with Thrive. Mrs Ashman will become our Thrive practitioner at school and will be working with any children who are struggling socially or emotionally and to support the children's general wellbeing. If you would like more information about the Thrive approach please use their website <https://www.thriveapproach.com/>. This new approach means that children will have access to support five days a week through a therapeutic approach and we will be able to broaden the number of children we can support. If your child is currently accessing Place2Be there will be a handover between Mrs Ashman, Mrs Fielding and Place2Be to ensure that these children continue to receive the support they need.

Attendance

Please can we remind you that morning registration is between 8.25am and 8.35am. The gates will be locked at 8.35am prompt and registers will commence at 8.35am. Any child who misses morning registration in their class will be marked as late. If a child arrives at school after 8.50am they will receive an unauthorised absence code in accordance with guidance from the Educational Welfare Officers. If children are consistently late a meeting will take place between a member of the senior leadership team and the parent in the first instance. We will then continue to follow the local authority policies and procedures. School registers are a legal document and as such must be completed accurately by the school. Appropriate attendance is also a legal requirement.

Sensory Circuits

Some children have been invited to attend sensory circuits in the morning to help with their additional needs. Children attending sensory circuits must come to school via the side entrance into the school and not through the main classroom entrance. The children will be registered in the hall and pick their lunches here too. Gates will be closed at 8.35am and any child attending after this will miss their sensory circuit time and will need to go via the office to register. A register is taken and if a child is regularly not attending the place will be offered to another child.

Library Update

We have been offering children the opportunity to take home books from the library for a few weeks now. These are in addition to their reading books and are for them to enjoy with you at home. The loan period is up to two weeks, but books can be renewed if required. Each child has been issued with a unique barcode, which they scan to check books in and out of the library. If books go missing at home, then we will ask you to replace them.

We are always looking to expand our collection of books, so if you have any good quality non-fiction or fiction books you would like to donate to the library please bring them into the office.

The Sun Books For Schools Promotion

We will be taking part in The Sun's Books for Schools promotion which runs from Saturday 23 November 2019 to Saturday 18 January 2020. During this time you can collect tokens from The Sun and The Sun on Sunday newspapers. If we collect enough tokens then we can exchange them for 105 Collins Big Cat reading books (worth over £600) which will be a fantastic addition to our library. Thank you in advance for your support.

Car park

Thank you so much to all of you who have parked considerately following the email last week. We will be monitoring this and ensuring that the safety of all involved is paramount. There are still many parents continuing to stop and driving irresponsibly in the car park. If this does not stop we will be forced to follow the lead of other schools in the area and close the car park. It has been suggested that we employ a car park attendant however there is no budget to do this, if any parents would like to volunteer to do this please let the school know.

PTA News

Christmas Cards

Last chance – if you haven't already returned your forms, we will accept them on **Monday 17th** too. No minimum order. Choose as little or as much as you like and return the form with cash or cheque made out to Isle of Ely Primary School PTA. After Monday that you can still order via the website mentioned on the booking form, but additional postage costs will be payable.

Keep in touch with PTA news:

Email us: pta@isleofelyprimary.org

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

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

Class news

Little Elvers: This week Little Elvers have been focusing on Remembrance Day. They have used a variety of materials to create their own poppy collages, handprint poppies and lots of wonderful poppy wreaths. They have also explored red glittery play dough whilst having discussions about the people who helped our country during the war.

Reception: This week 'The Naughty Bus' has disappeared. He used our amazing class inventions to escape from the fish tank! We have been making posters and a class book. We have learnt new tricky words, ask your child what these are. In math, we have continued using positional vocabulary and making our own number lines. Next week, we are adventuring into space. Our Big Question will be "Where have they come from?" Reading books will not be changed on a Tuesday due to Forest School/P.E. At the end of the school day we like to make sure children are safe. If your child re-enters the classroom before all children are dismissed it can be unsettling. If your child needs to re-enter their class, they will have to wait till all children are in the correct safe place and this will be reinforced by the class teacher. Your child is welcome to bring an item/object into school once a week on a Tuesday or Friday to share with the class.

Year 1: This week we have begun to explore our new T4W topic 'Owl Babies'. We have looked at the story highlighting capital letters for names, exclamation marks and the suffix 'ed'. The children are really engrossed in this story and are fantastic at acting it out. We have also investigated 3D and 2D shapes, this has been a real strength across the year group! In theme we planted a sunflower before exploring the parts of both plants and trees, comparing the two and thinking about all the important functions. During the week your child will have been sent home with: Their Christmas play letter, this will include a letter with costume information, song lyrics and lines (if applicable). They will have also received their first RWI book, this is our new Phonics scheme. The books will be sent home and link to the phonics learning which has taken place in their groups. Please ensure books sent home on a Wednesday are returned Monday and books sent home on a Monday are returned Wednesday. These are in addition to their coloured reading books.

Year 2: How exciting – It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas! You should have received a letter telling you what part your child has in the Christmas play and the outfit they need. If your child has words to learn we have attached these along with the words for the songs which we have started learning at school this week. We are really impressed with their enthusiasm and commitment. They are also enjoying learning the dances with Mrs Parker. The children have created their own 'NEW' planet and have written facts about them. They have certainly used their imaginations! Thanks to everyone who has donated junk modelling resources. Please could you also bring in any bottle/jar lids.

Year 3: We have been investigating how light reflects off different surfaces; shading using sketching pencils to give famous British building depth; and learning about ordinance survey maps. 'Until I met Dudley' by Roger McGough has inspired our explanation writing in English. We also learnt about using the present perfect tense to state that something has been happening for a while and is still happening now. Our focus in maths has been the development of a solid understanding of the application of the column method for addition and subtraction. Thank you for supporting your child in accessing their home learning. Please remind them to return their homework books on Wednesdays.

Year 4: This week, Year 4 commemorated Armistice Day by creating some beautiful art work and have also been performing the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. In English, we have been reading fantasy stories and identifying which features are included in these. We have started learning and performing the story 'Reilly' to help us gain a better understanding of this genre. In Maths, we have moved on to learning about measurement and have been working on how to convert between units of measurements.

Year 5: This week, year 5 have been getting their teeth into some brand new topics. We have begun to look at what multiples and factors are in maths and how we can use them in multiplication. In English we have started to write down our own versions of 'The Ploughman's Son' and using resources to edit our work. We have begun our Science topic on Space and if we think that planet Earth is flat or spherical. Homework has also started to come in and the children have been really excited about having work outside of school.



IOE Fortnightly Newsletter

15th November 2019

Diary dates & events

Next week:

- Wednesday 20th November – 9am open session for 2020 intake
- Friday 22nd November – KS2 Cross Country at LECA
- Friday 22nd November – Non uniform day and tree planting for National Tree week

Forward Planning:

- Monday 25th November – Parents evening 3.30pm-5.30pm
- Wednesday 27th November – Parents evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm
- Friday 29th November – 9am open session for 2020 intake
- Friday 29th November – Year 3&4 Gymnastics at the Hive
- Monday 2nd December – Reception class vision screening
- Wednesday 4th December – Touring theatre pantomime production of Beauty and the Beast at school
- Friday 6th December – Year 2 and year 5 National Space Centre trip (7.45am drop off & 5.30pm return)
- Tuesday 10th December – KS1 performance at 9am
- Wednesday 11th December – KS1 performance at 2pm
- Wednesday 11th December – Moth class parents evening 3.30pm -5.30pm
- Thursday 12th December – Whole school flu immunisation
- Friday 13th December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper day
- Monday 16th December – 9am and 2.15pm Reception class Nativity
- Tuesday 17th December – 9am Little Elvers Nativity
- Wednesday 18th December – PTA Children's Disco
- Thursday 19th December 2019 – Last day of term
- Wednesday 8th January 2020 – First day of term (Monday 6th January and Tuesday 7th January are staff training day)

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

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

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