

## Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

The Government announced this week that the schools with additional capacity to welcome more children back, in bubbles of 15, can do so and it was up to the school to decide which children to prioritise. However, there is no expectation on primary school to welcome additional children back where they do not have the capacity to do so. As our school building is rather large and we certainly have the space for extra bubbles, I imagine this announcement may have filled some of you with hope. Whilst I do not wish to dampen your hopes and I would love to have all of the children back, I want to make you aware that we currently have 11 bubbles operating at school which involves 29 members of staff. Whilst the bubbles are operating well and the children and staff are able to socially distance, it means that I have very few staff left to open additional bubbles. However, we are reviewing things on a daily basis and taking guidance from our Trust and the Local Authority and if I am able to open further bubbles in the next few weeks for specific groups of children, I certainly will. At the moment our priority lies with getting as many Reception and Year 1 children back as possible. Thank you all for your support for the school and with the home learning during this time and I wish you all an enjoyable weekend.

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

### **Well done and Thank you:**

Bethan I, in Year 3, has been fundraising for NHS Every Mind Matters during lockdown by selling rainbow key rings and jewellery. She's raised nearly £300. Well-done and thank you Bethan for your hard work and commitment and for supporting the NHS – we are very proud of you.

If you have any good news stories or anything you would like us to share on the newsletter, please do get in touch.

### **Staffing Update:**

Congratulations to Mrs Hunter who is expecting her first baby in December. We are currently advertising for a temporary teacher to cover her whilst she is on maternity leave.

We are interviewing for our additional support team adults over the next couple of weeks and will let you know who we have appointed as soon as we can.

### **Plans for September:**

Currently we still do not know what September will look like for the children coming back to school but we are in the process of planning for it to be 'normal'. Thank you to everyone who sent in a list of their child's friends. We are now organising the classes and will let you know whose class your child will be in at the beginning of July. I am hoping that the children will be able to have a transition meeting with their new teacher before the end of term, either virtually or in person whilst socially distancing.

As soon as the Government has told us what will be happening in September, I will update you further but often we do not know what is happening until it is announced in the press.

The teachers have written your child's annual report and once they have been collated and finalised, we will ask you to pick it up from school at a specific time and date.

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

### **Home Learning:**

I hope your children enjoyed the reintroduction of the videos this week. Some parents have asked us to introduce live lessons via Zoom and whilst the idea of live lessons is a good one, we have concerns around keeping everyone safe using this platform. However, we are investigating other platforms, such as Office 365, which is very secure and safe and would allow for interactions between your child and the teacher via Teams. We are hoping to roll this out as soon as possible but are currently waiting for the infrastructure to be in place. As soon as we are able, we will review our virtual home learning offer and begin some live lessons. In the meantime, continue to use Purple Mash, White Rose and the videos from the teachers to support home learning.

If you would like more paper based learning and less online learning, please do look at our website for further ideas.

If you have any problems, worries or concerns with the home learning do please email your child's class teacher through [admin@isleofelyprimary.org](mailto:admin@isleofelyprimary.org) and they will be more than happy to help you. It is important to note that these are **exceptional times** and how much of the home learning is done is very dependent on your family circumstances. We do not expect your child to do every piece of work that is set. The important thing is that your children are safe, well and happy.

For alternative lessons, please look at Oak National Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/> or BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

### **Armed Forces Week**

Armed Forces Week is nearly upon us (22<sup>nd</sup> June to 27<sup>th</sup> June). Unfortunately there won't be a live event as such, but Cambridgeshire LA still wanted to make sure we recognise the incredible work carried out by our Armed Forces Community – whether currently serving or part of our veteran community. The VE Day videos were a huge success on social media, so we have contributed towards creating another video collage to show our support, so we can #saluteourforces. This ties in with the National campaign and more details can be found here <https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/get-involved/saluteourforces/>

### **Outdoor Swimming:**

The fine weather, along with the inevitable enthusiasm to be outside in the current circumstances, has led to a number of children, often with their families, swimming in local rivers, Fens and lakes. It is clearly outside of school hours, and therefore not the direct jurisdiction of schools however we still have a duty to ensure our young people are safe. Ian Roberts (CCC Specialist Adviser for PE & School Sport) has written some guidance that we are distributing to parents to remind them of the need for absolute vigilance when near or in water. This guidance is available [here](#) for sharing widely.

## Diary dates & events

<b>Summer term:</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 to Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2020
<b>Half term:</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 (May Bank Holiday) to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
<b>Bank Holiday:</b>	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May (School closed to children)

## School Term Dates 2020/2021

### Autumn term

Starts	Monday 7th September (3rd & 4th September PD days)
Half term	Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2020 (Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> 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, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 4th January 2021 and 12th February 2021**