**Head Teacher’s Comment – from Bryony Surtees**

As we come to the end of week two, all of the children and staff have settled into our new ‘normal’. The year group bubbles are working well and the children are very aware of keeping themselves and everyone at school safe. Our new school rules are Safe, Ready, Respect and this week we have focused on being safe to highlight the need to wash our hands regularly, to catch it, bin it, kill and to socially distance. I am pleased to say that all of the children are being very sensible and very safe. This week has seen our attendance drop as many children are struggling with coughs, colds and sore throats. There has been some suspected Covid cases across the school but I am pleased to report that all of the tests results that we know about have come back negative so far. I know the tests have been difficult to access but with perseverance, and being online at the right time, most of our families have been able to book a test. I also know it is often difficult to know whether a test is needed but if you or your child has any of the symptoms, as described on the next page, we will urge you to get tested.

It is forecasted to be lovely weekend so I hope you enjoy the sunshine and have a lovely weekend.

**Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School…**

**Staffing Update:**

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Cherry Lock will be joining us in October as one of our Admin Assistant. We are very much looking forward to her joining the team.

**Arriving and Departing School:**

Thank you for all following our one way system at the beginning and end of the day. Some of our older children are bringing themselves into school which is fine but please discuss with them the need to be part of the queuing system and remind them to keep to the social distancing measure of staying 2 metres apart.

**Parking:**

As you were informed previously, our car park will now only be available for staff, visitors and parents who display a disabled badge. When parking around the school, please park respectfully and consider our neighbours, please don’t block their driveways or park in the flats car park opposite the school which is for residents only. Thank you for your understanding with this.

I know many of you are now walking and cycling to school at the moment which we would obviously encourage and I hope you will continue to do this as we head towards the winter months.

**Informal Parents’ Evening**:

We will be holding informal parents’ meetings on either Monday 28th or Wednesday 30th September via TEAMs. Please sign up for a five minute appointment in the usual way and the appointments will be released early next week. You should all now have access to your child’s school TEAM account and on the day and time of your appointment, the teacher will send you a link to access the meeting. Any problems with access TEAMs, please let the office know.

**Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School…**

**School Council:**

This week many of the children put themselves forward to be on our Children’s Council and canvassed their classmates. The classes then voted and today the councillors were announced. The children were congratulated in celebration assembly this morning and they are looking forward to their first meeting with Mr Lloyd and Mrs Fielding.

Next week, the children will be voting for members of our Eco Council.

**Covid Symptoms:**

If your child displays **any** of the following symptoms, we will send them home and ask you to get them tested for Covid. Similarly, if your child has any of the following symptoms before school, please do not send them in and organise a test.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

* **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) NHS guidance states that a high temperature is 38C+
* **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
* **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

For all other illnesses, e.g. cold, sore throat, blocked nose, you should send your child to school if you normally would.

**Face coverings:**

Staff and children in school are not expected to wear a face covering during the day. However, if you are visiting school to meet with a member of staff or to talk to the office, we would like you to wear a face covering as is usual in all other inside establishments.

**Keeping up with the children:**

There are courses being run at Ely library to support parents to understand how English, IT and Maths is taught in schools. Further information is available on the leaflets attached to the newsletter.

The

**Dates and School Term Dates 2020/2021**

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| --- |
| **September** |
| Tuesday 22nd  | Mr Warburton from Ely College visiting Year 6 |
| Wednesday 23rd  | Eco Council Presentations |
| Thursday 24th  | Eco Council Elections |
| Monday 28th  | Informal parent meetings 1530-1730 (Via TEAMS) |
| Wednesday 30th  | Informal parent meetings 1530-1930 (Via TEAMS) |

**Autumn term**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Starts | Monday 7th September (3rd & 4th September PD days) |
| Half term | Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2020 (Monday 19th October PD Day) |
| Ends | Friday 18th December 2020 |
| Christmas holiday | Monday 21st December 2020 to Sunday 3rd January 2021 |

**Spring term**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Starts | Tuesday 5th January (Monday 4th January PD Day) 2021 |
| Half term | (Friday 12th February PD day) Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February |
| Ends | Friday 26th March |
| Spring (Easter) holiday | Monday 29th March - Friday 9th April |

**Summer Term**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Starts | Monday 12th April |
| Half term | Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June |
| Ends | Thursday 22nd July 2021 |
| Bank Holiday (School Closed) | Monday 3rd May 2021 |

**PD days - The school is closed on the following days for the professional development of staff:**

**3rd September 2020, 4th September 2020, 19th October 2020, 4th January 2021 and 12th February 2021**