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

We have had an extremely productive week at school. As I walk around the school it has been great to see all of the children engaged and learning lots of new vocabulary. The teachers are now emphasising all key vocabulary for each subject and these are highlighted on the subject knowledge organisers which are on our website. Please do have a look at these and talk with your child about the meaning of the words and see whether your Year 6 children knows the meaning of evolution or your Year 3 child knows what a Trireme is or your Year 1 child knows the names of any bones. Knowing and understanding the meaning of the key vocabulary will help the children to know more and remember more knowledge.

Our informal parents’ evening was very successful via TEAMs, we had a couple of technical issues but on the whole, the appointments ran smoothly and I hope you enjoyed catching up with your child’s class teacher. There will be another chance for you to meet the teachers in November and it may have to be virtual again but at least we know the technology works. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

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

**Parents’ Forum:**

Over the last couple of years, the school has had a parents’ council where most classes were represented by a parent representative. This year SLT have decided to hold parents’ forums for all of the parents who would like to attend rather than just a few parents who sat on the council. A lot of changes have occurred at the school recently and it is important that you all have the chance to hear about these changes and to give us your feedback. The forums will be held half termly, there will be two meeting times and they will give you all an opportunity to hear about what is happening at school and share your views and opinions on a chosen topic. The first parents’ forum will take place on Wednesday 21st October and the topic of conversation will be behaviour and our new behaviour policy. Ideally, these meetings would take place in the school hall but due to current restrictions, they will take place via TEAMs or Zoom. If you would like to be involved in our parents’ forum, please email the office with your name and the meeting time, see below, you would like to attend and nearer the day we will send you a link to the meeting. We really do want to hear your views and opinions so please do join us on 21st October.

**House Captains:**

This week some of our Year 6 children presented to the whole school via TEAMs making their pitch to be house captain. All of the presentations were brilliant and enjoyed by everyone and we are very proud of our Year 6 pupils. Each house then voted for the two pupils they wanted to represent them as house captains and the winners were:

**Red House**: Lily & Kalden

**Green House:** Toby & Hannah

**Blue House**: Summer & Ollie

**Yellow House**: Yani & Isla

Congratulations to our new house captains, they will be set to work next week.

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

**Pick up procedures when pouring with rain:**

We have been very lucky with the weather at pick up time so far and fingers crossed this will continue. However, in case it is raining at 1500, we don’t want the children standing around waiting for their parents in the wet and so we have put in place an alternative pick up. So, if it rains and only if it rains, the children will stay inside. Reception children will be picked up as usual as they can wait under the canopy. Key Stage 1 children will wait in their classrooms and parents should wait behind the planters near to your child’s classroom door and the teacher will send your child out to you, one at a time. Please socially distance whilst waiting for your child to be sent to you. Year 3 will exit via the fire doors at the end of their corridor, Year 4 will exit via the door in the Key Stage 2 playground, Year 5 will exit via the door onto the Key Stage 1 playground (where they enter) and Year 6 will leave through the Fireflies entrance/exit but then walk around the school using our usual one way system. Everyone will then exit the school the usual way and as usual, if it does rain, please remember to socially distance and wait 2 metres apart.

**Drop Off**

Several parents have informed the school about their concerns that socially distancing is being compromised when dropping off their child in the morning. The school put the one way system in for the safety of our children and families so that they could socially distance whilst waiting to drop their child off. Thank you to those families who are waiting patiently and standing two metres apart whilst waiting for the gate to open. Unfortunately, there are some families waiting in their car until the gate is open and then pushing in the queue, or congregating around the gate, and then jumping in the queue, which decreases the distance between themselves and others and understandably this is making some parents nervous. Please, queue one behind the other and do not congregate at the gate nor attempt to push your child in the queue ahead of anyone. Keeping space between everyone will keep you all safe.

**Parking:**

A member of staff arrived at school one day this week and witnessed a car reversing off of the pavement near to School Road into the path of several children and families who were crossing the road at the time. This extremely dangerous and illegal parking is not safe so please do not park on the pavements both sides of School Road and be ultra-vigilant when driving around the school due to the number of pedestrians. Obviously we know you all have somewhere to go to after drop at school but the safety of everyone is paramount.

**Pupils’ Privacy Notice:**

The pupil privacy notice has been updated with reference to the COVID track and trace system.

*‘We may share personal data with the NHS/Public Health Agencies where relevant to the COVID pandemic as part of the Test and Trace Scheme.’* Please see the attached for more information.

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

**Ely City Hockey Club:**

They provide a fun, safe environment for young players to enjoy the sport of Hockey. Being active, making friends and learning new skills are just some of the many benefits of participating in this great team sport. For further information, please see the attached leaflet.

**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.

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

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| --- |
| **October** |
| Black History Month |
| Friday 9th  | Harvest festival assembly |
| Monday 12th  | Pop Up Literacy Week |
| Tuesday 13th  | Zoom Meeting for Prospective Parents @ 1000 |
| Monday 19th | School closed to children – PD day |
| Wednesday 21st  | Parents’ Forum @ 0900Parents’ Forum@ 1415 |
| Friday 23rd  | Break up |

**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**