

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

Just over ten years ago, we opened our doors to our very first cohort of children whilst in a mobile classroom on Ely St Mary Junior School site. We started with 48 reception children with very limited indoor space, we only had access to a muddy garden outside, and parking was a massive issue (more than the problems we encounter today) and five members of staff. However, it was a magical time and as the last remaining original member of staff, I can tell you that the last ten years have been eventful, fun and hugely rewarding. The best part has been getting to know your children and seeing them grow and flourish as they complete their journey through the school. Jump forward ten years, and we now have over 450 children in the school, a lovely big, airy building, and over 50 members of staff although parking is still an issue from time to time. It has been a real privilege for me to lead this fantastic community over the last ten years and I have always appreciated your support so thank you very much. I look forward to continuing our journey and seeing where it takes us. I hope to see you all at the anniversary party next Friday. Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

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

Staffing Update:

As you were informed last newsletter, Liz Wright, our amazing Business Manager, is leaving us on Friday. We are very sad to see her go but wish her well for her future endeavours. We are interviewing for our new office manager on Thursday so will keep you updated.

Coffee morning – Elena's story:

A really big thank you to Amy and Eleanor who talked so eloquently and honestly about their lives and the challenges and rewards they have faced as a family with two children with autism. Many parents attended the session and we have received some positive and amazing feedback about it. Eleanor is keen to come and talk to the children about what it is like living with autism and so we hope to organise that soon. If you have any suggestions about topics/themes for our coffee mornings, please do let us know and we will try and arrange them.

PTA Discos:

Our wonderful PTA have organised a silent disco for all of the children next Wednesday, 23rd October. The times for the different year groups are below:

Reception & Key Stage 1: 1700

Years 3 & 4: 1800

Years 5 & 6: 1900

All of the discos last for forty five minutes and please drop your children off at the front entrance and then pick them up from the side door of the hall – please don't be late picking up your children.

10 Year anniversary party:

Hopefully, you will have received an invitation to our ten year anniversary party. This is taking place next Friday at 1415 on the middle playground. Before he left, Mr Lloyd, kindly wrote us a song to celebrate our anniversary. The children have been learning the song and are looking forward to sharing that with you on Friday. There will also be a look back down memory lane with memories from the children and our wonderful chef, Tracey, will be providing everyone with a cupcake. We hope can you join us in our celebrations as we look forward to the next ten years. Please be aware, we may need to postpone the event if it rains.

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Bring back to nature:

This event is taking place at Ely Library on Saturday 16 November from 1000 – 1500. At the event, you can find out about local nature recovery projects and how you can make a difference. Our wonderful Mrs Butterfield will be there along with Graham Biss, one of our governors. There is no entrance fee, no need to book and all ages are welcome. Please see the attached flyer with more information.

Black history month:

In recognition of their leadership, talent and impact, this year's Black History Month 2024 will highlight pioneering black women who have blazed a trail in literature, music, fashion, sport, business, hair, catering, academia, social and health care, and more. These include Windrush Pioneer: Dame Jocelyn Barrow, Baroness Lawrence, Margaret Busby: Doyene of Black British Publishing and many more. To find out more about these amazing women and other great black Britons, please click on the link below.

[Great Black Britons - Black History Month 2024](#)

Online safety: How can gaming affect mental health?

When used with healthy boundaries, gaming can be a positive experience. It can also help some children and young people to look after their mental health. Our children tell us that they play video and online games and these can be a way to:

- Relax and unwind after school
- Take a break from everyday life and get absorbed in something else for a bit
- Socialise and connect with friends, make new friends
- Socialise around a common interest
- Find a community of people going through similar things
- Feel a sense of achievement and learn new skills

Gaming can also have a negative effect on someone's mental wellbeing if they're having upsetting interactions with other players. This might particularly affect a young person who relies on gaming as a safe and relaxing space.

Please do talk to your child about gaming and mental health and set boundaries and support your child to game positively. For further information, click on the following link: [Gaming and Mental Health | Parent Guide To Support | YoungMinds](#)

Behaviour:

Our behaviour curriculum is now in full flow and the teachers are working with the children to support them in understanding and demonstrating our rules and values. Next week, the children will be thinking about the value of being responsible. The children can demonstrate this through making the right choices, achieving targets, be a dependable team member during group activities and taking responsibility to bring things in from home, e.g. library book



IOE Fortnightly Newsletter

18th October 2024

School Term Dates 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2024:

Starts Monday 2nd September

Half term Monday 28th October 2024 to Friday 1st November 2024

Ends Friday 20th December 2024

Christmas holiday Saturday 21st December 2024 to Sunday 5th January 2025

Spring Term 2025:

Starts Monday 6th January 2025

Half term Monday 17th February 2025 to Friday 21st February 2025

Ends Friday 4th April 2025

Spring (Easter) holiday Saturday 5th April 2025 to Monday 21st April 2025

Summer Term 2025:

Starts Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Half term Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025

Ends Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Summer holiday Wednesday 23rd July 2025 to Friday 29th August 2025

PD Days (School closed to children):

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Monday 4th November 2024

Monday 6th January 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025