

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

Many of the staff and children wore yellow today to help celebrate mental health day. The overall objective of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. Being mentally healthy ensures that you can cope with life, fulfil your full potential and allows you to play a full part with your family, friends, work and community. COVID has had an impact on almost everyone we know and so by wearing yellow we are spreading the word so that those that need it can seek the right help and support. Together we can make a big difference to young people's mental health so a big thank you if you have made a donation. As a Thrive School, we promote young people's mental health by helping the adults know how to be and how to respond, so please get in touch if you are worried about your child. I hope you all enjoy the warmer weather this weekend and we look forward to seeing the children on Monday.

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

Staffing Update:

Mr Sinfield will sadly be leaving us at Christmas. He and his family have made the enormous decision to relocate back to Australia. We will miss him greatly but wish him well on his future endeavours.

We are currently advertising for a Year 2 teacher to replace Mr Sinfield. If you know anyone who may be interested, please direct them to our vacancies page on our website.

Mrs Snell has now joined us and is working with Mrs Lock and Mrs Gorrie every week day morning.

COVID:

There has been much in the news recently about the number of COVID cases raising in Cambridgeshire. Jonathan Lewis, Director of education for Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, sent an email to schools this week asking us to review our procedures and consider whether staff should wear masks again in communal areas, visitors to the school site should wear masks and all meetings should be virtual. Therefore, we are currently reviewing our procedures but at the moment we are not asking that parents wear masks at pick and drop off. If anything changes, we will be in touch.

Breakfast and After School Club:

Our breakfast and after school club in our small hall, has become incredibly popular. Due to the space and the number of adults we have operating the clubs, we have to limit the number of children who can attend the club. Therefore, if you need childcare and you would like your child to attend the club, please book in advance as the spaces fill up very quickly and are now rarely available on the day.

Harvest Festival:

A massive thank you for all of your generous donations for the Ely food bank. We had a wonderful harvest celebration last week with Graham Bliss whom kindly led our Harvest festival and Ely Food Bank were very grateful for the delivery of food.

Art Events:

As COVID restrictions decline and there is more opportunity to attend arts events. We would like to share that at the Maltings this month, there is a performance of *The Little Prince*. Based on the world-famous story by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The Little Prince is brought to life using Luca Silvestrini's Protein award winning mix of dance, humour and spoken word. Follow this link to find out more:

https://www.babylonarts.org.uk/events/view,the-little-prince-at-the-maltings-ely_22846.htm

Additionally, Babylon Gallery is delighted to be hosting the work of Quentin Blake this winter as part of *The BFG in Pictures* touring exhibition from House of Illustration, featuring reproductions of the illustrations for Roald Dahl's much-loved story. To find out more, click here:

https://www.babylonarts.org.uk/gallery/view,the-bfg-in-pictures_22854.htm

And finally, to celebrate the return of singing, Ely Choral Society have their first concert in almost two years: '**I was Glad!**' will be performed on Saturday 6th November 2021 at 8:00 pm in the Ely Cathedral Octagon. Tickets are available online from the Ely Cathedral website at

<http://www.elycathedral.org/events>

Term Dates:

Autumn term

Starts	Wednesday 1st September 2021
Half term	Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October 2021
Ends	Friday 17th December 2021
Christmas holiday	Monday 20th December 2021 to Monday 3rd January 2022

Spring term

Starts	Tuesday 4th January 2022
Half term	Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February
Ends	Friday 1st April 2022
Spring (Easter) holiday	Monday 4th April - Monday 18th April 2022

Summer Term

Starts	Tuesday 19th April 2022
Half term	Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June
Ends	Friday 22nd July 2022
Bank Holiday (School Closed)	Monday 2nd May 2022 & Monday 6 th June

PD days - The school is closed on the following days for the professional development of staff
1st September 2021, 22nd October 2021, 4th January 2022, 19th April 2022, 27th May 2022