

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

We have already reached our first half term break of the year. The past seven weeks have flown by but have been very successful and enjoyable. The school has been so settled and the children are enjoying being challenged in their new year groups, behaviour has been very good and our new break organisation is working well. A big thank you to all of the parents who attended our reading share sessions recently. They were very well attended and we hope it gave you an insight into how we teach reading. Our children love to read and it is a real strength of the school and we appreciate all of your support with this and developing the children's reading for pleasure. Our big focus this year is on spellings. We have introduced a new spelling scheme for Years 2 – 6, CUSP Spellings, which is supporting the children's learning of spelling words, etymology and the different spelling rules. Our children write very well, have fantastic imaginations and sentence structures and we are sure with the new spelling scheme, they will also spell well too. I wish you all a happy and relaxing half term and I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 1st November as we have a professional development day on Monday.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

Staffing Update:

Mrs Natalie Godfrey is returning to school following her maternity leave after half term. She is returning to her role as Deputy Head teacher for vulnerable pupils and she will be teaching Spider Class alongside Mrs Mead.

Sadly, Mrs Nicola Lloyd has decided to leave us at Christmas but she will be supporting Year 2 until then and providing supply cover across the school. We wish Mrs Lloyd well with her future endeavours.

The school has several vacancies at the moment. We are looking for support staff as well as a maternity cover teacher and a part time Nursery Teacher. If you know of anyone who may be interested in any of our posts, please point them in the direction of our vacancies page on our website:

<https://isleofelyprimary.org/school-life/vacancies>

Parking:

The double yellow lines at the corner of School Road were put in to prevent anyone parking on the corner and on the pavements to ensure the safety of pedestrians walking to and from school. We have been made aware that some people are parking on the pavements again and making it dangerous for pedestrians. There was a near miss today! Please do not park on the pavements and be mindful of all those around you.

Please also be mindful of parking along School Road. There is plenty of space in the car park and with cars parked either side of School Road, it causes a blockage and makes it difficult for those getting in and out of the car park. The car park is best place to park.

Square at the front of School:

After pick up at the end of the day, many parents stay and chat in the square at the front of our Reception area as there are benches to sit on. This is perfectly fine but if you do happen to hang out in that area, please be aware of your children as we have had incidents of children climbing the trees and lamp posts which is not safe. Please be watchful of your child and do not allow them to climb the trees, lamp posts or fences.

Winter Fest:

The PTA will be holding Winter Fest on the evening of Friday 2nd December from 1700 – 1900. There will be Christmas stalls and activities as well as food and drink. Winter Fest will end with a wonderful firework display. Further details will be available closer to the time but please note the date in your diaries.

Uniform:

The PTA has sorted and washed all of the lost property and will be holding a uniform sale on Friday 4th November straight after school. This will take place on the middle playground and so if you are looking for any items, please pop along and have a look.

Cost of Living Drop in Event:

Cambridgeshire Libraries in partnership with Think Communities and East Cambridgeshire Community Advice Service have organised a Cost of Living drop in event at Ely Library. Organisations have gathered together to answer your questions and provide advice for this winter and beyond. Everyone is welcome so please do pop in and seek guidance for any concerns you have. It is taking place at Ely Library on Thursday 27th October at 0930 – 1400.

Menus:

Our new menu has been sent out this week so please do have a look at it with your child/ren over half so they are ready to pick their daily meal after half term.

Team Points:

Congratulations to Green Team who won this half term's Team Cup. They will celebrate with a green non uniform day on Tuesday 1st November.

Green: 1480

Blue: 1306

Yellow: 1164

Red: 1160

School Term Dates 2022/2023

Autumn Term 2022:

Starts	Thursday 1 September 2022
Half term	Monday 24 October 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022
Ends	Friday 16 December 2022
Christmas holiday	Saturday 17 December 2022 to Monday 2 January 2023

Spring Term 2023:

Starts	Tuesday 3 January 2023
Half term	Monday 13 February 2023 to Friday 17 February 2023
Ends	Friday 31 March 2023
Spring (Easter) holiday	Saturday 1 April 2023 to Sunday 16 April 2023

Summer Term 2023:

Starts	Monday 17 April 2023
Half term	Monday 29 May 2023 to Friday 2 June 2023
Ends	Friday 21 July 2023
Summer holiday	Saturday 22 July 2023 to Thursday 31 August 2023

PD Days – the school is closed on the following days for the professional development of staff -

Thursday 1st September 2022, Friday 2nd September, Monday 31st October, Tuesday 3rd January 2023 and Friday 26th May 2023