

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break. This half term started well and the children were pleased to be back with their friends and learning in their classes. On Wednesday, we had a visitor, Shirley Young, come to the school to look at our safeguarding procedures and processes. She spoke to the children and staff and observed the children at playtime, lunchtimes and entering and leaving school. She said it was one of the nicest reviews that she had carried out and the children were enthused about learning and knew how to keep themselves and others safe. She said our children were polite and respectful and our children's behaviour was excellent. She thought that the supervision of the children at break and lunchtimes was good and proactive and the children enjoyed all aspects of school life. I was very proud to showcase our school to Shirley, the children and staff were amazing. Shirley's comments have also been reiterated by Stephen Chamberlain, CEO of Active Learning Trust, following a recent visit to the school. He said how impressed he has been with the transformation of Isle of Ely since my return and he has been impressed with the curriculum, standards of work and the exceptional behaviour. It has been lovely to receive such positive and warm comments and to know that all of our hard work is recognized. We have brilliant staff, children, parents and community at the Isle of Ely! We were very sad to cancel the fireworks this week but following advice from Public Health England and the Local Authority, we felt we had very little option. As you saw from the letter, East Cambridgeshire, is now an Enhanced Response Area due to the rise in Covid, and we must do all we can to keep our community safe. Hopefully this response will have a big impact and we will be able to hold our other planned activities in the run up to Christmas. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

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

Parents' Evening

Next week, the teachers will be holding their termly parents evening on Monday and Wednesday. They will be held virtually again and you have been sent details about how to set up your appointments. If you have not already done so, please log on and book your appointment as it's important that you discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. If you have any problems, please let the office know.

Dates:

There have been a few comments from parents that they are being told things at the last minute. We make all reasonable endeavours to inform parents as soon as possible and we apologise for this not always being the case. Therefore, there is a list of dates attached for the rest of the year for you to add to your calendar. Please note that all of these dates are subject to change or cancellation due to the pandemic and you may be informed of these changes at the last minute. These dates are also added to the calendar on our website.

Remembrance Day:

Next week, we will be selling poppies and other merchandise for the Royal British Legion so please send your child into school with some coins as the Year 6 children will be coming around to classes from Monday onwards. Then on Thursday we will hold a minutes silence to remember and honour those who have died in the line of duty since World War 1.

Children in Need:

Children in Need will take place on Friday 19th November and as usual we will be raising money for the worthy cause. This year our school councillors have decided to hold a pyjama day and ask all of the children and adults to pay £1 to come into school in their pyjamas. A Just Giving page will be set up for the £1 donations. We are selling Children in Need merchandise which can be paid for on ParentMail and will go live on 15th November. On Friday, we will be attempting to cover Pudsey with pennies, so children may come in with pennies on the 19th only. More information will be coming out next week.

QUEEN MOTHER'S HANDWRITING AWARDS 2022

It was during a visit to the East of England Show in 1976 that The Queen Mother expressed an interest in children's handwriting saying.

'Clear handwriting is an essential element of communication and self-expression. It is for this reason that I felt able to suggest to the East of England Show organisers, during a visit to the Schools Area in 1976 that I would support an initiative directed at improving children's writing skills.'

The competition was set up in her name the following year. Following the sad death of the Queen Mother the East of England Agricultural Society wrote to Her Majesty The Queen and asked her if we could continue the competition in memory of The Queen Mother. Her Majesty kindly agreed and so the competition continues.

The three judges, who volunteer their time, are past heads of schools, also select the poems for copying. These poems are carefully selected to include an increased level of punctuation, length of line and overall content for each class.

If your child would like to enter, there are further details on the attached sheet entitled Queen Mother's handwriting schedule.

Squid Games:

As you are probably aware, Squid Games is a disturbing nine-episode series about a world where children's games turn deadly. Some of the children are talking about it although I am sure they are not watching it as it has an 18 rating and is not suitable for the ages of our children.

However, it is based on a game called red light, green light which starts with everyone along the starting line, when you say 'Green Light' everyone will move towards the finish line. When you say 'Red Light' everyone must immediately stop. If players are still moving when you call 'Red Light', they must go back to the starting line.

It is ok for the children to play the game but if they do, please make sure they call it red light, green light and not Squid Games as that causes us concern and we may need to speak to you about it.

Apple Controls:

Use parental controls on your child's iPhone, iPad and iPod touch. With Content & Privacy Restrictions in Screen Time, you can block or limit specific apps and features on your child's device. You can also restrict the settings on your iPhone, iPad or iPod touch for explicit content, purchases and downloads, and privacy.

COVID-19 Guidance for Parents/Carers from 16th August 2021

For any **SUSPECTED** or **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19 in a child/young person please follow the flow chart below

SUSPECTED case if child/young person has COVID-19 symptoms

Key symptoms:

- A new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

Additional symptoms that may be early warning signs of COVID-19 in children include upset stomach, headache, sore throat, unusual fatigue.

Book a **PCR test** as soon as possible online via the website www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. Alternatively a PCR test can be ordered by phone on **NHS 119** for those without the internet.

Ensure child/young person isolates at home till the test result.
***Who else needs to isolate?**
The rest of the household does not need to isolate if they are :

- Under 18 and 6 months *and/or*
- Double vaccinated *and/or*
- Part of a COVID Vaccine trial *and/or*
- Exempt for other reasons

If none of the above apply then the household contacts **must** isolate till the test result.

Result of test
(notify setting as soon as possible).

NEGATIVE

POSITIVE

Young person can return to setting once well. Any household contacts can stop isolating*.

CONFIRMED case(s) following a Positive PCR Test

Positive PCR Result

Inform the setting of positive PCR. Young person must self- isolate for 10 days.

The rest of the household does not need to isolate if they are:

- Under 18 and 6 months *and/or*
- Double vaccinated *and/or*
- Part of a COVID Vaccine trial *and/or*
- Exempt for other reasons

If none of the above apply then the household contacts **must** isolate for **10 days**.

Ensure young person isolates at home for **10 days**, along with any members of their household who are **over 18 yrs & 6 months and have not had 2x COVID vaccines.***

For **symptomatic** cases the day the symptoms began is DAY ZERO.

You need to add 10 further days after DAY ZERO.

For **asymptomatic** cases the date of the test is DAY ZERO.

You need to add 10 further days after DAY ZERO.

Isolation ends the day after day 10 – the young person can return to the setting, **if well**, and any eligible household members * can stop isolating. If the child/young person has diarrhoea or are being sick, they should continue to isolate until 48hrs after symptoms – as per usual sickness protocol.

If anyone else in the household becomes unwell and tests positive for Covid-19 they will need to restart/start their 10 day isolation. The rest of the family who have been isolating*, do not need to extend their isolations after completing the 10 days.

CONFIRMED case(s) following a Positive LFD Test

Positive LFD Result

Inform setting of positive LFD
Take a PCR test **WITHIN 2 DAYS** of positive LFD - Online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or **119**. Young person and eligible close contacts* must self-isolate whilst waiting for the result.

Negative PCR Result

Young person and eligible close contacts* can stop isolation and can return to the setting. Restart twice weekly LFD home testing in secondary aged pupils.

- We continue to ask families/children to wash hands regularly, keep spaces well ventilated, wear face covering in crowded, public indoor areas.
- Face covering are to be worn on transport to and from educational settings.
- LFD test = Lateral Flow Device tests are rapid tests that can be used at home and the result is available after 30 minutes.
- PCR test = polymerase chain reaction test that can be booked online and is sent to a lab for the result.
- If you have recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19 you are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test result, unless you develop new symptoms.
- LFD tests are used for identifying Covid-19 infection where there are no symptoms. If you have symptoms book a PCR test.
- LFD tests are safe to use in pregnancy. They should not be used in children under 12 years (unless in secondary school).
- If you have had a COVID-19 vaccination you should still take part in the LFD testing as you may still transmit the virus.
- If you have been identified as a close contact * of a positive case, a negative LFD test does not mean you can stop isolating unless part of a workplace scheme.
- If you have had a recent nosebleed, or have a nose piercing use the other nostril to swab for the LFD test.

School Term Dates 2021/2022

Autumn term

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|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 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**