

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

Wow, it has been hot this week and our school does not have a huge amount of shade on the playground which is why we are very pleased that the PTA are raising funds for an outdoor classroom to give us some much needed shade as well as an outdoor learning space. It is now only two weeks until Isle Fest, one of our big fund raising events, so I do hope you've added it to your diary and I look forward to seeing you there to help raise these much needed funds. The Year 1 children took their phonics screening check this week and were brilliant. The children were resilient and were determined to show Mrs Harrison all of the sounds they knew. A few children were also observed doing their check by an external visitor who carried out a monitoring visit and the children took it in their stride, they kept calm and carried on. Our Year 4 pupils also took the multiplication check this week. They had to answer 25 multiplication questions online and this is timed, they have 6 seconds per questions so the children had to know their x tables. The Year 4 children were also resilient and remained calm during the check. These results, along with other assessments, will be added to the children's school reports which are due out on Monday 17th July. Last week, Year 3 visited Beth Shalom synagogue in Cambridge and they were very impressed with the children's knowledge which is testament to our ambitious curriculum and Year 5 enjoyed a visit to the Science Museum in London this week. Well done to all of the children for being great ambassadors of our school. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

Staffing Update:

As you are aware, Mrs Christine Mead, will be going on maternity leave in the new year. Not only is Mrs Mead a class teacher, she is also our SENDCo. I am pleased to say that Mrs Natalie Godfrey will be a non-teaching deputy next year and she will cover the SENDCo role in Mrs Mead's absence. If you are a parent of a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan, Mrs Mead will be in touch to arrange a meeting with herself and Mrs Godfrey so ensure that the transition is smooth.

Unfortunately, Miss Birr has broken her ankle and so will be away from school for some time. We wish her a speedy recovery and Miss Imelda Keza is covering her role.

As you may be aware, Mrs Brookes has been away for school for some time as she has been quite unwell. We send best wishes and a speedy recovery to Mrs Brookes and look forward to her returning to school when she is well. Ms Aasia Bibi has joined the reception team in the meantime.

House Points:

As I told you on the last newsletter, Green House again won the house points for the half term. As Green House has won each half term's reward and having spoken to the House Captains, they have decided that they would like to share their reward with all of the other Houses. This is very magnanimous of them and a kind gesture. Noam and Ellie, Green House Captains, decided that they would like everyone to have an extra half hour play time with treats. So this will be organised over the next couple of weeks.

Mixed Classes:

As you know, we are mixing the classes as they move into the next year group. We have spoken to all of the children and the teachers are busy organising the new classes whilst taking the children's friendship groups into account. We believe, that there are many benefits for the children in doing this which includes; better resilience in developing friendships in a safe, comfortable environment; being part of a year group and not just a class; developing resilience in facing challenges; further development of good attitudes to learning and widening working groups. You will find out which class your child is in next year at the beginning of July.

Dogs in Cars:

A parent has emailed into say that they were concerned as they had seen a few dogs being left in cars at pick up time and asked that we put it on our newsletter. It has obviously been very hot recently and the heat can be dangerous for the dogs and we're sure you'll agree, we do not want any dogs to suffer.

Parents' Forum:

The next parents' forum is taking place on Friday 23rd June at 0845 and we have invited Nina Bradley to join us to talk about children's mental health and the mental health service that she is leading in Ely. We look forward to you joining us then.

Lego:

Thank you for participating and collecting tokens in the Ely Standard LEGO® Education campaign. I am pleased to confirm our school collected enough tokens to receive a £50 voucher to spend on LEGO® Education items! We look forward to receiving our voucher shortly and adding to our LEGO® collection.

Ely Arts' Festival:

Ely Arts Festival runs from 16 - 30 June 2023 and features a fun, creative and diverse programme of cultural events and activities.

One of the highlight shows is "Roald Dahl & the Imagination Seekers" at City of Ely College on Sunday 25th June.

All around the world Roald Dahl's words are disappearing, not only from books but children's minds too! Now only a secret organisation known as the Ancient Guild of TaleTenders can save the stories - and they need your help...

Especially made for ages 5 and up, the show develops both creative and literacy skills through performance, games and creative play, while exploring Roald Dahl's extraordinary stories, including The BFG and The Twits along the way.

To find out more about this and the rest of our exciting events, please head over to our website:

<https://www.elyartsfestival.org/whats-on>

Wildlife Watch:

Go Wild with Ely Wildlife Watch Saturday 10 June 2-4pm

Come along to the Wildlife Trust gazebo in Ely Country Park to find out about some of the amazing wildlife in Ely Country park including using sweep nets to discover what is living in the nettles and try your hand at some nature based crafts.

This **free session** is aimed at primary age children and their families. It would help our planning if you can book but if you can't just turn up. More information is on the Wildlife Trust website including how to book at <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/events/2023-06-10-ely-wildlife-watch-free-taster-session>

Ely City Crusaders U11 Red Team:

School recently received an email from Paul Sinfield who is the U11 Red Team's manager celebrating two of their players, Max F and David O in our Year 6. They took part in the Cambridge Mini Soccer League finals and played a fantastic match. It was so tight and went into extra time as the game ended 1-1. The result didn't go their way in the end but Paul wanted to let us know how proud he was of the team and the boys. Until that game, these boys had won every league and cup game this season since August 2022, claiming the League 5 title in December and gaining not just 1 but 2 promotions to League 3. Against tougher opposition, they continued their winning form and they were crowned champions of League 3 at the beginning of May (winning every single game). Well done David and Max!

School Term Dates 2023

Summer Term 2023:

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| Starts | Monday 17 April 2023 |
| Half term | Monday 29 May 2023 to Friday 2 June 2023 |
| Ends | Friday 21 July 2023 |
| Summer holiday | Saturday 22 July 2023 to Thursday 31 August 2023 |