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

Last Friday the children celebrated Children in Need day and we raised over £600 for this amazing charity. Thank you so much for all of your kind and generous donations, it was a lovely way to support World Kindness Day. This week has been Anti-bullying week and the children have been united against bullying. We were lucky to have Ashley Dyer from Cambridge United hold an Anti-bullying assembly on Wednesday live from Abbey Stadium. Ashley inspired the children to all be defenders and to be united against bullying, to show each other kindness and respect. Children have fall outs and tiffs with their friends often but the Anti-bullying Alliance defines bullying as: The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online. Thankfully, this is rare at our school but please encourage your child to talk to an adult if they feel another child is persistently and intentionally harming them and we will always listen and take action as we are **united** against bullying at Isle of Ely Primary. I hope you all enjoy the weekend.

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

**Staffing Update:**

This week we welcomed Mrs Kate Risk to our school who joined our support team and shortly we will be welcoming Mrs Kate Atkinson who will also be joining our support team to work in Key Stage 2.

Congratulations to Mrs Fielding and Mrs Ashman who are both expecting babies in the New Year. Thankfully Mrs Fielding has been carefully monitored and currently both mum and baby are healthy.

Sadly, Mrs Rachel Austin will be leaving us at Christmas to take up a nursing career with the NHS and Miss Abbie Dennis has decided not to return to the school following her maternity leave. I would like to thank them both for all of their hard work and to wish them well in their future careers.

We are also advertising for a cover teacher and a fixed term teaching assistant. If you or anyone you know is interested in either position, there are further details on our website.

**Zoom Meetings for Prospective Parents:**

Due to Covid-19, we are unable to hold our usual open sessions for you to visit the school so we would like to invite you to a Prospective Parents’ Zoom Meeting**.** We have held two successful meeting already and we are holding three more sessions. These will take place on:

**Wednesday 2nd December @ 0800**

**Monday 14th December @ 1400**

**Friday 8th January @ 1600**

If you or anyone you know would like to attend one of the meetings, please email your details to admin@isleofelyprimary.org and a zoom link will be sent to you nearer the time.

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

**Parents’ Forum:**

Our next parents’ forum will take place on Friday 4th December @0900 when we will be discussing our core knowledge curriculum. A link to the meeting will be sent out to all of you closer to the time.

**Parent Share Sessions:**

Our reading share sessions should begin to appear on your child’s class page over the next week or so. Year 1 have already tweeted a video of their Read, Write, Inc sessions. If you have any questions about how we teach reading, please email them to the office and our Reading Leads will be in touch with you.

**Parking:**

We have had another neighbour complaining about cars parking on the pavements outside of their house. As always, please be mindful of our neighbours when parking and do not park on or block the pavements as this is not safe.

**Face coverings:**

Thank you to everyone for wearing face coverings to pick up and drop off your children, it is greatly appreciated.

**Christmas:**

As we are getting every closer to the festive season, many of you will be wondering what Christmas will be like at school this year. Unfortunately, we will not be able to invite you to the children’s performances of the Christmas productions but the children will still be performing and we will either live stream the events or record it and post it on our website. Sadly, our annual decoration morning will also not be able to happen but the children will still take part in Christmas jumper day and the children will have a Christmas lunch.

Many of you kindly give gifts to the teachers at Christmas time which is a lovely, appreciated gesture. This year, if you are considering giving a member of staff a gift, please consider giving e-vouchers rather than sending in presents.

**Family Worker:**

Michelle West is our Early Intervention Family workerwho can offer you information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

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

**Remote Learning Policy:**

If the school has to partially or fully close, or if a child/ren has to isolate, it is important that the children’s education continues. We have put together a remote learning policy which clarifies how we will deliver your child’s learning in such circumstances. Please read the policy which can be found on our website.

If your child has to isolate whilst waiting for the results of a Covid test, the teachers will upload the day’s work/learning onto the class TEAMS account so that your child can do the same work as their class mates. You will find the work under the assignment tab.

**Coronavirus:**

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:

Wash hands, keep washing your hands regularly

Cover face, wear a face covering in enclosed spaces

Make space, stay at least 2 metres apart

**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.

The

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

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| --- |
| **November** |
| w/b: 23rd  | Year 2 Phonics Screening |
| Monday 23rd  | Parents’ Evening 1530-1730 |
| Wednesday 25th  | Parents’ Evening 1530-1930 |

**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**